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For Immediate Release
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Sam Schwartz Company Wins National Award for Canal Park Project



Courtesy of the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation

On Wednesday May 17, 2006 Sam Schwartz Engineering PLLC (SSC) will receive the National "Pride" Award from The American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) for SSC's innovative community relations / design mediation work on Canal Street Park. Senior Vice President, Janet Campbell is traveling to Washington DC to receive this prestigious award at ARTBA's annual meeting this week. SSC is receiving this award for working with highway design engineers, local community and historic groups, government officials, and NYS DOT and NYC DOT, to achieve consensus on the highly contested use of the Canal Park site and restore one of NYC's oldest green spaces.

Canal Park is a triangular park staged between Washington Street and the West Side Highway, dating back to 1686. The park was formally designed in 1871 by Samuel Parsons Jr., but was partially removed and *loaned* to the NY/NJ Bridge and Tunnel Authority in 1921 for use during the construction of the Holland Tunnel. However, when the Tunnel construction was completed, the park became a storage site for refuse/garbage trucks instead of being returned to the community gathering place it was meant to be.

When the state DOT was tasked with improving access to the West Side Highway from Canal Street they brought on SSC to act as a go between community groups. The final design featured a reduced number of lanes while maintaining adequate vehicular circulation at the site and improved pedestrian access. The end result was what is now known as Canal Street Park, an improved and larger version of its predecessor.

Carole DeSaram of the Tribeca Community Association, one of the groups that worked with SSC through the process, expressed, "This is a testimonial of SSC's ability to bring together government and communities. In this case, which resulted in a park which will be enjoyed for generations to come and the calming effect of traffic through the area."



Thanks to NYS and NYC DOT, the community groups of Tribeca, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Vollmer Associates, and most of all The Sam Schwartz Company, Canal Park reopened its doors on October 21, 2005.

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Sam Schwartz PLLC is an engineering and planning firm specializing in providing innovative transportation solutions tailored for the present and flexible for the future. They have been working with government agencies, local communities, architects and others dedicated to improving quality of life world wide for over a decade now.