

# Sour on Domino's future

## Student presents alternative plan for waterfront site

By Vinita Singla

Adam Brock wants to keep his Williamsburg neighborhood green. That's why the 21-year-old New York University senior challenged two mega developers' plans for the landmark Domino Sugar Refinery at Community Board 1's last full board meeting.

While dozens of community members attended, Brock and his classmate arrived with their own ecologically-friendly plan with colorful drawings, paintings and charts.

"There really is a viable shot of something else happening," said Brock, an ecological design major who lives a block and a half from the 11.2-acre site that runs along the Brooklyn waterfront.

Brock wants to produce renewable energy through solar panels on rooftops, small wind turbines, tidal power and recycled water at the site where CPC Resources Inc. and Brooklyn developer Isaac Katan are planning a 2,200-unit project.

In addition to providing 120,000 square feet of retail space and 100,000 square feet of community space, CPC promised to preserve the exterior of what was once the world's largest sugar refinery. They're hoping to keep the famous neon Domino Sugar sign.

Some board members

weren't impressed with Brock's plans, which would reduce the 660 affordable housing units CPC had set aside to between 300 and 400.

"Personally, I'm not against environmental things," said Esteban Duran, a community board member. "Throw your plan in the garbage. We're not going to OK anything less than the number of units CPC is offering."

But Brock was undeterred by the criticism, saying his proposal, a collaboration with fellow NYU student Ruby Thorkelson, 21, includes one seven- to 10-story building compared with CPC's plan, which has four 30- to 40-story towers.

"I'd be happy to make the buildings higher to accommodate more affordable housing, but I'm concerned about blocking the waterfront view," Brock said. "I'm just trying to balance these issues."

Brock and Thorkelson will present their ecological concept at the CPC Domino site update meeting on October 30. Barbara Baer of CPC, who anticipates breaking ground in late 2008 or early 2009, said, "We have a great plan, but we're willing to listen to other people's points of view."

Others at the board meeting had mixed feelings about Brock and Thorkelson's project.

"I need somebody to tell me if it's economically feasible but it looks beautiful," said City Councilmember David Yassky.

Fran Gorlick, a longtime Williamsburg resident, said, "It's interesting. How workable? I don't know."

Richard Mazur, executive director of the North

Brooklyn Development Corporation, said he'd like to see a cultural center on the river, but conceded "it would be a pie in the sky," and Mazur applauded the two students' efforts.

"Bring professionals to help the students to make this into a world class project and model for the rest of the world to follow."



NYU student Adam Brock

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Crain's New York's  
"100 most influential businesswomen."*

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she doesn't think of saving lives  
as just a business.*

## 'City of Water' screening citywide

The Municipal Art Society of New York and the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance will present a series of free public screenings of their new documentary, "City of Water," throughout the five boroughs.

A screening will be presented from 7-8 p.m., October 29, at PS 321, 180 7th Avenue, made possible by local sponsorship from the Gowanus Dredgers.

The film, which features interviews with Deputy Mayor Daniel L. Doctoroff, MacArthur Prize winner, and founder of Sustainable South Bronx Majora Carter; author Philip

Lopate; and Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez examines the future of New York's waterfront in the context of development changes taking place along the Hudson and East rivers.

"City of Water" explores the aspirations of public officials, advocates, environmentalists, recreational boaters, and regular New Yorkers for a diverse, vibrant New York City waterfront.

Two years in the making, the documentary includes scenes from the Navy Yard, Jamaica Bay, and the Queens and Bronx waterfronts.