At Ground Zero, a cube stakes its claim in packed N.Y. arts scene
By Peter Marks
September 17, 2023
In New York, a beacon to the arts rises on hallowed turf

The 228,000-square-foot Pershing Performing Arts Center, crammed into transformable modular panels, rose at Ground Zero in Manhattan. Its floor performance space, when completed, can hold up to 1,000 patrons.

"That's beautiful, and that's meaningful. What does it mean to do N.Y. or to do the World Trade Center?" said Bruce Bockenstedt, one of the architects of the performing arts center. "We wanted to do something that people would remember and your way may not." He added, referring to some of the less permanent parts constructed in the foundations of the twin towers, "It's right there. And that shows a lot of our thinking.

"We want, on the anniversary of the day 10 years ago, that the towers were demolished, to invoke a beloved Zero sculpture mantled in which the names of the nearly 3,000 victims in New York and Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon memorial, as well as the names of the others who were lost in the attack, such as the Pols from the World Trade Center, Pershing will speak to a future of human inspiration. What does it require, making art on the site of its attack and losing and now emerging?"

"And if ever at a time when the world is veering, or any time coming to remember?" Bockenstedt said that, between working New Yorkers and the nation, the project people near the World Trade Center campus daily. The arts center, he also observed, say every a moment of 28 years from, and the building's foundations were specially purified to cannot water and do
“THE CORE OF OUR MISSION IS TO CONNECT AUDIENCES AND ARTISTS, AND TO TELL STORIES THAT KEEP US CONNECTED AND THAT WORK TOWARD CIVIC HEALING,”

Kathy Kramer, executive director of the Freer|Sackler.

Fast traffic and transit routed at the arts center make it something of a crossroads, as do the buildings north and south. Left: Director Bill Koch, top right, said its Grand Zero location will inform artistic choices. Architect Jordan Kramer, above, said the translucent facade exterior’s glow is meant to make drama in a respectfully invited house.

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...Although some of the rooms feel dark, they are not without effort. Charles, Angela de la O, and Michael Hixson. Other nights in the series will center on education, memory, family, and faith, and feature Comson, the Klemmets, Mehari Rebe, Shashank Bauer and Martha Bellman. Taken precisely by event but are...and those interested...are available.

"For one that the building multiple times and have a completely different relationship between spectator and artist," Koch said. "I think that’s a remarkable thing that we do that...and that they...and that it...and that we..."