

LANDMARK WEST!

THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

September 26, 2002

Hon. Bernadette Casto
Commissioner
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Agency Building #1, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

RE: 2 Columbus Circle – Former Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art

Dear Commissioner Castro:

As you know, LANDMARK WEST! believes strongly in the preservation of 2 Columbus Circle, the former Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art. We write to follow up on correspondence between you and the Historic Districts Council (copies enclosed). On December 21, 2000, HDC wrote to urge you to place 2 Columbus Circle on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Now, as the City is in the process of transferring this important building to the American Craft Museum—and the Museum moves forward with plans to renovate the interior and façade—listing of this property is more critical than ever. We urge you to declare it eligible today.

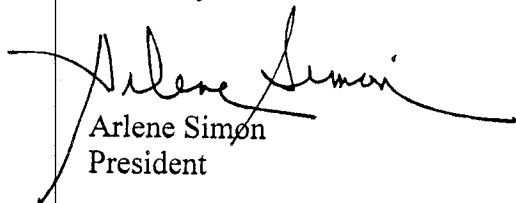
This building is a work of great distinction by one of the leaders of post-war American architecture, Edward Durell Stone. Architect Robert A. M. Stern (author of *New York 1880*, *New York 1900*, *New York 1930*, and *New York 1960*) has identified 2 Columbus Circle as one of the most significant modern buildings in New York City—and most worthy of preservation. Working with our then-Councilwoman Ronnie Eldridge, we were able to schedule a public hearing before the New York City Council on March 29, 2001. In his testimony to the Council, Stern stated, “[2 Columbus Circle] is without question a landmark worthy of being saved, a serious piece of architecture that, when it was built in 1965, had an important point to make, and brilliantly did so while serving as a fine complement to its significant and challenging site...” We have enclosed Stern’s statement in its entirety for your interest and information.

In addition, a broad community of New Yorkers and others who are concerned about the future of this building has demonstrated its belief that 2 Columbus Circle is exceptionally significant and must be preserved (copies of letters and testimony enclosed). As stated in HDC’s letter, “This building is truly a landmark; we seek now only to legitimize this distinction and preserve this building so it can continue to stimulate future generations.”

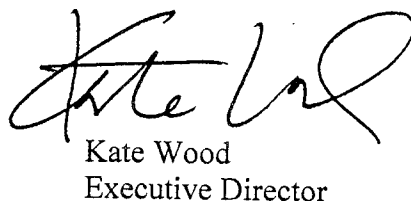
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Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding any additional information that would help move your evaluation process forward.

Sincerely,



Arlene Simon
President



Kate Wood
Executive Director

Encls.

- cc. US Senator Charles E. Schumer
US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
US Congressman Jerrold Nadler
US Congressman Carolyn Maloney
NY Senator Thomas K. Duane
NY State Senator Eric T. Schneiderman
NY State Assemblymember Richard Gottfried
NY State Assemblymember Scott Stringer
NYC Councilmember Gale A. Brewer
NYC Councilmember Christine Quinn
NYC Councilmember Eva Moskowitz
Edward Kirkland, Community Board 4/Tri-Board Task Force
Lola Finkelstein, Community Board 5/ Tri-Board Task Force
Ethel Sheffer, Community Board 7/ Tri-Board Task Force
Frank Sanchis, Municipal Art Society
- Peg Breen, New York Landmarks Conservancy
- Simeon Bankoff, Historic Districts Council
- Laura Hansen, Place Matters
✓ Olive Freud, Committee for Environmentally Sound Development
Margot Gayle, Friends of Cast Iron
- John Jurayj and Michael Gotkin, Modern Architecture Working Group
- Caroline Zaleski, Docomomo
Matthew Woitkowski, Esq., Woitkowski & Schmidt
- Antonia Bryson, Esq., Urban Environmental Law Center