

2 CC press

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

Copyright 2004 Daily News, L.P.

Daily News (New York)

August 25, 2004 Wednesday
SPORTS FINAL EDITION**SECTION:** BUSINESS; Pg. 62**LENGTH:** 295 words**HEADLINE:** 2 COLUMBUS CIRCLE DEAL GETS OKAY**BYLINE:** BY LORE CROGHAN and DANIEL DUNAIEF DAILY NEWS BUSINESS WRITERS**BODY:**

THE LOLLIPOP building, which has graced Columbus Circle for decades, won final approval yesterday to be sold. Manhattan's borough board gave its okay for the transaction in a 9-to-1 vote, despite appeals by preservationists.

The Museum of Arts & Design is paying \$17 million for the famous building, which got its nickname from its lollipop-shaped columns. The museum plans to tear down the building's white-marble facade, which has riled some groups.

"There was a lot of discussion and debate surrounding the landmarkable status," said Josh Bosian, the director of community affairs for city Councilwoman Gale Brewer, who voted to approve the sale.

The Museum said the sale would make the building a more productive cultural center.

"This gives the opportunity for the museum to continue to grow," said Laurie Beckelman, head of the museum's new building program. "We'll have public spaces and artists creating art, master classes, and a beautiful theater in the basement. It's a great thing for the city."

Landmark West, however, had a vastly different reaction to yesterday's vote, which is the final government action required before the sale can take place.

"We were hoping to see leadership from the board," said Kate Wood, executive director of Landmark West. "We are extremely disappointed it didn't come through."

Wood said the group, which collected over 1,000 signatures, will continue to press a lawsuit.

"What we've been asking for is a public hearing for the Landmark's Preservation Commission," Wood said.

Manhattan councilman Bill Perkins was the lone vote against the sale.

"This is a precious piece of property," he said. "I thought it was important that we take a position that respected the architectural and historical significance." Ddunaief@edit.nydailynews.com

GRAPHIC: THOMAS MONASTER DAILY NEWS The building was nicknamed Lollipop because of its columns.**LOAD-DATE:** August 25, 2004