

**NYU Plans 2031 Open House  
October 17, 2007  
Comment Cards**

**NYU Staff/Administration**

What are the plans for the Coles Sports Center roof top tennis facility?

For a professional audience- Would be better w/a web link before the event because it's too hard to take it in all at once.

Very nice presentation – liked the voting dots!

The interactive presentations are very helpful.

Very impressive graphics but concepts could be and should be made more accessible to the average intelligence.

I love the idea of a pedestrian core (or limited vehicle access), with an “entrance” to NYU, a gateway. It would hint at the idea of campus and foster a sense of community, without having to have a campus – those who want a campus go elsewhere!

Also think green-green buildings with green public spaces.

More faculty housing away from core makes sense (a lot of them have flexible schedules) but will this decrease the appeal of NYU to them?

Would it be realistic to “take one” a neighborhood, say in Brooklyn or Queens, maybe something that's still sketchy, and instead of waiting for the artists to move there, then the yuppies and gentrification; for NYU to invest in the neighborhood and gentrify it?

Opportunities to build relationships with the community, students could do volunteer work; it would attract businesses to the area etc...

**NYU Faculty Members**

I've taught classes in the midtown center on a couple of occasions – it was a horrible experience: alienating! Keep, I urge you, classrooms at the “core.” [adjunct]

NYU is sometimes perceived as “taking over the neighborhood” it might be helpful if NYU made sense of its resources available to the local community, even if on a limited basis. [also local community member]

Please keep low rise spaces such as the community gardens on LaGuardia and Bleecker. The community garden is an important asset to the neighborhood.

Please bear in mind the cost of housing in NYC and that not all NYU Faculty make superstar salaries.

W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is very dangerous for pedestrians and a lot of people live there. Cars race to make the light at LaGuardia. [faculty member]

## **NYU Students**

Why is Coles such a dump?

Bad AC. Bad heat. Bad attitude.

Only good feature – skylight outside pool. But it's too filthy to let in any light!

And bad pens here

I think there is a general dire need for more undergraduate housing in the immediate surrounding areas of NYU core. People/students come to NYU to study and live in Manhattan.

Boards provide a very good visual of plans of 2031. The exercise of identifying what will be in the core, surrounding neighborhood or remote locations. [also NYU staff/administration]

Expand NYU housing to Queens! Then the housing fees may go down!

I think NYU should build a hall for Chinese students. Because there are about 2,000 Chinese students in NYU. We need a common place to communicate with each other. Thank you!

I don't like the idea of "[fitting]" the fountain. I think it's absurd to spend money to change something that is known for its differences.

Also, I don't like the idea for tearing down beautiful buildings just to put into its place another (that ends up being not that great.)

I think that the planning for the next 25 years is appropriate and helpful. As a student location and convenience are very important to me. Seeing that our hope is to help students out is wonderful. We're a big part of why the community is lively. Remember that.

Need to improve street environment on W 3<sup>rd</sup> w/ more entrances.

W 3 is the only safe bike route from the east between Prince and 9<sup>th</sup> St. – please do more for safe bike parking there. Thanks!

Also, do not come to Williamsburg.

I believe NYU should improve the Greek housing situation by giving the Greeks, a vibrant, self-sustaining, community-oriented, time tested, section of our NYU community a more central, close to campus visible fraternity row.

This is a good way to get people involved and feel important. The interactive game is especially fun. Dan is awesome over there. Also can you advertise over the student list serves? (i.e. CMEP, club list serves) to bring in more students. Also tell us how we are affecting neighborhood and residents.

Concentrate uses: classrooms, housing, administrative services, etc. should be concentrated amongst each other too. Silver ONLY classrooms, Waverly LABS, administration at 7 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St.

Better athletic facilities PLEASE. Coles needs improvements, we accommodate tens of thousands of students, faculty, and administration yet we have two gyms that should be servings 2 Bronx high schools.

Aesthetic quality of dorms and class buildings need to be improved. Conditions of housing facilities, particularly, older NYU buildings are shameful for cost of housing.

Open House was very successful as an educational endeavor – in communicating your findings – as well as a solicitation for feedback. Definitely communicated your openness to hearing suggestions and desire to better integrate with the community.

I wanted to see more substance as to how the space was going to be divided up. Although you had some expansion figures (in sq. ft. etc.) per academic vs. housing uses, I wanted to see specifically breakdown b/t various undergrad depts... law school, bus, school etc. Also would like to see more expansion into Brooklyn or other location to provide off-campus housing options for students.

I think your communication with the school and community is impressive.

Why is the attack on NYU? NYU, village has a great presence and feel. It's great to be in the village, the park or the library! All the drawings talk about improvements. Even to improve places which for students are good. We need to acknowledge the GOOD and NOT DESTROY IT in our efforts to IMPROVE.

1. WE NEED MORE OPEN SPACES. Thank God we have Washington Square Park.  
A) What is the ratio of built to open space on the NYU owned land which is not used in circulation. WE need more inviting open spaces. An OPEN SPACE for students, not the terrace on KIMMEL which is NEVER USED. The law building has a courtyard which no other school student uses. Same with FURMAN CENTRE.
2. Why do you want to develop on AVENUES? Make streets happen, avenues are big and populate on their own.
3. Don't cluster housing and classes. There are some basic flaws to that. Maintain the mixed land use.
4. Why the attack on Morton's supermarket. It would be bad to see the supermarket go when there is more space leased out to banks and bars and the housing with open space which is NEVER or can't be used by students.
5. What's the main object? Like NYC to squeeze whatever space is possible or to make the space we have memorable and enjoyable. Unfortunately NYU buildings new ones like KIMMEL or the library do nothing to help students and people or the library do nothing to help students and people mingle with out a specific purpose which get them together. Need more open spaces in the school buildings like courtyards. Open space outside library is a place where people talk, exchange views, something which never happens in the wasted ATRIUM. More points but guess you guys know better.

No one likes to live in high rise overly commercial factories. Palladium and U-Hall are disgusting sights and hurt the city. It's a shame that Bloombergomic's can change NYU into just another Starbucks.

Also, we need space to play Frisbee!

Better food this time would be nice to keep up the current trajectory.

Many of the findings seem valuable. What bothers me slightly is the design of buildings. The brownstone buildings, like Bobst, Tisch Hall, Physics buildings etc. are in my opinion ugly. Kimmel is a lot nicer and functions well too.

The trolley system is slow, unyielding and unreliable. Students should be provided with Metrocards.

Many NYU buildings don't have NYU flags. To students this amplifies the disparate lack of a campus or community.

NYU needs more quiet study spaces. While the library is large enough to accommodate most students who need a quiet space, its homogeneity gets boring after many hours of studying there.

Labs (chemistry, organic, Physics) are very outdated and are in need of improvements.

Classrooms are atrocious-no light, concrete blocks, crappy seats + small desks without room for laptops (or electric plug-ins). Campus WIFI is dodgy at best and too splintered (Stern = own network). Bathrooms are generally disgusting dirty – terribly maintained, in classroom buildings + gyms (hair everywhere – use a vacuum!)

### **Local Community Members**

I think this forum is useful. I hope to continue to offer comments during future open-house planning meetings. I am fearful of the “Real Estate babbling-Money Hungry – unstoppable – corporation” that is, has become NYU (synonymous with NYU). I hope that the development, inevitable growth, will reflect and honor the history of the “Village” that made the University that made the Village. The cafés, Bohemians, artisans, all these are fast disappearing from the texture/fabric of New York City, and NYU has a chance to preserve it. Not add to its further annihilation [505 LaGuardia]

Please do not harm the plants, trees, squirrels, all wildlife all open + fresh with natural sounds + smells, the colors in the garden.

Any construction on the site of the grocery store is more surely destruction. La Guardia is too busy for construction traffic, and you CANNOT destroy those trees on the back + side of the grocery.

We should allow the Morton/Williams Supermarket to continue without building there and putting it out of commission for 2-3 years. Disables + elderly people at 505 LaGuardia will be negatively affected! Paul Reflow, Coop Board member at 505 La Guardia

First – must there be such a large amount of growth to sustain the University? If there is an amount of necessary growth, it is imperative that the local character, small businesses be kept and in fact encouraged + expanded. Secondly, don't think that Washington Square Park is part of the campus. It is public property, N.Y.C Parks. Certainly it is used by faculty & students, but remember it is here for everyone, tourists, local residents, visitors from the suburbs included. Keep any expansion to existing vacant buildings if possible.

Please do away with your trolleys or replace them with smaller ones. Your students clearly prefer the urban experience of public transportation because your trolleys carry, on average 3 or 4 passengers. This is an environmental disgrace.

Redesign time landscape to allow community access.

It is my hope that NYU will realize the need to support the re-zoning of the LaGuardia Pl 'DOT' strip from road bed to parkland. I am sure any access or easement issues could be worked out and by making the strip permanent the issues the community garden, parks + DOT maintenance + community. Access would be enhanced, the garden would be able to fund raise for a fence, NYU would be guaranteed a park space as a recruiting point for professors and the community would be guaranteed a park in perpetuity.

Keep the green spaces on LaGuardia Place. Save the Gardens cherish the mature trees.

Morton Williams supermarket should not [be] eliminated even temporarily.

Bus Service: More buses and trolleys in the evenings  
Student Housing: Freshmen Housing only on campus

NYU-growth the NYU faculty member claims to be community member (Probably untenured) His comment is outrageous. Village is one of few low rise areas – (reason for historic districts) To build on strips on Bleecker would return that area to tenements that were razed there. Professor gets a F grade.

Kimmel “well-curated vitrines” are improvement over blank façade that currently attracts homeless, late night urination etc. Best solution is retail space! Cafes! There are too many blank blocks courtesy of NYU which are unsafe for residents. Foot traffic = safe streets. My daughter was in nursery at Children’s Aid – dangerous to walk near NYU early am for school – homeless or drug leftovers etc. on street. -K Sharp

I appreciate having the opportunity for ongoing dialogue. It is helpful to see the information laid out and get some insight into your current and future needs, holdings and plans. As a community member it is not clear to me that the university takes seriously my concerns about overdevelopment i.e. proposed dormitory with local groups and/or residents to provide a community service/benefit i.e. Bank Street daycare program. Proposed ground floor retail space needs to be affordable if it is to accommodate a local business (es). [Also alum]

We refer to NYU as the “black hole.” The city dies when we step onto the NY “campus.” Where are the stores, the life? Many of the buildings are faceless, blank. This

extends to Broadway, Third Street is particularly grim. Please contain the cancer. As you expand out please pay attention to architecture. It is the landscape we live in.

Strongly opposed to hi-rise buildings of Morton Williams site. Would completely block all views from north side tenants of 505 LaGuardia Place – buildings would only be feet apart! “Time landscape” on LaGuardia Pl. should be given over to community gardeners by expanding their area to the south. It should remain inaccessible to public; to be enjoyed by looking at it and smelling it from the outside.

It would be extremely helpful to: 1. obtain a summary finding of this presentation and 2. to be able to receive progress briefs from NYU on directional decisions and/or deeper considerations in the form of a quarterly newsletter and/or email. Also, send gum.

Putting another tower at the corner of Bleecker and LaGuardia would overwhelm the street with shadows. A medium height (no higher than the Washington Square Village) would be less massive. Also the traffic vs. pedestrian usage would be less overwhelming.

Retain green lawn in plaza of Silver Towers – build small fence around to prevent – foot/dog traffic. Blossoming trees on south side of Bleecker St between Mercer and LaGuardia Pl. are wonderful!!! More of these on other streets would be most welcome!

If NYU wants the support of the SOHO community it should get behind the rezoning of SOHO from manufacturing to residential, it would give NYU the possibility of spreading housing directly south of win the hearts of SOHO residents in faux A.I.R situations.

NYU Dorms in the East Village is over the top – the EV has become NYU. Campus which has disrupted the fabric of the community – I’m looking forward to NYU’s expansion into Brooklyn, Long Island City etc. Giving NYU students the total NY experience.

Please save the Green Ribbon on La Guardia Place from trends of the La Guardia, La Guardia Corner Gardens, and the Time Landscape. The Community Garden provides educational opportunities for local school children. We partner with Little Red, Children’s Aid + Cooke Academy to provide field trips for kids. We are totally self sufficient and spend most of our budge on rodent control. We are a beloved backyard for the neighborhood -- Chair LaGuardia Corner Gardens.

NYU should make its facilities such as the gym + library available to the local community – so that residents don’t feel cut-off.

Garden spaces of Silver Towers should remain fenced in + not open to the public. Given to the state of the neighborhood after the weekend onslaught of tourists (garbage all over the streets), it would not take long for these to be destroyed, to say nothing about the drug trade + homeless that would find a haven.

I am a graduate of NYU – I also have lived in the neighborhood for 40 years. It would be nice to see Washington Square Park renovated sometime soon. NYU should try to make inroads in the buildings on 8<sup>th</sup> St. between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. There are no empty stores that could be appropriate. Please include me in future meetings.

I feel that NYU should make this a “gated” community such as Columbia U. keeping within it the old facades and academic building we now own. When I was here in the 60’s (early) and it was still a commuting school it was more of a close knit community. I don’t mean armed guards but something to let people realize they are in NYU’s domain; not visa versa. [also alum]

No high buildings in W sq area!  
Protect street environment – retail, restaurants\*  
Library reference access to local residents  
Build satellites to avoid killing W sq. area  
Easier searching and notification of events open to public (web search, alerts by interest profile)  
\* Not like corner of 8<sup>th</sup> + University change the ugly windows on the blank walls.

Please put us on the mailing list for lectures, films, art openings, dance, etc.

Open houses a good move; people I spoke with seemed genuinely interested in input; interactive game very fun and illuminating.  
No more ugly big buildings: too soon to [unintelligible] Kimmel and try again?! Opening up Bobst intriguing.  
As natural structure [?] close Washington place and make that the plaza NYU doesn’t have.  
All but youngest students should be heard recently; move all science to Brooklyn or LIC

Keep the dialogue going. Neighbors view NYU not as an education center rather as a big business – which is also true. Historically viewed big business is bad

Expand into loft areas like SoHo and Williamsburg – better more students than more artists. [also alum]

Instead of buying small buildings wherever is on sale why not build a large complex to look like a university [unintelligible] the building should look like a piece of art, the grounds should look like a garden + space for students to ride their bikes, relax, + enjoy the surrounding [unintelligible] + away from traffic.

There should be an absolute ceiling/freeze for the next fifteen years on the student population and enrollment in the Washington square campus.

All Green Spaces should be more accessible to public. Close some streets “so many people”  
Make Co-GenPark. Better than before Donor possibility!  
Can NYU Grow 6M\$ without very tall towers???  
Be Part of education park of Gov. Island!!

## Other

To: Ms. Hurley, NYU  
Re the Science Bldg construction  
NYU liaison agreed to meet with 23 Waverly re the shadow the extra height the new bldg would cause. No follow up from NYU. No phone calls. No meeting. Nothing.  
The architect agreed to present shadow boards to residents across the street. We’re still waiting.

NYU needs to cap its growth in the Village/NoHo/E.V. + vicinity. Three million additional sq. feet over the next 25 years is untenable.

Increase alumni involvement by expanding division III athletics @ NYU. Bring back school spirit!

Let NYU be a leader. Be the first to enhance not destroy a neighborhood. Get creative with the space you already have. Don’t grab at more.

Increase alumni involvement by expanding division III athletics @ NYU. Not enough school s.p

I wish there were a way to create a more cohesive feel to the “campus”. I know my student/child misses that feeling at this school. Perhaps more green spaces. [NYU mom]

