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January 15, 2003

Robert B. Tierney  
Chairman  
Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Municipal Building  
1 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Tierney:

The Women's City Club of New York congratulates you on your appointment as Chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

We are an 87 year old non-profit advocacy organization which works to shape policy in New York City on a broad range of issues. Our Arts and Landmarks Committee is strongly supportive of the Landmarks Commission's mandate to hold public hearings relating to the preservation and landmarking of the city's architectural and historic treasures the Women's City Club has offered oral or written testimony at numerous Landmarks hearings in the past and we look forward to participating in future discussions.

Enclosed is a copy of our letter to Laurie Beckelman, Director of New Building Project for the Museum of Contemporary Arts and Design, concerning the need for a hearing on the possible landmarking of 2 Columbus Circle where the Museum expects to move. As you will see from the letter, the Women's City Club has not taken a position but is advocating for an open hearing, at a suitable date, on a building which certainly merits consideration.

We send good wishes to you in your new undertaking.

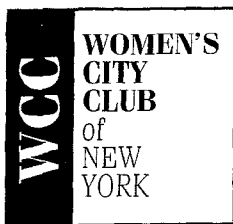
Sincerely,

Blanche E. Lawton  
President

Enclosures

33 West 60th Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10023-7905  
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Facsimile: 212-228-4665  
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website: www.wccny.org

Since 1915 the Women's City Club of New York has been an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit advocate working to make New York City a better place by shaping public policy and encouraging citizen involvement in government.



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January 14, 2003

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Barbara Zucker

Ms. Laurie Beckelman  
Director of New Building Project  
Museum of Contemporary Arts and Design  
40 West 53rd Street  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Ms. Beckelman:

As you pursue your work helping to oversee the planning and development of the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, the Women's City Club urges you to honor your past service as an outstanding Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission by supporting those who are asking the LPC to calendar a hearing to consider the designation of 2 Columbus Circle as a landmark.

The commission was created, as you know, to "safeguard the city's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage" by preserving places which "represent and reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history". Surely one of a handful of New York City buildings designed by the distinguished architect Edward Durrell Stone qualifies as being an important representative of the city's architectural history.

There is no question that 2 Columbus Circle is a controversial building with champions like the architect Robert A.M. Stern and others who do not value it. The concern of the Women's City Club is not with a specific outcome at a designation hearing but with making sure that the site receives a fair and open hearing where those who favor, and those who oppose, designation can express their views.

As a former chairperson you can appreciate the importance of public review for such a controversial building. Supporters of both views become more easily reconciled to the outcome, whatever it may be, after participating in an open debate.

Sincerely,

*Laura Ludwig*      *Annette Rosen*  
Laura Ludwig      Annette Rosen

Arts and Landmarks Committee

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