



**Notice**  
February 5, 2011

**Cathleen P. Black**  
*Chancellor*

## **The Proposed Re-siting and Co-location of Unity Center for Urban Technologies (02M500) and the Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language (02M427) with Norman Thomas High School (02M620) and Murray Hill Academy (02M432) in School Building M620**

### **I. Description of the subject and purpose of the proposed item under consideration.**

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site Unity Center for Urban Technologies (02M500, “Unity”) and the Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language (02M427, “Manhattan Academy”) in school building M620 (“M620” or the “Norman Thomas Campus”), located at 111 East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Manhattan, NY 10016, within the geographical confines of Community School District 2 (“District 2”). If this proposal is approved, Unity and Manhattan Academy would be co-located with Norman Thomas High School (02M620, “Norman Thomas”) and Murray Hill Academy (02M432, “Murray Hill”). A “co-location” means that two or more schools are located in the same building and may share common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

Unity, an existing 9-12 school, is currently housed in leased space located at 121 Sixth Avenue, Manhattan, NY 10013 (“M897”), within the geographical confines of District 2. Manhattan Academy is a new DOE high school that opened in September 2010. The school currently serves ninth-grade, and will add one grade level per year until it serves grades 9-12. Manhattan Academy is temporarily sited in the United Federation of Teachers (“UFT”) headquarters, located at 52 Broadway, Manhattan, NY 10004, within the geographical confines of District 2. Norman Thomas, an existing school, serves students in grades 9-12. Murray Hill is a new DOE high school that opened in September 2010 and is phasing into M620. The school currently serves ninth-grade, and will add one grade level per year until it serves grades 9-12. In addition, M620 houses a District 79 continuing education program which offers classes to adults after school hours Monday through Saturday.

In a separate Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) posted on December 20, 2010, the DOE proposed to phase out and eventually close Norman Thomas because an extensive review of data and community feedback indicates that the school is unable to turn around. The Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”) approved the proposal to phase out Norman Thomas at its February 3, 2011 meeting. Thus, the school will no longer admit new ninth-grade students after the end of this school year, but would continue to serve students currently enrolled in the school. Norman Thomas’ enrollment will decrease gradually over the next three years and the school will complete phasing out in June 2014.

If this proposal is approved, Manhattan Academy, which is in its first year of phasing in at its current location, would continue to grow gradually in M620 by adding one grade level every year until the school reaches its full grade span of 9-12 in the 2013-2014 school year. Unity is already at full scale and would continue to serve students in grades 9-12. Unity and Manhattan Academy would be co-located with Norman Thomas as that school phases out. Long-term, Unity and Manhattan Academy would share space only with Murray Hill. Given that the phase-out of Norman Thomas was recently approved, the M620 building has adequate capacity to accommodate Murray Hill as well as Unity and Manhattan Academy at full operational capacity.

**II. Information regarding where the full text of the proposed item may be obtained.**

The Educational Impact Statement describing this proposal can be found on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2010-2011/Mar232011Proposals>

Copies of the EIS are also available in the main offices of Unity Center for Urban Technologies, Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language, Norman Thomas High School and Murray Hill Academy.

**III. Submission of public comment.**

Written comments can be sent to [HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov).  
Oral comments can be left at 212-374-3466.

**IV. The name, office, address, email and telephone number of the city district representative, knowledgeable on the item under consideration, from whom information may be obtained concerning the item.**

Name: Yoo Jin Cheong  
Office: Division of Portfolio Planning  
Address: 52 Chambers St  
Email: [HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:HS.Proposals@schools.nyc.gov)  
Phone: 212-374-3466

**V. Date, time and place of joint public hearings for this proposal.**

Unity Center for Urban Technologies	Manhattan Academy for Arts & Language	Norman Thomas / Murray Hill Academy
March 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.	March 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.	March 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
121 Sixth Avenue, New York, NY 10013	52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004	111 East 33 Street New York, NY 10016

Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes before the hearing and will close 15 minutes after the start. Interpretation services will be provided in Spanish. To request interpretation services in another language, please contact Ms. Cheong at the e-mail address or telephone number above.

**VI. Date, time and place of the Panel for Educational Policy meeting at which the Panel will vote on the proposed item.**

March 23, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.  
Brooklyn Technical High School  
29 Fort Greene Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11217