

AMNH Presentation on Gilder Center
November 12, 2015

I am so glad the community has now had a chance to see the design and I look forward to their comments.

I support this project. I want to see a world class science education center and believe it is an important resource for the future of science education, which is in a grave state of neglect in our public school system.

But I have also always been aware that there would, of course, be concerns—serious, legitimate concerns about any expansion. These concerns were always front and center in my discussions with the museum and with residents.

Had the Museum come back to us with a plan that did not respect those concerns, I would not be in support of moving forward. I believe this design reflects those concerns. There is still work to be done - I do not believe, for example, that the issue of bus congestion has been adequately addressed.

That is not a reason to say NO. I have full confidence discussions will continue about relief from bus congestion. Tonight is a major step toward making sure that happens.

I believe this design shows an impact on the park that will be quite minimal, and a scale that is respectful and enhances the area with light and welcoming space. The Theodore Roosevelt Park will still be a beautiful and accessible area and meeting place for the community. That will not change.

This is a public park and it needs to stay an accessible and welcoming area for all the public to use, now and into the future.

We will stay vigilant as we see the specific drawings and plans and not just the design. I do believe this will be an exciting and beautiful addition to the museum and an incredible resource for our schools and our residents.



For me, personally, as a parent and a citizen of this city and the world, it is quite simple: This is a valuable project for the promise it holds for science education in this city.

Science education in our public schools has been woefully inadequate. I believe we are just waking up to the consequences of that and beginning to concentrate on STEM programming and its importance.

This project will help create opportunities to foster curiosity, scientific interest and intelligence, and scientific research and invention.

We are fortunate to have this gem in our neighborhood.

