

# COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DEVELOPMENT INC.

March 5, 2000

No wonder they call this place NEW York. Nothing is allowed to grow old. While other civilizations and countries leave unique and revered architecture for posterity, in this City it is a fight most frequently lost, to save magnificent structures such as Penn Station or the old Metropolitan Opera House. Even large, relatively new buildings are demolished for larger megastructures with little regard to the air pollution, congestion, shadows and wind tunnels, or the strain on the infrastructure, water supply and sewage system that results from such overdevelopment. Developers and their profits matter in this City. To quote Andrew Eristoff, the former Republican City Councilman, " It [the land use process] is entirely developer driven."

However, the fight is not always lost. There were enough citizens sufficiently outraged to force a City Administration to save Carnegie Hall and the Jefferson Street Market.

Perhaps one of the reasons for the loss of these magnificent edifices is the lack of awareness on the part of the public. How many New Yorkers realize that 2 Columbus Circle, that small gem of a building designed by Edward Durell Stone as a museum for Huntington Hartford, is in danger of being demolished? The New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has just issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop the property for residential, hotel, or other commercial uses. ***We want to make one huge effort to fill in that awareness and save this building with an ad in the New York Times.*** The ad will be similar to the one on the back of this page that appeared in a local newspaper.

There may also be other ways to rally support from the culture mavens in this community for saving this delightful structure. We are mailing this notice seeking assistance, be it funds, publicity know-how, or names of additional supporters. This building is well known nationally and internationally. In fact, it is one of the attractions that tour buses pass when visitors are shown the sites in New York.

Dear Mayor Giuliani:  
Re: 2 Columbus Circle

The decision as to whether this unusual building, designed by Edward Durell Stone for Huntington Hartford, should be preserved as a museum or be replaced by a glitzy Trump hotel is yours to make. What process and criteria are you using to make the choice between the two proposals?

This is a decision that will have a very wide and far lasting effect. Surely you will consider the wishes of New Yorkers, elected officials, community organizations, art critics, architects, and visitors, all of whom have expressed their preference for use of the building by a cultural organization such as the Dahesh Museum.

From the aesthetic, economic, and environmental points of view a museum is the best choice. Tourism depends heavily on cultural institutions and historic preservation. In this City of rectangular megas-structures, the rare existence of a refreshingly different building with Near Eastern flavor and curved facade, should be reason enough to landmark this treasure. Cultural institutions need the support of the Mayor.

Coalition for A Livable Westside, Committee For Environmentally Sound Development, Clinton Special District Coalition, Fine Arts Federation, Historic District Council, Federation of Westside Block Associations, Turtle Bay Association, 63rd and 64th Street Block Association, West Village Committee

Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, State Senator Eric Schneiderman, State Senator Tom Duane, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, Assemblyman Scott Stringer, Council persons Ronnie Eldridge and Christine Quinn, Council Candidate Eva Moskowitz.

Please help with our information and lobbying effort. Make checks payable to CFESD at P.O. Box 20464, Columbus Circle Station, New York, NY 10023-1492, phone (212) 877-4394. All donations are tax deductible, IRS Section 501c3.     \$1,000     \$100     \$50     \$25     other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



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OCT. 18, 1999  
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**URGENT:** We were just alerted by one of our members that the Mayor has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) (New York Times, March 5, 2000, Section 11, page 4) in which he makes clear his preference for commercial use of the site. However the vast majority of New Yorkers wish to see this jewel of a building, which was given to the City, continue as a museum. This Administration has consistently favored developers and their megastructures (75 stories at Columbus Circle and 90 stories near the United Nations) and shown callous concern for cultural institutions (Brooklyn Museum). For residents of New York City development is both an environmental and aesthetic concern. We can begin resisting worldwide environmental degradation in our own metropolis with all of our ingenuity and commitment by opposing the replacement of solid, relatively new structures, with ever-larger ones.

What we have to do now is roll up our sleeves and get to work. The Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted to NYC Economic Development Corporation by 2.00 p.m., May 2, 2000. Let EDC know you want the building saved and used as a museum.

Write and call:

Michael G. Carey, President, NYC EDC, 110 William Street, New York, NY 10038, (212) 312-3600  
Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, City Hall, New York, NY 10007, (212) 788-3000  
Speaker Peter Vallone, City Hall, New York, NY 1007, (212) 788-7210  
Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, 405 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10174, (212) 661-5150  
Senator Charles Schumer, 26 Federal Plaza, suite 600, New York, NY, 10278, (212) 486-4430  
Hillary 2000, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, 450 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, NY 10123, (212) 239-2000  
All of your elected officials, Councilmember, Congressmen State Senators Assemblymen, et al.

Advise us or contact Newspapers, Radio, Television, and Foundations with the information that 2 Columbus Circle needs help if it is to survive.

Take part in our New York Times ad by contribution and adding your name.

Olive Freud, Vice President

I wish to make a contribution towards an ad in the New York Times.

\$1000     \$500     \$100     \$50     \$25     other

Include my name in the New York Times ad.

Please contact our organization. We wish to further discuss this project.

CFESD has a few premiums to distribute: Please check if you want one.

1956 3-cent U.S. postage stamp of the Coliseum (collectors item)

Ballpoint pen with our name.

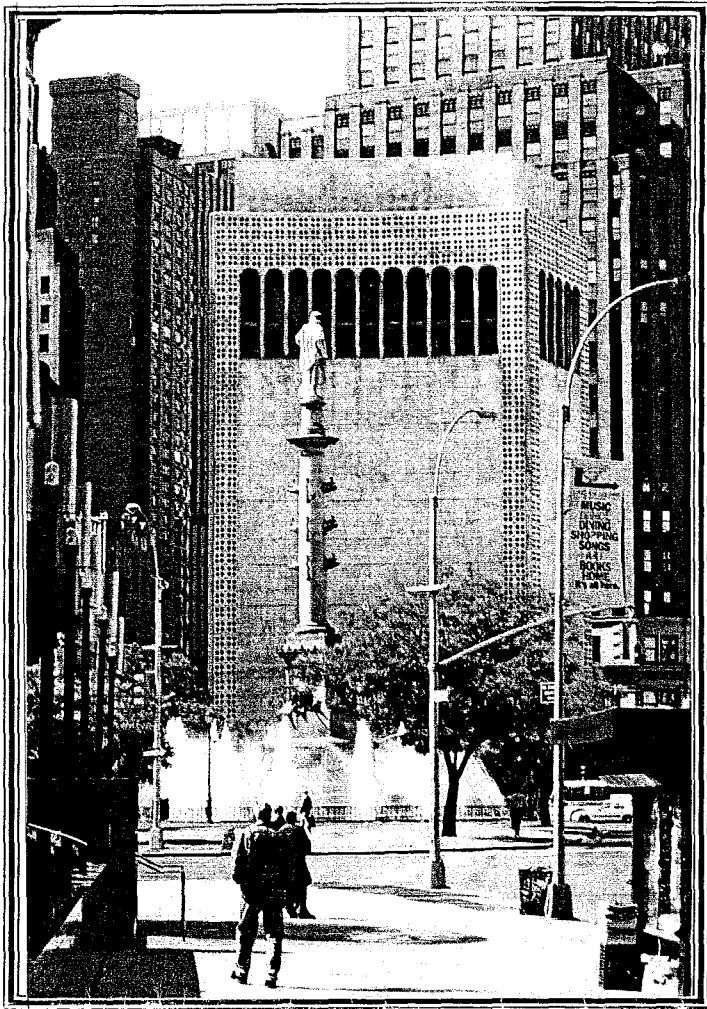
Brochure "A CASE AGAINST TALL BUILDINGS AND THE VIRTUE OF RECYCLING OLD ONES"

We are an all-volunteer organization and have been in existence since 1989. All donations are tax deductible, section 501c3. Please make checks payable to CFESD, P.O. Box 20464, Columbus Circle Station, New York NY, 10023-1492

Name \_\_\_\_\_

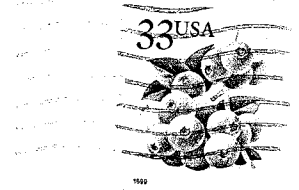
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



**This is an  
endangered  
edifice.**

Committee For Environmentally Sound Development, Inc.  
P.O. Box 20464  
Columbus Circle Station  
New York, NY 10023-1492



873-7974

ADDRESSEE  
UNKNOWN

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151 Central Park West,  
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ADDRESSEE  
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