

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park
Contact: Lee Clauss
Telephone: (646) 337-4877
Email: lee.clauss@gmail.com or protecttrpark@gmail.com

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Community United Marches Against Museum Expansion Plan

New York, NY - Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park organized a demonstration against the American Museum of Natural History on Saturday, November 4 to protest the Museum's plan to appropriate public parkland for private purposes and construct a major new building and museum entrance on Columbus Avenue at W. 79th St. More than 100 concerned New Yorkers participated in the two hour event, which took place in front of the steps to the Museum's main entrance on Central Park West.

The peaceful demonstration included people of all ages. Throughout the march, participants held up signboards questioning the integrity of a Museum that has and has had such climate-change deniers as Rebekah Mercer, David Koch and Richard Gilder on its Board of Trustees, and stressing their demands that all New Yorkers concerned about private development in public spaces say an emphatic NO:

- To politicians allocating, without taxpayers' consent, \$135 million in tax dollars for a private institution's egregious incursion into public land;
- To the potential release, without the Museum providing the Final Environmental Impact Statement or any satisfactory Remediation Action Plan, of asbestos, lead, benzene and other toxic substances into the air, particularly with so many schools in nearby streets;
- To enormously increased human and vehicular traffic further stressing the Upper West Side's already strained infrastructure;
- To the creation of a major museum entrance on a residential street;
- To the destruction of a tranquil, community-centered park for private vanity purposes.

Community United is an organization of Upper West Side residents devoted to saving Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety, preventing potential environmental disaster, and standing up to the greed of private developers.

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Editor's Note: For further information about Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park, contact Co-President Laura Messersmith, Telephone: (617) 335-5210, Email: LJQMessersmith@gmail.com, website: www.saveourpark.nyc

The Community United executive board welcomes one-on-one press availabilities with interested members of the media.

Attached

- PDF of press release
- Photos from Demonstration