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The Rebuild Chinatown Initiative's steering committee yesterday selected a Manhattan-based planning and real estate firm yesterday to come up with solutions to help Chinatown recover from the impact of Sept. 11. Phillips, Preiss & Shapiro Associates Inc. beat four other firms to draw up strategies to improve sanitation, transportation, housing, economic development and tourism, which were severely hurt by the terrorist attacks, said Robert Weber, director of the Rebuild Chinatown Initiative. "We picked them because we like their experience of working in working-class communities," which includes building schools in the South Bronx, Weber added. Phillip, Preiss & Shapiro is a 35-year-old firm that works mostly with clients in the New York and New Jersey metropolitan region. Its work with six South Bronx community development corporations earned it the national 1996 Presidential Award of the American Planning Association. Phillip, Preiss & Shapiro will be paid \$100,000 and is expected to come up with a game plan within six months. The Rebuild Chinatown Initiative was able to pay the consultant from a \$240,000 grant it received from Freddie Mac. Picking a consultant to come up with solutions is the second phase of the Rebuild Chinatown Initiative, which comprises 16 social services, civic, business and residents groups. The first phase was a report in November, which showed the adverse impact the terrorist attacks had on the area. It showed the unemployment rate in Chinatown was 12 percent, almost double the city average. "There has been some stabilization in the community since that time," said Christopher Kiu, executive director of the Asian Americans for Equality, "But the community still suffers. Many people are still unemployed, the garment factory industry still has not rebounded and tourism continues to lag." - Tania Padgett