

## Conclusion

These proposals, as we stated in the beginning of this report are preliminary in nature. Each one of the proposed sites in this report could itself be the site of an 1989 Fair. Perhaps there are other sites which could be selected. This is the ground floor and the next phase of planning will expand upon what has been started with this report. A Citizens Advisory Committee is in the formation stage and this group will consist of civic, cultural and community leaders from the five boroughs who will be invited to participate in Fair planning.

A Theme Consultation is being planned for this fall where prominent individuals from a variety of professions and areas of human knowledge will be asked to expand upon and finalize the Fair Theme and Scope. Suggestions from the general public are still welcome and all of these ideas can shape the Fair of '89. Picture the millions of Fair visitors entering what will be for many an experience of a lifetime. What would you like them to see? What would you like them to experience? What would you like them to carry home with them? What should a day at a New York World's Fair of 1989 be like? The 1989 Fair could be as different in design and scope from the 1939 and 1964 Fairs and other recent expositions as they were different from the Crystal Palace of 1853. But the world is a very different place also, and we believe that the initial preliminary framework we have set in place — of a multi-site Fair based on the linked themes of the two significant anniversaries which New York will mark in 1989, provides the best foundation for what should be a landmark undertaking.

### Fair Schedule

The Fair would be officially launched with groundbreakings and ceremonies in October of 1986 during the centennial celebration of the opening of the Statue of Liberty. During the following 3 years, the publicity, construction and advance ticket sale programs would be carried out. Also, the bicentennial convention of the drafting of the Constitution will be marked during 1987-88, and we propose that the city of Philadelphia, the site of that original convention, celebrate that event with a series of events including the Constitutional Conference proposed in this report.

The Fair would officially open to the public on Sunday, April 30, 1989, the exact 200th anniversary of Washington's inauguration and the 50th anniversary of the first television broadcast. The Fair would operate each day through October 31, 1989. Its closing ceremonies should coincide with the deposit of Time Capsule III, which would rest at Flushing Meadow alongside the two previous capsules buried in 1938 and 1965. Many significant events in human history have occurred in the 25 year period since the last Fair, from the Civil Rights struggle and the Communications Revolution to man's first landing on the moon. This third capsule would give our descendants some 5,000 years from now a fascinating overview of how we lived and changed over these two quarter century periods of the twentieth century. The Fairgrounds and the other improvements would then be returned to the City of New York as permanent legacies of the World's Fair of 1989.

### Timetables

There is, however, a long road before this proposed Fair becomes a reality. This report was issued exactly seven years to the date before the April 30th opening day. We are considerably ahead in planning compared with the other two New York Fairs. The 1939 Fair was first conceived in late 1935 and the 1964 Fair was first proposed in late 1959; both expositions had barely four years from initial inception to opening day. An examination of both the Federal regulations and B.I.E. regulations shows that under normal circumstances, we are well within the time frame for official registration (see timetable). However, some recent events have changed this schedule considerably.

Last December, the City of Chicago, Illinois officially submitted a bid to hold a Universal Fair in that city in 1992 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the landing of Christopher Columbus and the ninety-ninth anniversary of its previous World Exposition in 1893. The Chicago proposal is to utilize the 200 acre lakefront site used for the 1933 World's Fair. Chicago is several steps (and several years) ahead of the New York planning. In addition, French President Francois Mitterand abruptly altered the plans of the City of Paris, which had bid on a fair for the year 2000 to commemorate the beginning of the new century. After attending ceremonies last year in Yorktown, Virginia which marked the Bicentennial of the French-American cooperation in winning the American Revolution, Mitterand changed the Paris proposal to 1989, to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution. Their proposed theme — "Les Chenins de la Liberte," or the Ways of Liberty. The French

Ways of Liberty. The French hope that their proposed fair will help solve a severe unemployment problem there. Initially, the two bids (Chicago and Paris) seemed to cancel each other out because of the B.I.E. regulations forbidding two Universal fairs within a period of less than seven years. However, the B.I.E. appeared to want to compromise and approve one Fair for the eighties and one for the nineties.

We have designed the New York proposal so that this city could apply for a Specialized (as opposed to Universal) Fair in 1989, centering on the Communications theme outlined in this report. There is ample precedent for two Fairs with different theme categories to take place during the same year (i.e., San Francisco and New York in 1939, Spokane and Vienna in 1974, Amsterdam and Knoxville in 1982, etc.). We strongly believe that New York's historical rationale for a Fair in 1989 is significant and must not be overlooked, while at the same time we believe that our bid would not necessarily compete with either Paris or Chicago.

One of the most intriguing possibilities, as a definitely new dimension of the New York World's Fair 1989 project, is a "Bi-Site" World's Fair consisting of separate sites at Paris and at New York. Such a Fair could embody in a boldly striking way themes of communications and international community alike, and stress as well the complementary anniversaries of the United States Constitution and the French Revolution as hallmarks of the development of democracy. Both occurred in 1789.

From the B.I.E. perspective, three attractive sites are asking for Expositions within three years of each other. Two of the potential sites — Chicago and Paris — are asking for B.I.E. certification under the category of "Universal" (broad-theme) Expositions. Only we ourselves have indicated that we would be content with a "Specialized" (single-theme) Exposition.

The potential of sharing an Exposition with the French in 1989 is a quantum leap both in our conceptualization of what a Fair in New York might be and mean in 1989, and also an incredibly exciting expansion of what a new era of "World's Fairs" or "International Expositions" can and perhaps should be after a hiatus of nearly two decades.

To co-celebrate the wedded themes of the American Constitution and the French Revolution would be to emphasize their mutual place in the history of democracy and to study them each in terms

of their effects and contributions to world society as their common-Bicentennial observances pass in 1989. Indeed, the one Exposition site would compliment and clarify, the other's content to a degree impossible to either alone.

Wallace Harrison's redolent phrase, "A Fair of the Air", would be embodied in the very structure of such a truly "international" Exposition, and themes of communications could surely reach their zenith in a first-ever intimate interplay between the sites in New York and the site in Paris. It could be a "Lindberg leap" for another era.

Needless to say, healthy competition between the sites would enhance the efforts of both organizing committees, but the wholistic nature of the enterprise would improve international relations between the United States and France as well.

Instead of putting the Bureau of International Expositions in the unfortunate position of choosing between adversaries, or denying the world-wide validity of either observance, this approach embodies in fact what is stated in principle by the very existence of the B.I.E. — that we live on a small planet in an interdependent way but with deep needs to know each other better and to stimulate one another to the best that can be.

When France gave this nation the Statue of Liberty, the United States government chose New York Harbor as its site. Indeed, that statue's crown and head and torch were the first logo of both the 1939 Fair's Theme Committee and the 1989 Fair committee.

Themes of Liberty and Communications would serve as equally synthesizing approaches to an Exposition marking either the French Revolution or the establishment of the great United States Constitution. Put together, there would be not an arithmetical, but a geometric increase in significance.

The creation of a great Fair marking these milestones in the history of civilization would stand at the gateway of the final decade of the second millenium of the common era.

It would also allow for another great World Universal Exposition ten years later, in the year 2000. What would seem to be the most desirable solution would be to find a way for each of the three sites (New York, Paris and Chicago) to celebrate with a World Exposition dates and events which **have** indeed had great impact on world history. It is a definite fact that historical patterns, particularly anniversary-type recognitions, do not always fall easily into carefully tabulated timetables.

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Meanwhile, for the City of New York, the opportunity is here, but as can be seen, seven years is not a very long time away. The political and business leadership of this city and state must act soon if this event is to become a reality. (Should New York be denied any kind of international status, as was the 1964-65 Fair, we believe the city should still take the initiative in holding a major event to commemorate the important events of 1989.) This opportunity provides New York with a major boost for its economy and prestige. It provides a kind of "deadline" date to complete (or start) a lot of municipal projects that might otherwise languish from year to year without direction or purpose.

For instance, the essential and necessary improvements to our once first class, but now decaying mass transit system, would be made in time for the fair's opening, in much the way that the highway system was completed in time for the 1939 and 1964 Fairs. All of the proposed sites are already connected by mass transit links, and the potential for improvements in service and a decrease in crime with the added usage of the system would be a permanent plus for the citizens of the city.

In addition, most of the sites are also connected by New York's extensive waterway system. Boats could dock at the existing city-owned marina in Flushing Bay adjacent to the Fairgrounds, at Coney Island, at the Bronx River, the United Nations, Gateway National Park, the South Street Seaport Museum, Ellis Island and Liberty State Park.

New York's beautiful waterfront system is a part of the city which too few New Yorkers appreciate. The Fair could help bring this great resource to better use.

If New York is interested in bidding once again on an Olympic Games for 1992 (the city narrowly lost out to Los Angeles in its innovative multi-site bid for the 1984 Olympics) it might be possible, and desirable, to "wed" plans for both the Fair and the Olympics, utilizing facilities and structures for both of these major events. This would be a unique and effective means of cutting down costs for both events.

Finally, the Fair would provide the opportunity to rationally integrate the city's burgeoning telecommunications revolution into the every day lives of the people of this city for the benefit of our democracy.

President Reagan has described America as "the city on the hill" and declared that the eighties would be a "Decade of Deliverance".

Well, another future President of the United States will have to come to the City of New York on April 30, 1989. All of the words that will be spoken on that occasion about the bicentennial of our Constitutional government will be either rendered frivolous or profound, depending on the kind of city we present to the world as the decade draws to a close.

We must begin now to examine the problems that face us — not to wallow in them, but to overcome them. We must be optimistic because, in Winston Churchill's words, "there does not seem to be much use in being anything else."

A 1989 World's Fair can be our city's opportunity to face the future with optimism and vision.









## The Idea

- ...How can the world community demonstrate sensitivity for the present while experimenting with dreams for the future?
- ...How can we overcome our differences, and focus on these threads of the life experience common to us all?
- ...How can we cement our life together? What vehicles do we use?
- ...How do we express the joy which stirs deep and eternal within the human breast?

**A World's Fair:** festive...instructive...visionary. A multi-site, living collage of what our world can be.



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Communications:      The New Revolution



**NEW YORK**

**WORLD'S FAIR**  
**1989**

The United States Constitution and International Communications Exposition

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## **Appendix**





**CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS**

*The following letter was sent to the Queens Congressional delegation by Queens Borough President Donald Manes:*

In recent months, a committee of leading civic, cultural and business leaders have explored the possibility of holding a World's Fair in New York in 1989. I intend to formally endorse their efforts and I would like to enlist your support and cooperation in this endeavor.

1989 will mark the Bicentennial of the Constitution and the 200th anniversary of Washington's Inauguration as first President in 1789. Both of these momentous events took place in New York City, our nation's first capitol. It is only fitting that our city play host to a first class international exposition to commemorate those events. 1989 will also mark the next 25 year interval between New York's World's Fairs of 1939 and 1964.

A third New York World's Fair will be an event of historical importance and it could bring enormous benefits, financial and otherwise, to our city.

**—DONALD R. MANES  
President of the Borough of Queens**

**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515**

*The following responses were received:*

I share your enthusiasm for this project and am greatly impressed by the planning thus far done. As you say, 1989 will be a most appropriate year. You can be assured of my fullest support and effort.

Let me know what I can do to be of assistance, and please keep me informed of your activities.

**JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, M.C.**

A World's Fair in New York in 1989-90 sounds like a great idea, especially when we consider the historical significance you mention in your letter.

You can be sure that I will do everything to assist in the furtherance of this exciting venture.

**GERALDINE A. FERRARO  
Member of Congress**

I wholeheartedly agree with you that the Fair will be of great historical significance to the City. You can be assured of my enthusiastic support.

**BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL  
Member of Congress**

A New York's World Fair to commemorate the two historical events, the 200th anniversary of Washington's inauguration and the Constitution is a momentous and enterprising endeavor. Of course, you have my full support. I am pleased to hear that other states and nations have expressed their interest in this event.

Please keep me informed of the progress of this undertaking and what my office can do to be of assistance.

**MARIO BIAGGI  
Member of Congress**

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal for a third New York World's Fair.

Some of my finest childhood memories took place at that 1965 World's Fair, and I would be most excited at the prospects of another. Count me aboard.

**JOHN LeBOUTILLIER  
Member of Congress**



—N.Y. DAILY NEWS, July 10, 1980

# He hopes for fair memory of George in '89

By BERNARD RABIN

**W**ITH MEMORIES OF THE LAST TWO World's Fair expositions growing dim, a young Flushing civic worker whose admitted passion is to preserve the history of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park where both fairs were held, has recommended to Mayor Koch that a third World's Fair be held in 1989-90.

At a recent meeting in City Hall with Koch, David G. Oats, president of the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park World's Fair Association, said the proposed fair would have as its theme the inauguration on April 30, 1789, of George Washington as first president.

"WASHINGTON WAS SWORN INTO OFFICE on the site of the present Sub-Treasury Building at Broad and Wall Sts. in Manhattan," Oats said. "New York City, in fact, was the nation's first capital and the Bill of Rights and the Constitution were enacted in 1789 in our city."

"What better way to dramatize the true renaissance of New York than by inviting the world once again to Flushing Meadows. Mayor Koch, while not committing himself, noted that 1989 would mark the end of his 'third term in office' and said he would have a study made of my proposal."

Oats pointed out that the two previous fairs resulted in "great accomplishments" at the park site, including establishment of the Queens Museum, the Queens Theater in the Park, the United States Lawn Tennis Association Tennis Center and the Queens Botanical Gardens.

"THESE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS and facilities in the park could be incorporated into a fair and expanded and enhanced as a result of it," Oats said. "Based on previous World's Fairs held here and elsewhere, it is a fact that they have played an important role in bringing about expanded horizons in cultural, technical and philosophical areas of human endeavor. They are mirrors of the time in which they are held."

The civic worker pointed out that various neighborhood fairs and carnivals such as the recent Queens Day and Flushing Fantastic and other events throughout the city have indicated great interest by residents in such programs.

"THIS PROPOSED EXHIBITION WOULD necessarily look toward the dawning of the 21st century," Oats said. "As such it could challenge the mind and senses for



George Washington's Inauguration in New York April 30, 1789, is theme of proposed fair.

many years to come. It would be a unique opportunity for the entire world to peacefully explore the future."

He noted that visitors to the retrospective on the 1939-40 World's Fair called "Dawn of a New Day" now on display in the Queens Museum, have shown tremendous interest in what the fair was all about.

"That fair offered remarkable visions of the future such as television, color photography and space travel," Oats said. "I have noticed one universal reaction to those attending the retrospective and who reminisce about the fair and those too young to have experienced it, and that's 'Let's have another one.'"

"THE FAIR I PROPOSE COULD BE as different in

design, theme and scope as the 1939 fair was from the Crystal Palace exposition of 1853. The important thing would be the coming together of the best minds in every field of endeavor to make a major statement of the future."

In his proposal to Koch, Oats noted that a fair would have tremendous impact on the city's economy. It would bring increased tourism to New York, as well as jobs and civic improvements. He said that Canada's Expo '67 proved a fair can be successfully managed by a private corporation with private funds.

"Although the 1964-65 fair lost money for their managements," he said, "the city actually gained by the influx of millions of tourist dollars and taxes. The mistakes made by management can be avoided by studying what was right and what was wrong in the last two fairs."

OATS SAID HE TOLD KOCH he was not expecting any immediate commitment from the city on the proposal because of the present fiscal problems. He said, however, he agrees with the mayor that the city's economic problems should begin clearing up within the next few years and that planning should then get under way, if the city should decide to go ahead with a fair.

His group, he added, will not wait for the city to begin any planning but has already begun a one-year project of contacting leading experts in various professions to seek their theoretical and general ideas on the concept of a 1989-90 fair.

"The results of this survey will be issued in a special book next June called 'Project '89' and it should be an exciting document," Oats said. "I am sure it will present the case for a great fair."

HE SAID HIS GROUP PLANS to hold meetings and seminars on the proposed fair concept around Queens and the city. He is also inviting comments and suggestions on the proposal from the public which can write to him at the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park World's Fair Association, 48-27 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, N.Y. 11355.

"Preparations for World's Fairs are far more desirable, socially, than preparations for world wars," Oats said. "This planet can use the shot in the arm that a great public event like a World's Fair in New York can provide."

"What better way to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the swearing in of our first president than by holding a World's Fair here in our nation's first capital?"



# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER IN QUEENS



Murray Rosof



Vincent Nicolosi



Mary Caputo



Eugene Shepard

## QUESTION:

Would you like to see another world's fair at Flushing Meadows?

Compiled by  
Harry Danyuk

Photographs by  
Nick Sorrentino



Marcia Wilson



JoAnn Farino



Grace DiMartino

**Eugene Shepard, Springfield Garden, building maintenance supervisor:** Yes. It would help the economy of Queens, give the kids jobs and give us some relief from the cutbacks caused by Reaganomics. I worked as a manager in a parking lot in the 1964 fair and enjoyed it. I certainly would relish another one.

**Murray Rosof, Kew Gardens, probation supervisor:** It would be great. I was at the 1939 fair and the last one in 1964. We love New York now and we would love it even more with another fair. The sooner the better. We could use another Robert Moses, don't you think?

**Mary Caputo, Kew Gardens, confidential secretary:** That would be wonderful. It would provide a lot of jobs for the youngsters in Queens and more prosperity for the city. It would also offer the inner-city people an opportunity to see the cultures and wonders of the rest of the world.

**JoAnn Farino, Rosedale, secretary:** It would be terrific. I hope to go to Tennessee to see the fair there with my 8-year-old son who has never seen one.

I enjoyed the 1964 fair so much. I know it will be a memorable experience in Tennessee but wouldn't it be great in New York?

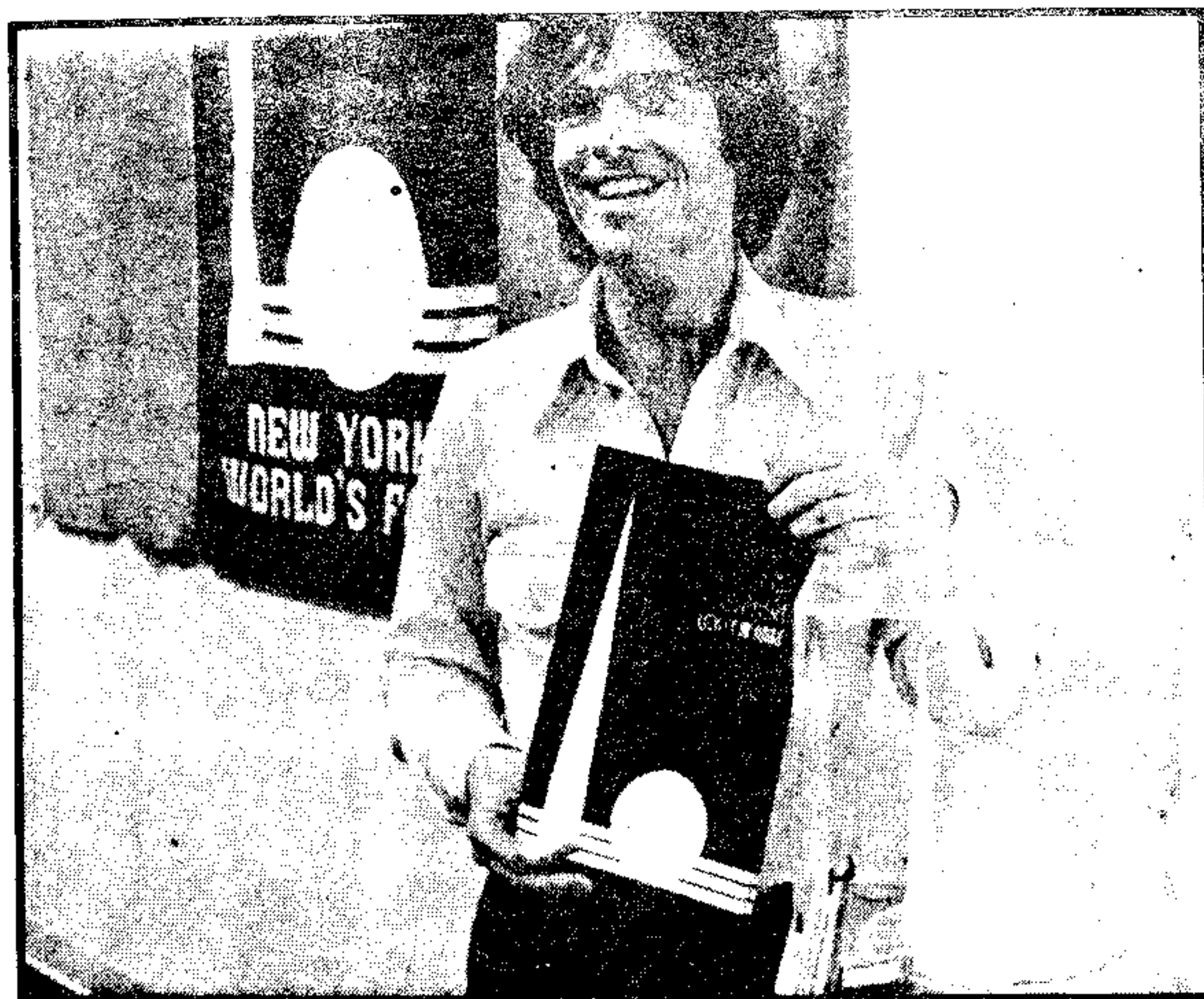
**Marcia Wilson, senior court officer in Queens Supreme Court:** I would love to see another one. It helps to bring the whole community of Queens together. It would take the economic problems off their minds and give people something to enjoy. I'll never forget the last one. I went there so often with my family and friends.

**Grace DiMartino, Flushing, secretary:** It always benefits a community when a fair is held. I remember that we got new roads leading to the fair and it assisted small business firms in the community. I was there in 1939 as a baby. I took my daughter in 1964 and I'd love to take my grandchild in the future.

**Vincent Nicolosi, former assemblyman and an attorney from Bayside:** Absolutely. It would be great for Queens because we have the facilities here. The last one was extremely successful. But if there is another fair here, there should be some control on prices. At the last one, prices were out of control. ■



# Newsday



Newsday Photo by Alan Rala

Oates with a program of the '39 World's Fair and model of the main exhibit

—NEWSDAY, July 1981

## Group Initiates Study On a 1989 World's Fair

*Visible for miles around, a flood of multicolored light drenches the sky above the glowing spectacle that is the Fair at night. The city of magic, it might well be called, an enchanting vision hinting at the future in artificial illumination.*

By Randy Banner

The words above come from the Official Guide Book to the 1939 New York World's Fair, perhaps the most memorable of all such expositions in the city's history. Inspired by the lingering aura and history of that event, a group of 30 New York City residents and businessmen have initiated plans to create a new world's fair in 1989.

David Oates, chairman of the New York World's Fair 1989 Corp., said that the fair, if it is organized, would exhibit and describe the scientific and sociological aspects of how man exists in society rather than just being a "picture-window show of technology."

"A world's fair is a microcosm of the time that it's a part of," said Oates, a Flushing native.

"The trouble with the 1964 fair," he said, "was that it was a display of large corporations and the bigness of what they could do rather than being a representation of where the world, in terms of international relations and ideological trends, was going at that time. Also, there was no overall theme. While we hope our fair will have the spectacle to entertain, the object of putting it in will also be to educate and inspire."

Oates, 31, who was raised in a housing development which abuts Flushing Meadow Park, said the idea for the fair was spurred by an exhibit of the 1939 fair at the Queens Museum last year, called "Dawn of a New Day: The New York World's Fair, 1939/40."

Since then, Oates, editor of the Queens Tribune, has been the driving force behind the New York World's Fair 1989 Corp., whose members represent numerous civic and commercial organizations.

The group is commissioning a feasibility study to determine if the idea is financially sound. If the study presents a positive view, the corporation's request will go to Mayor Edward I. Koch, who will, if he approves it, forward it to President Reagan.

If it is approved by Reagan, the application will go to an international organization that coordinates and certifies exhibitions throughout the world.

"The kind of fair we want," Oates said, "is not one which builds enormous buildings only to tear them down again. We are hoping to build an event that will utilize existing structures as well as planning new ones that will have a purpose after the fair is over."

"Also, we are thinking of a multi-site fair which could have 'bureaus' in each of the boroughs. But whatever we do, if we can do it, we want to make something that will be a worthwhile thing for people who come to see it and for the good of the city as a whole."



—STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, July 1981

By ED BARBINI

The big date is April 30, 1989, so be sure to mark it in your appointment book now.

That's the date of the official opening of the New York World's Fair, to be held in Flushing Meadow, Queens, and, if David Oats has his way, in the Richmondtown Restoration.

Oats, a Queens resident, who is chairman of the New York World's Fair 1989 Corp., said he hopes to get all five boroughs involved in the event.

"Each borough has a lot to offer," he said, "and the effect could be to bring the city closer together. That's why we want all five boroughs to share in the event, and maybe profit immediately from it."

Richmondton's "great historic value would be ideal as a site of one branch of the fair," Oats said. He also is considering using the South Bronx and Coney Island as exhibition sites.

"This way, vital areas of the city can be rebuilt with private money," Oats said. "Perhaps the South Bronx can be reconstructed as an exhibit for the city of the future, like General Motors did" in the 1964 World's Fair.

Oats said he got the idea for the extravaganza from a retrospective of the 1939 World's Fair (also held in Flushing) at the Queens Museum.

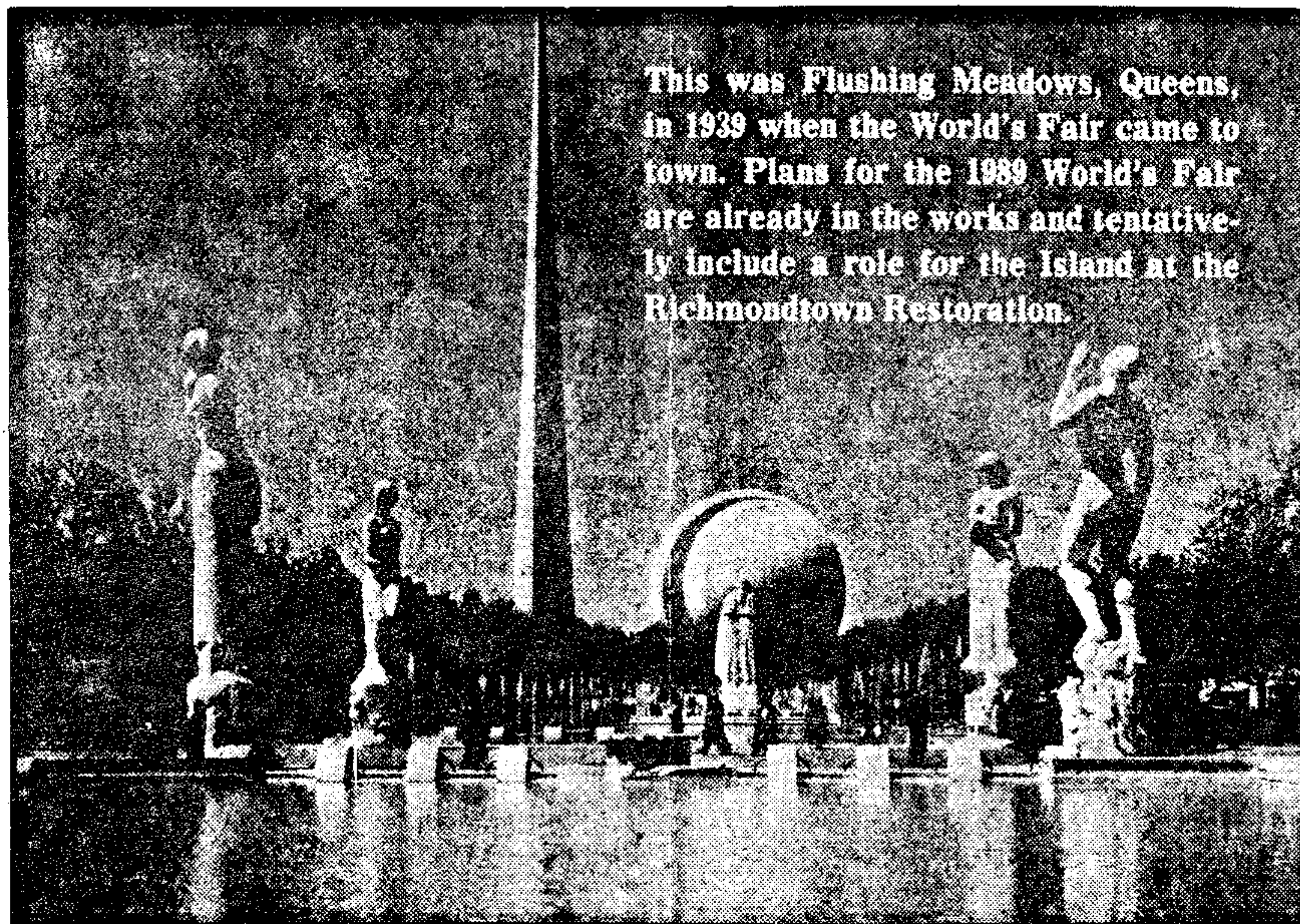
"Everyone who visited the exhibit came away with a feeling of how farsighted and imaginative the fair was and expressed a great deal of interest in having another one," he said.

"Even the kids who were too young to recall the 1964 Fair were enthusiastic," he continued. "So we decided to give it a shot."

Oats stressed that people just can't go out and have a fair; there are many considerations.

"We hired a well-respected firm to investigate the feasibility of having a fair," Oats said, "and their results are expected by the end of the year. We're optimistic that their report will be favorable."

World's Fairs are expensive propositions. "We started in 1981 so the entire program would be organized," Oats said. "Some of the most creative people in the nation are working on making this the best fair in history."



This was Flushing Meadows, Queens, in 1939 when the World's Fair came to town. Plans for the 1989 World's Fair are already in the works and tentatively include a role for the Island at the Richmondtown Restoration.

The year 1989 was not chosen lightly, either.

"It will be the 50th anniversary of the 1939 World's Fair, which had the theme of 'The World of Tomorrow'," Oats stated. It will also celebrate the first half-century of television; the first regular broadcast was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's welcoming address at the '39 spectacular.

Furthermore, the exposition will commemorate the bicentennial of the Constitution and

the inauguration of George Washington in New York — the nation's first capital.

For those of you who remember the '64 fair and think you're getting old — you're right. The exposition will also mark the 25th anniversary of the 1964 World's Fair.

There are many questions to be answered before you can buy your tickets for the '89 fair, but Oats is predicting success.

"This fair," he said, "will have an impact on history."



—QUEENS LEDGER, July 1981

**Editorial:****More Than  
A Fair Idea**

Plans are being made which may culminate in a world's fair in Flushing Meadow Park in 1989. This is a fantastic idea.

The timing is perfect. The year would mark the 25th and 50th anniversaries of the previous two shows at the site, and will, if the city continues to show a little common sense in its economic policies, mark the beginning of a new era for the Big Apple.

By then, much of the debt which hangs over our heads will have evaporated. Money may be set aside and combined with private investment to insure the event's success. And what a success it could be.

Those of us who are old enough to remember the '39 and '64 world's fairs can't help but jump for joy at the prospect. All of us can remember that everything seemed possible when we walked down those streets. This wasn't television science fiction; it was real.

Whenever something hugely expensive and risky

comes along, some of the members of the "powers that be" wonder if people somehow have grown too sophisticated for this kind of thing. We think a poll taken among the millions who attend Disneyworld, Great Adventure, and other parks would quickly reassure those who doubt our capacity for fun at fairs like this.

In addition to bringing millions of people and dollars to Queens and the rest of the city, a world's fair will give us a chance to stop and look at what we've done in the past quarter and half century. Maybe some of the vision the people of America seem to have misplaced can be rediscovered.

One idea that should be looked at in this fair is the nature of our relationship with science. In the past 15 years, technology has fallen from the status of god to a combination of both a peril and a chance at a rescue from ourselves. Nuclear power, for example, is more than a reality; it has become a way of life. It is extremely dangerous. Can we handle it?

That is only one of the questions of balance that have risen since 1964. We have learned more about ourselves and yet seem less in touch with one another than ever before. Fair organizers are looking for a theme. Last time around it was "Peace Through Understanding."

Maybe this time we should examine how we intend to survive at all.

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Translation: Florence Pomes.



## Acknowledgements

The New York World's Fair 1989 Corporation wishes to extend its appreciation to all of those individuals and organizations who have helped this project. We would like to thank some of those people in particular: **Joseph French, Al Simon, Julian Wager** and the other members of the Fair's **Organization Committee** (listed on the next page) whose assistance, support and guidance launched the '89 Fair project. Through their help, the project has gotten off the ground. The contributions of **A. Rand Peabody** have been a keystone to the entire effort, particularly through his inspired direction of a theme and scope of the Fair. With the dedicated work of his **Theme Committee**, the effort has progressed from an idea to a plan. To our friends on this Theme Committee (listed on the next page) who each devoted so much time, energy and thought and who have given an invaluable contribution to the Fair, we give our enduring thanks and gratitude. We would like to also thank **Bob Chase, Vivienne Anderson** and **Sharon Ruggia** for their work on this report. **Peter M. Warner** has provided our link to the historical role of World's Fairs as well as making sure that the progress of the New York '89 project is preserved for future historians, and we are most grateful to him. **Chuck Wade** of the **Queens Botanical Gardens** has been a good friend and has opened the doors of his fine institution for this project on numerous occasions. We also wish to acknowledge the help, assistance and guidance provided by **Queens Borough President Donald R. Manes** and his staff, particularly **Phyllis Spencer Shafran** and **Daniel Koren**.

**Mayor Edward I. Koch** has always been supportive and enthusiastic and we respectfully submit this report to him as well as to **City Council President Carol Bellamy, Controller Harrison J. Goldin, Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, Bronx Borough President Stanley Simon, Manhattan Borough President Andrew Stein** and **Richmond Borough President Anthony Gaeta**. We also respectfully submit this report to the leadership of the New York City Council and its vice-chairman and **Majority Leader Thomas J. Cuite** and to the leadership of the State Legislature as well as the New York congressional delegation. We would like to particularly extend our gratitude to New York State **Lieutenant Governor Mario Cuomo** for his advice and support.

The accounting and consulting firm of **Touche-Ross Inc.**, New York has given many man hours of complex and detailed work on the financial and technical aspects of this undertaking and we are grateful to them and especially to partners **Steven Gunders** and **Nick Lavin** for all of their help. **The New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry** has been very helpful as has been the **New York Telephone Company**, **Dennis Donnelly, John Rollo** and **Peggy Falco**. **Nicholas Garaufis** has provided important civic and legal assistance. **Perry Crawford** of I.B.M. has provided critical insights into the complex and changing world of telecommunications and information-understanding. **Edward J. Orth** has long been a devoted friend and his expertise on the significance of the 1939 N.Y. World's Fair, as well as his original and inspired concepts about the South Bronx rehabilitation have been important elements in this report. **Richard Wengenroth**, chairman of the Art Department of **Bernard Baruch College, CUNY**, has contributed many important ideas as have also **Terry McArdle** of the **Queens Ledger**, **Jay Iselin**, president of **WNET, Channel 13**, **Helen Harrison**, guest curator for "Dawn of a New Day", **Dr. Joseph J. Palisi**, **Bernard Haber**, chairman of **Community Board 11, Queens**, and **Michael A. Campbell** for his work on the proposed light and sound program as well as on **Time Capsule 3**.

We would like to thank the **New York City Department of Parks and Recreation**, **Gordon Davis**, Commissioner, **Diana Chapin**, Queens Park commissioner, **Michael Blumenfeld** and **Bronson Binger**. Also **Larry Jones** and **Olivia Fussell** for their help and assistance. **Janet Schneider**, director of the **Queens Museum** has always been helpful and encouraging. We wish to thank **Elise Wager**, **John Picciano**, director of the **Downtown Flushing Development Corporation**, and its president **Harvey Katz**; **David Lebenstein** of **Interface**, **Lila Schulman** of the **Flushing Merchants Association** and **Eric Mehran** of **Con Edison**. Special thanks go to **Aaron Weiss** for his inspired leadership and to **Jo Ann Jones**, director of the **Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts** for her encouragement and ideas. We also wish to thank **Myra Baird Herce**, chairperson of **County Board 7, Queens** and **Wilhelmina Jimney**, District Manager. Also **Regina Colletta**, **Marilyn Bitterman**, **Al Daly**, chairperson, **Board 8**, **John Rowan**, district manager, **Board 4**, **Jedd Moskowitz**, **Patricia Paone**, of Councilman **Edward Sadowsky's** office, **Jeffrey Gottlieb** of Assemblyman **Alan Hevesi's** staff, **Orlando Artze** of Congressman **Benjamin Rosenthal's** office, **Joan Kaufman**, Lieutenant Governor **Mario Cuomo's** office, and **Harold Baron** of Councilman **Martin Porman's** staff. Also **Regina Vogel**, **Elise Werbin**, **Jeremy Jacobowitz** and **Joseph Cillozza**, **Local 1814, International Longshoreman's Association**, **Estelle Chwat**, **Alliance of Queens Artists** and **Jean Weiss**, **Queens Council on the Arts**. Also appreciation to **District Leader Nettie Mayersohn**, **Harold J. Blake**, **Marion Ritz**, **George Schoepfer**, **Mildred Kempler**, **Thomasina DeGregory**, **John Hogan**, **Hugo DeGregory**, **Judge Robert Groh**, **Judge Arthur J. Cooperman**, **Judge Joseph Kunzeman**, **Virginia Torre** and **Ingeborg Briese**.

Special thanks go to **W.E. "Slew" Hester, Jr.**, **United States Tennis Association**, **Mrs. Louis Armstrong**, **Harvey Katz** of the **N.Y. Convention and Visitors Bureau**, **City Councilman Martin Povman**, **Assemblyman Ivan Lafayette**, **Assemblyman Leonard Stavisky**, **Assemblyman Saul Weprin** and **Jim Fagiana**, **Walter Kaner**, **Bernard Rabin**, **N.Y. Daily News**, **Randy Banner**, **Newsday**, **The Association for a Better New York**, **John German**, **Flushing Boys Club**, **Rose Simon**, **Jeffrey Tarlo**, **Joseph Bellaccico**, **Kurt Weissaupt**, **Alan Metrick**, **Martin Levine**, **David Grant**, and **Peter Byrne**.

The New York World's Fair 1989 Corporation wishes to thank **Douglas Kennedy**, **Stephen Schur** and **Steven Tannenbaum** of **Thumbprint Graphics** for their superb cooperation and work in the production of this report, along with **Fabia Golia**, **Suzanne Coiro** and **Donna J. Schwerdtman**.

Finally, very heartfelt and personal appreciation is given in particular to **June Briese**, State Senator **Gary L. Ackerman**, **Eric J. Ierardi**, and **Henry and Ruth Oats** for their years of patient help and devotion. We wish to also acknowledge the invaluable support and assistance of the late **Wallace K. Harrison** and **Robert Moses**. To anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted and who has contributed to this project, our sincerest apologies along with our thanks and gratitude.

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