

LANDMARK WEST!

From: "LANDMARK WEST!" <landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org>
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2005 4:00 PM
Subject: Tom Wolfe and Rally Help Turn Up Heat on 2 Columbus Circle

Last Thursday's (6/23/05) "Hands Around 2 Columbus Circle" rally was a hands-down success! Many thanks to all who participated in person and in spirit. This week, your hands have another assignment - get them as quickly as possible on the latest issue of **New York magazine** (July 4, 2005) and **Tom Wolfe's article, "The 2 Columbus Circle Game."**

This follow-up to his spectacular 2003 two-part *New York Times* Op-Ed piece is subtitled "**Was the Landmarks commissioner a little too close to the side that wants it destroyed? A would-be savior of Edward Durell Stone's building looks at the latest, most dramatic twist in the city's preservation drama.**" The "twist" is the trove of emails obtained by LANDMARK WEST! through a Freedom of Information request (which Wolfe dubs the "Bob and Laurie Letters") between LPC Chair Robert B. Tierney and Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) New Building Director Laurie Beckelman. For an online version of Wolfe's piece, go to <http://newyorkmetro.com/nymetro/news/people/columns/intelligencer/12156/>. To see the emails for yourself (and the accompanying legal papers), go to the May 27, 2005 entry on the 2 Columbus Circle timeline at http://www.landmarkwest.org/advocacy/ad_02/2columbuscircle.html.

While you're online, go to the June 23, 2005 timeline entry to see pictures from last week's rally at 2 Columbus Circle and read statements of support by **NYC Council Members Bill Perkins** and **Margarita Lopez**. Nearly 150 supporters joined hands around the building's iconic "lollipop" base for over an hour, celebrated the **World Monuments Fund's (WMF) naming of 2 Columbus Circle to its "Watch List" of the 100 Most Endangered Sites on earth** and called on Mayor Bloomberg and the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to give the building the public hearing it deserves (at long last!).

With the crowd and television camera crews looking on, **Council Member Perkins** announced his intention to sponsor a **"People's Hearing" in July** (date tba): "The refusal of the Landmarks Preservation Commission to hold hearings on the future of 2 Columbus Circle demonstrates **a shameful disregard for the will of the people and the Commission's charter-mandated responsibility...**I will Chair the "People's Hearing" to make sure the people's voice is heard on the future of this significant building."

The summer's just begun, but things are really heating up! Stay tuned...