

10/25/2021

Good morning council members and members of the subcommittee. My name is Jan Michael Maluto and I am testifying in support of the Special District. I represent Ferra Designs — architectural metalworkers and glaziers. Ferra has been a Navy Yard tenant for over twenty years and employs over 40 talented metalworkers, machinists, finishers, and designers. I'm proud to share that our employees represent all five boroughs of the city and you can see their work on projects including Trinity Church Wall Street, Pier 57, and the Morgan Library.

I can tell you with confidence that it would be difficult to support our type of work - all done locally by New Yorkers - without the continued support of the Navy Yard. We utilize every zone of our 20,000 sqft space and often mount full scale mockups and pre-installation assemblies that can exceed 20 feet. The XL floor plans in the Special District truly represent how a manufacturer like us actively utilizes industrial space.

Of perhaps greater significance, the Navy Yard's mission based business support and workforce development services have been vital partners in our work. The AI Wiltshire Employment Center has connected us with installers, fabricators, and a Senior Project Manager. We've trained our machinists at the STEAM Center and enrolled fabricators and finishers in new manager training.

On a personal note, I can also thank the Yard for my own career development. Through City Tech's Manufacturing Department, I joined the first cohort of SBS's Tech Triangle internship program. I interned at Ferra and over eight years and multiple projects am now a director here at Ferra. Thanks to the Yard, I am proud to say that we've hosted and hired many other City Tech interns since.

As a lifelong New Yorker and manufacturing tenant, I'm proud to work on a campus that's constantly affirming its manufacturing centered mission. The Yard actively engages its manufacturing tenants and details of the master plan show this. Ferra celebrates the recent arrival of new industrial and construction tenants as well as quality transport and access improvements. I've been a Ferry commuter since their first day of service into the Yard, our employees regularly utilize the Dumbo and Atlantic Terminal shuttles, and many others walk or bike in.

I support the Special District's manufacturing-forward vision and Ferra looks forward to many more years here at the Yard.

Jan Michael Maluto  
Director, Project Development  
Ferra Designs Inc.