



345 West 44th Street  
New York, NY 10036

[www.Manzano.org](http://www.Manzano.org)

212-707-8778 t.  
212-707-8121 f.

## MANZANO 2005

For Manhattan Borough President

t. 212-707-8778

f. 212-707-8121

e. [Press@Manzano.org](mailto:Press@Manzano.org)

w. [www.Manzano.org](http://www.Manzano.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 22, 2005

### Manzano Proposes An Alternate Plan to the Westside Stadium

The most visible symbol of NYC's race to win the 2012 Olympics has been a stadium on Manhattan's Westside. This proposed stadium has proven extremely controversial as its long-term purpose would be to serve as a home for the New York Jets. Lost in the arguments for and against, are several other debates that merit examination, particularly the location of an Olympic Village, should we play host to the Games. And these are reasons that call for an alternate plan:

Manhattan suffers from a crisis in affordable housing. An organic way to connect Manhattan's Hudson Yards area to the 2012 Games, one that addresses both the issue of where to accommodate Olympic athletes, and the issue of how to achieve lower and middle class housing in the borough, is to locate the Olympic Village there. When the Games are finished, this construction would convert to affordable housing with a range of income criteria, from \$10,000 for those on fixed incomes (particularly seniors) to \$150,000, and other mixed uses.

The prospect of creating a vibrant Olympic Village that the athletes can enjoy during the Olympic Games in New York City can later serve New Yorkers for decades to come. In using a wide range of income criteria, we can help to alleviate the stress on working, middle and lower income families who increasingly must leave the city because they lack the financial means to stay. In helping to create affordable housing, we add to the diversity and vibrancy of Manhattan, creating spaces for artisans, blue collar workers, beginning entrepreneurs, seniors, new college graduates, and others who otherwise would be priced out of the borough.

This, more than a stadium or any other project, would provide a firm anchor for the developing Hudson Yards area, ensuring that it becomes a neighborhood that attracts residents and sightseers. New York's Olympic Village should be *the* premier Village in the world, the standard for all future Olympics. With new opportunities for performing arts venues, galleries, new schools with after-school programs, transportation improvements, a senior center, parks, innovative architecture, a high-tech library, dog runs, and beautiful open spaces, we create the opportunity for thriving urban renewal. We create the opportunity to show-off, to the world and to each other, the best that New York can be.

Hudson Yards presents us with the opportunity to shape the last large tract of developable land in Manhattan. Let's make sure that we do it right, and that we do it with an eye toward our present needs as well as our future hopes.