



INTERNATIONAL

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Listening To The City

Facilitating in NYC

On July 23, 2002 more than 5000 citizens participated in the largest-ever town hall meeting. During the day-long event, citizens responded to six plans for the future development of the World Trade Center site put forward by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The event was designed and facilitated by Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer and her team at AmericaSpeaks. Perhaps the largest event of its kind, it provides an opportunity to reflect on public participation, small group facilitation, large-scale participatory events, and more.

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As a professional facilitator, David Wick was personally invited to New York by Carolyn Lukensmeyer to assist this historic dialogue and decision making. He worked closely with the New Yorkers at his table throughout the day. They represented a complete cross section of people effected by the September 11 tragedy. In mid-day Joe Bucca, who had lost his son Ron, Fire Marshal for NYFD Rescue One in the collapse of the second tower, came to David and gave him a memorialphoto of Ron, and asked if he would take it to his home town in San Mateo CA, and



More Photos: http://public.fotki.com/dwick/listen_to_the_city/

New York Daily News columnist Pete Hamill was at Listening to the City and said, "We came to the vast hangar at the Javits Center expecting the worst. Put 5,000 New Yorkers in a room, charge them with planning a hunk of the New York Future, and the result would be a lunatic asylum....None of that happened.... From 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. they were presented with basic issues about the rebuilding of those 16 gutted acres in lower Manhattan. At each table they debated in a sober, thoughtful, civil way. They voted, offered comments, and moved on to the next item on the agenda....And because the process was an exercise in democracy, not demagoguery, no bellowing idiots grabbed microphones to perform for the TV cameras....In this room, "I " had given way to "we." Yes, the assembly was boring to look at, too serious, too grave, too well-mannered for standard TV presentation. And it was absolutely thrilling....We have a word for what they were doing. The word is democracy." ([continued at top](#)) . . .



David Wick Far Left, Joe Bucca Center-with cap.

to San Francisco firefighters. In the following weeks and months, David put his organizational, communications and networking skills to work. He worked with the San Mateo City officials, firefighters and those in San Francisco. As a result, he was invited to participate as part of the center piece of San Mateo Counties September 11 1st anniversary, Honoring Those Who Serve. David presented Jerry Hill, president of the county board of supervisors, with the framed picture and memorial description of Ron Bucca. It was a moving ceremony, linking in a personal way the citizens of San Mateo and New York City.

David made a similar presentation to San Francisco firefighters.



(David Wick on right, Jerry Hill on left)