

LANDMARK EST!

THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

August 20, 2004

Hon. Bill Perkins
New York City Council
163 West 125 Street, 7th Floor
New York, New York 10027

Re: 2 Columbus Circle, Scheduled Manhattan Borough Board Hearing, August 24, 2004

Dear Bill:

This letter follows up on the conversation you had with Michael Henry Adams regarding **2 Columbus Circle**, a 1964 Modernist building designed by internationally acclaimed architect Edward Durell Stone.

The City is poised to sell 2 Columbus Circle, a city-owned building, to a museum that plans to destroy it. **We are asking the Manhattan Borough Board to defer any action on the sale of 2 Columbus Circle until the LPC schedules a public hearing** to allow the public (represented by over 1,000 supporters, including yourself, who signed on to a list urging the LPC to hold such a hearing) the opportunity to be heard.

It's the right thing to do. Politics aside, 2 Columbus Circle deserves the chance for survival that a **fair and due process** is supposed to provide. How many more buildings will the LPC continue to overlook unless it is held accountable to the people and our elected officials?

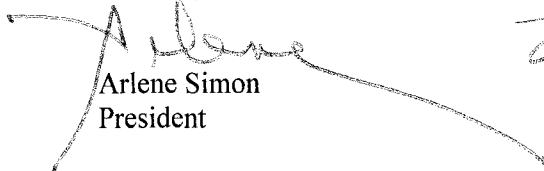
Like **St. Thomas Church** (and Pennsylvania Station before it), 2 Columbus Circle is yet another unofficial, and therefore, unprotected landmark that may be irretrievably lost through **the inaction of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC)**. In 1963, when Penn Station was demolished, the LPC had not yet been created. Swiftly following that debacle, New York's Landmarks Law was established so that such losses would never happen again.

But, the Landmarks Law is of absolutely no use unless the LPC elects to apply it. In St. Thomas Church and 2 Columbus Circle, we have two timely cases in point where the LPC has failed to uphold its mandate to identify and protect buildings that merit Landmark designation.

The Manhattan Borough Board is scheduled to consider the matter of the sale of 2 Columbus Circle on Tuesday, August 24, 2004. We felt that this issue would be of particular concern to you based on your worthy track record of working with your fellow Council members to promote the cause of historic preservation in your district and, by extension, across the city.

We hope that we can count on your support in calling for a postponement of the sale of 2 Columbus Circle until a public Landmarks hearing can be scheduled.

Sincerely,



Arlene Simon
President



Kate Wood
Executive Director