



Preservation
League
of
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State

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May 28, 2003

Honorable Robert B. Tierney, Chairman
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, Ninth floor
New York, New York 10007

RE: Two Columbus Circle

Dear Commissioner Tierney:

The Preservation League of New York State is adding its collective voice to those many who have requested that the Commission hold a hearing on the remarkable and controversial building that for nearly forty years has defined Columbus Circle. We certainly recognize that there are strongly differing views on the unique Edward Durrell Stone edifice. Indeed, those strongly held views are an indication that Two Columbus Circle is an important signature building. Within our Board of Trustees there are differing views. But there is uniform consensus that the building is deserving of a hearing by the Landmarks Commission.

We are delighted that the Museum of Contemporary Art & Design has been identified as the cultural anchor for Columbus Circle. We cannot think of a better use for the old Huntington Hartford Gallery. We are also certain that the Museum of Contemporary Art & Design can be a world class museum while respecting those elements that define Two Columbus as an icon of its own era, a building unique in New York.

But most importantly we urge that the Commission not sidestep its very important role as facilitator for a genuine dialogue on the merits of a Two Columbus Circle designation. Our primary concern is for process; that there be a fair hearing. It will be an interesting dialogue, and the Commission will have fulfilled its obligation.

Sincerely,

Scott Heyl
President

cc: Hon. C. Virginia Fields; Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Amanda M. Burden; Chair, NYC Planning Commission
Hon. Bernadette Castro; Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation
& Historic Preservation