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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Lower Manhattan Celebrates the Season with Spring Community Day

*—NYC Council Member Margaret Chin joins Downtown Alliance, 75 Wall, Andaz at volunteer planting, festival on Wall Street as part of broader “green” programming in Lower Manhattan—*



**New York, NY (May 9, 2011)** —Hundreds of people turned out this weekend for a day of fun, food, and volunteerism at Spring Community Day, organized by the Alliance for Downtown New York, Andaz Wall Street and 75 Wall Street Condominium Residences.

The event included the Downtown Alliance’s fourth annual spring community planting event at Wall Street (Mannahatta) Park, at which dozens of volunteers planted more than 300 annuals around the park.

“Lower Manhattan has gone green, with millions of square feet of new green office and residential space, new street trees, fantastic new parks and farmers’ markets,” said Elizabeth H. Berger, President of the Alliance for Downtown New York. “Thanks to the

Andaz and 75 Wall, volunteers at our fourth annual Community Day will have the opportunity to savor local food as well as beautify the neighborhood.”

“Lower Manhattan is all about community, and what’s a better example of everyone coming together to improve their neighborhood than Spring Community Day,” said New York City Council Member Margaret Chin, who has pitched in to help plant for the last two years and also helped shred trees at this winter’s MulchFest. “I applaud the Downtown Alliance and all of the day’s partners for building an event rooted in such a good cause.”

You can view photos of the event at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/downtownny/sets/72157626557363661/> and a video of the event at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c19ZZJA6K-I>

The planting was part of the Downtown Alliance’s year-round Going Green program, dedicated to building an environmentally sustainable Lower Manhattan. The event was sponsored by Con Edison, Whole Foods, Crumbs Bake Shop, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, New York City Council Member Margaret Chin and Community Board 1.

Volunteer teams came from Con Edison, JoS. A. Bank, and Millennium High School, as well as Lower Manhattan families and employees attended the event.

Across Water Street from the park, Andaz Wall Street launched its 2011 season of the city’s only hotel-run Farmers’ Market. Chef Maximo Lopez May of the hotel’s Wall & Water restaurant cooked up tasty, complimentary samples, and a massage therapist provided mini-massages.

High above was even more activity. 75 Wall Street Condominium Residences hosted a rooftop story time, cupcake decorating, cape-making, face painting and balloon artistry

*The mission of the Alliance for Downtown New York is to be the principal organization that provides Lower Manhattan’s historic financial district with a premier physical and economic environment, advocates for businesses and property owners and promotes the area as a world-class destination for companies, workers, residents and visitors. The Downtown Alliance manages the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Business Improvement District (BID), serving an area roughly from City Hall to the Battery, from the East River to West Street.*

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