



The Four Pillars of a Community

World Island will be built upon the four pillars that are embodied in the heart of every vital community: **Commerce**, **Culture**, **Education**, and **Spirituality**. The Island is a powerful tourist attraction, naturally suited to cultural and educational uses, and these in turn will attract a new cohort of international visitors to the city. The Island is an ideal gathering place where people from around the world can interact on common ground and share and experience one another's ideas and ideals. In the context of New York City's unique multi-cultural community the Island will also be a key center for international economic development and education. In order to realize the full-potential of this unique Island in a unique city.

Commerce: Trade has been critical to cultural and social evolution for over 10,000 years. Even while people caravanned great distances to exchange goods and services, they also learn about one another and gain new and useful ideas. The development of the commercial aspect of our plan will include specialized offices, conference and exhibit centers and hotels, specifically targeted at economic development corporations (EDCs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations, corporate philanthropists, and many other international entities serving related purposes. Our objective is to create a critical mass of organizations concerned with economic development (at the municipal and regional levels), trade, tourism, and other community-based initiatives. These organizations will want need to be here because its environment has been created for the express purpose of transacting international affairs in a public sphere of action and influence.

Culture: Every group, every nation, has customs and ways of life; broadly considered these constitute the group's culture. Culture exists in its purest form in the expressive arts of music, painting and sculpture, story telling and literature, in various forms of entertainment and recreation, and in the distinctive ways people create the things of every day life and prepare their food. World Island will be a beacon for the best and brightest in the world's cultures.

Education: Culture must be learned, and so education will be central to World Island. A World High School will educate youth from around the world in the privileges and demands of public service. Distance learning will connect the Island to nations around the globe. Seminars and training programs will educate the business community and public officials in the ways of trade, equitable dealing, and economic development. Beyond this, the very nature of the programming means that every trip to the island will have an educational aspect, will give the visitor or employees new insights. The Island's cultural and educational programs will make World Island a powerful tourist magnet, attracting a vast eclectic mix of international visitors to it and the surrounding region. The range of programs on the Island will make every visit an educational one.

Spirituality: The World Island philosophy is grounded in a simple truth recognized by all the world's religions: **All we are is what we are to each other.** If we are to prosper in the twenty-first century we must each extend that truth to everyone, without exception. And we must extend this reverence and respect to the earth itself. It is our home together. It is in this sense that we must understand World Island's design and construction in a spiritual context.

World Island will be a model of environmentally friendly construction and design. At the southern tip of the Island we plan to build a futuristic lighthouse, Illumination, that will be the focus of spiritual activities on the Island. It will contain inter-faith chapels and meditation rooms. Beyond this, we regard World Island's commitment to wellness and to green design as fundamentally spiritual in kind.

Organizing our programs around these four pillars will ensure WDEF's cornerstone mission: establishing a self-sustaining, socially responsible model city that serves as an ideal environment in which to mentor and nurture future leaders in public service. Only in this way can we all understand the practicality of trustworthiness. The synergies we are exploiting require a unified, comprehensive and complementary approach if the total development is to become the icon that defines human potential in the twenty-first century.