



## ***Save the Survivors Stairway Campaign***

The World Trade Center Survivors' Network is launching **The Save the Survivors' Stairway Campaign**.

This stairway is the only remnant of the World Trade Center Complex remaining above ground. It is located on the north side of the World Trade Center site near the intersection of Greenwich and Vesey Streets. While many have termed this remaining piece of stairwell the "Stairway to no where", we prefer to think of it as the Stairway to Safety or the "Survivors' Stairway".

A widely circulated picture in the press after 9/11 shows people from Tower One who survived because they descended those stairs moments before their building collapsed. We believe that this was the only escape route for hundreds of survivors, after Tower Two collapsed. More recent photos of the stairs are available at [www.survivorsnet.org](http://www.survivorsnet.org)

The World Trade Center Survivors' Network proposes that those stairs should remain as a testament of hope to the thousands who survived that day. If restored and connected to a platform, the Survivors' Stairway could even provide a fitting vantage point from which survivors, and everyone whose life was profoundly changed that day, could gain a vantage point from which to contemplate the footprint voids, paying respect to their lost friends, colleagues and loved ones.

Finally, we propose that development plans should be modified to dedicate a survivors' area on the plaza: an area where survivors could remember in peace and gain strength from the renewed World Trade Center community. The area should include the Survivors' Stairway. We hope that you agree that our stories are a poignant counterpoint to the tragic loss of life that day, and our proposal for the Survivors' Stairway creates a fitting prominence in contrast with the memorial design, Reflecting Absence.

For some time our group has been working diligently to attract attention to this historic remnant of the World Trade Center. Our efforts were noted by New York Times reporter David Dunlap's article, "*Blocks: Rebuilding Yes but Taking Pains to Preserve, Too*" published on December 30, 2004.

We have gained the support of many civic and professional groups, including New York Visions, the Civic Alliance and the American Planning Association. Together, we are meeting with LMDC asking for the preservation and dedication of this piece of history.

Here are some ways you can contribute to the Save the Survivors' Stairway Campaign:

- If you or anyone you know evacuated from these stairs, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us and tell us your story.

- If you believe this stairway should be preserved, please write to us and let us know why.
- Making a financial contribution. Please write us for more information on how you can donate.

Please contact us at [info@survivorsnet.org](mailto:info@survivorsnet.org)

If you're a member of the media, you can contact us at [press@survivorsnet.org](mailto:press@survivorsnet.org)

### **Related Events**

Please save **Thursday, May 5, 2005**, from **6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** for ***Engaging Lower Manhattan: Remembrance and Interpretation***. This forum is the fourth and final briefing in the Municipal Art Society's *Engaging Lower Manhattan* series, a part of the "Beyond 16 Acres" project, and will be held at St. John's University's Lower Manhattan campus (101 Murray Street, between Greenwich and West Streets). This event will focus on the many efforts under way to memorialize the events and losses of 9/11. While the recovery from 9/11 has spurred great interest in and discussion of issues of land use, transit and infrastructure, at its core, people's connection to 9/11 is profoundly emotional, and the need for appropriate memorial exceptionally important.

The briefing will involve a discussion by organizations representing three different types of memorial projects: temporary memorials, such as the Tribute in Light and the September 11<sup>th</sup> Families Association's Tribute Center; permanent memorials, like the World Trade Center site memorial; and artifacts of the event, like the survivors' staircase and the artifacts in a hanger at JFK Airport.

Stay tuned for additional information regarding program speakers. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail [syackel@mas.org](mailto:syackel@mas.org).