

LANDMARK WEST!

From: "LANDMARK WEST!" <landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org>
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2005 11:34 AM
Subject: 2 Columbus Circle-Preserve a Modernist Icon

Dear AIA Chapter Member,

Is your name on this list? 2 Columbus Circle needs your help. You can join the fight by adding your name to the growing list of signatures on Chuck Close's letter to Mayor Bloomberg. (Please see the email attachment or visit this website to read the letter:
http://www.landmarkwest.org/advocacy/ad_02/letter%20to%20Bloomberg.pdf)

All this group is asking is that the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission hold a public hearing for the former Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art (designed by Edward Durell Stone and built in 1964). Help keep 2 Columbus Circle from joining the litany of other lost New York treasures.

Many thanks to those of you who have already signed on to help.

This is what your AIA colleagues are saying:

"I strongly believe E.D. Stone's façade deserves to be preserved, and of course deserves a public hearing." **Bernard Tschumi, AIA, former dean of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation at Columbia University**

"...an important building for New York...we've lost too many great 20th century modernist buildings!"

"...one of my favorite mid-century buildings in the city... I would be saddened to see it gone or grotesquely altered."

"... 2 Columbus Circle deserves a hearing as well as preservation as an icon of early 1960s style and design."

"2 Columbus Circle fully merits a Landmark Status—a hearing will reveal the reasons!"

Supporters of a public hearing include:

Deans of major architecture schools:

George Ranalli, AIA, Dean of Architecture, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, City College of New York

Robert A.M. Stern, FAIA, Dean of Yale School of Architecture

Mark Wigley, Dean of Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation, Columbia University

Members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters:

**Henry Cobb, FAIA
Peter Eisenman, FAIA
Richard Meier, FAIA
Laurie Olin, FASLA
Cesar Pelli, FAIA
Kevin Roche, FAIA**

And other members of the New York AIA Chapter and the arts and design community (list in progress as of November 3, 2005):

**Robert Jon Badia, AIA
Bruce Barnes and Joseph Cunningham
Miro Bazac, AIA
William Berg, AIA
Leo Blackman, AIA
Nicholas Blechman
James L. Bodnar, AIA
Martin Brandwein, AIA
Jean-Luc Briguët, AIA
Carlos Brillembourg, AIA
Alexander Briseño, AIA
Architect and Publisher
Lewis Bryden
J.C. Calderón, AIA
Jose Cassorla, AIA
Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA
Michele Cetera, AIA
Michael Conard, RA
Frederick Cox, AIA
Cynthia B. Crier, AIA
James V. Czajka, AIA
Steven M. Davis, FAIA
Ronald A. DeSouza, AIA
Peter DeWitt, AIA
Kelvin Dickinson
Barbara Gladstone
Warren A. James, Architect
Makram Kati
Benjamin D. Kracauer, AIA
David Lloyd Maron, AIA
Sally Regenhard
Barry Rice, AIA
James Slade, AIA
Alastair Standing, AIA, RIBA, RA
Bernard Tschumi, AIA
Mark Wright, AIA
Stephen Yablon, AIA
Carlo Zaskorski, AIA**

LANDMARK WEST!

From: "LANDMARK WEST!" <landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2005 7:02 PM
Attach: Turning Up the Heat on a Landmarks Agency - New York Times.htm
Subject: Intro. 705: It's Up to City Council

Spotlight on the City Council to Preserve New York's Most Endangered Historic Buildings

Thanks to all who contributed to the tremendous turnout at last Monday's City Council hearing regarding **Intro. 705, the "Landmarks Hearing" bill**. The seats in the large Council Chambers were filled with frustrated preservationists from every borough, the vast majority of whom testified in support of this legislation to strengthen New York's Landmarks Law and expand the ability of the public to participate in the designation hearing process. Their heartfelt testimony was echoed in *New York Times* architecture critic Nicolai Ouroussoff's milestone article, "Turning Up the Heat on a Landmarks Agency" (11/14/05, pE1, attached in case you missed it), which cited the imminent destruction of 2 Columbus Circle and other examples as evidence that "what is needed is a ruthless analysis of the landmark designation process." Also see Frances Morrone's piece in today's *New York Sun* (copy pasted below). "There's something rotten at the core of the Big Apple," he writes.

The ball is now in the City Council's court. And we all must continue to play an active role. The Landmarks Subcommittee adjourned Monday's hearing without taking a vote (a quorum of committee members was not present). Please help get the message out about how Intro. 705 will help to preserve our historic neighborhoods from relentless development. **Email/fax/call Council Speaker Gifford Miller today!** Tell him that his support is key to getting this bill passed before the end of 2005 so that more buildings in **your** community are not lost - without even being heard by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Both Speaker Miller and Intro. 705 sponsor Council Member Bill Perkins will leave office next month. If passed before their term expires, this bill could be the most important legacy they leave for the future shape of our city.

New York City Council Speaker Gifford Miller
miller@council.nyc.ny.us <<mailto:miller@council.nyc.ny.us>>
Phone: (212) 535-5554
Fax: (212) 535-6098
City Hall, NYC 10007

Also, email the members of the Landmarks Subcommittee and Land Use Committee as well as your local council member (go to www.nycouncil.info for contact information). Send them copies of your testimony and/or a personal note making sure they know that the future of New York's most beloved, endangered buildings and neighborhoods rests in their hands!

Melinda Katz (Chair, Land Use) - katz@council.nyc.ny.us
 Simcha Felder (Chair, Landmarks Subcommittee) - felder@council.nyc.ny.us
 Charles Barron (Landmarks Subcommittee) - barron@council.nyc.ny.us
 Leroy G. Comrie, Jr. (Landmarks Subcommittee) - comrie@council.nyc.ny.us
 G. Oliver Koppell (Landmarks Subcommittee) - koppell@council.nyc.ny.us
 James S. Oddo (Landmarks Subcommittee) - oddo@council.nyc.ny.us
 Annabel Palma (Landmarks Subcommittee) - palma@council.nyc.ny.us
 Bill Perkins (Landmarks Subcommittee) - perkins@council.nyc.ny.us
 Tony Avella (Land Use Committee) - avella@council.nyc.ny.us
 Maria Baez (Land Use Committee) - baez@council.nyc.ny.us
 Erik Martin Dilan (Land Use Committee) - dilan@council.nyc.ny.us
 Vincent J. Gentile (Land Use Committee) - gentile@council.nyc.ny.us
 Eric N. Gioia (Land Use Committee) - gioia@council.nyc.ny.us
 Andrew J. Lanza (Land Use Committee) - lanza@council.nyc.ny.us
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 Michael E. McMahon (Land Use Committee) - mcmahon@council.nyc.ny.us
 Hiram Monserrate (Land Use Committee) - monserrate@council.nyc.ny.us
 Michael C. Nelson (Land Use Committee) - nelson@council.nyc.ny.us

Christine C. Quinn (Land Use Committee) - quinn@council.nyc.ny.us
Joel Rivera (Land Use Committee) - rivera@council.nyc.ny.us
James Sanders, Jr. (Land Use Committee) - sanders@council.nyc.ny.us
Larry B. Seabrook (Land Use Committee) - seabrook@council.nyc.ny.us
Albert Vann (Land Use Committee) - vann@council.nyc.ny.us

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November 18, 2005 Friday

SECTION: ARTS & LETTERS; Pg. 17

LENGTH: 505 words

HEADLINE: ABROAD IN NEW YORK

BYLINE: By FRANCIS MORRONE

BODY:

I have been speaking out about 2 Columbus Circle for years. Now that its defacement is a done deal, please allow me to write about 2 Columbus for what will likely be my last time.

To use a cliché, there's something rotten at the core of the Big Apple. And while that "something" goes well beyond the chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Robert Tierney, he certainly exemplifies it. His stern refusal to hold a hearing for 2 Columbus - a hearing that had professional support unprecedented in the history of landmarks preservation in New York - was a profound dereliction of his responsibility to the people of this city. He acted as though the public were a nuisance.

I'd have liked to see 2 Columbus landmarked. But, as has often been noted, that wasn't the issue: The issue was whether it would get a hearing. Mr. Tierney's naked intransigence in the matter leaves me slack-jawed. I've not witnessed anything like it before.

The building met every criterion for a hearing. It was a stylistic exemplar by one of the most famous architects of his time, Edward Durrell Stone, and it was a place making building that spoke of a significant moment in the history of New York culture. To top it off, there was no shortage of institutions with the desire and the means to preserve the building.

None of that is to say the building deserved to be landmarked. But when a building that so manifestly fulfills the requirements for a hearing is denied one, it calls into question the whole apparatus by which New York seeks to preserve worthy old buildings. I see this as the culmination of a decade in which the whole notion of "historic preservation" was trashed by elite opinion, as though people had simply grown bored of the business. Critics from the so-called "right" believe a city is nothing more than a machine for making money, and preserving old buildings can get in the way of that. Critics from the left, like the former New York Times architecture critic Herbert Muschamp, believe the culture of historic preservation stifles creativity in new New York architecture. Indeed, it was the commission's desire to satisfy "avantgarde" opinion (which is a bit of a contradiction in terms for a landmarks commission) that led it to green-light the new front on the Brooklyn Museum. Between that and the 2 Columbus debacle, who needs a landmarks commission, anyway?

Huntington Hartford's Gallery of Modern Art opened in 2 Columbus Circle on March 20, 1964, with an exhibition of paintings by Pavel Tchelitchew. Tchelitchew was the man who had introduced Lincoln Kirstein to George Balanchine - a

signal moment in the cultural history of New York. Another such signal moment was the creation of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, one year after 2 Columbus Circle opened, and 40 years ago this year. The groups seeking a hearing for 2 Columbus may have failed in their effort. But so long as there are groups like Landmark West! there is hope for New York, a hope we had once entrusted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

LANDMARK WEST!

From: "LANDMARK WEST!" <landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 9:54 PM
Attach: SAMPLE LETTER IN SUPPORT OF INTRO.doc
Subject: Critical Mass Needed to Pass "Landmarks Hearing" Bill

Preservationists UNITE! Important Opportunity to Demonstrate Strength of New York's Preservation Community

Crucial Public Hearing on Landmarks Bill - Don't Be Overlooked, Make Your Voice Heard!

****Please pass this email on to your neighbors and fellow preservationists!****

On Monday, November 14, starting at 11:00 AM at City Hall (the Committee Room adjacent to the main Council chambers) the City Council's Landmarks Subcommittee will hold a public hearing on Intro. 705, the "Landmarks Hearing" bill. This legislation responds to outcry from communities in all five boroughs who have lost, or may lose, buildings due to the Landmarks Preservation Commission's (LPC's) failure to hold public designation hearings. Enough is enough - it's time to stem the tide. Unless we act now, how many more buildings will be doomed through LPC inaction?

Meanwhile, keep your eyes on the 2 Columbus Circle "Shame Cam" (go to www.landmarkwest.org). Now that the election is over, the destruction has begun. Scaffolding continues to go up, and marble chunks begin to fall. **Your support of Intro. 705 can help stop this from happening again and again. The time is now!**

The text of Intro 705 is available online (http://www.nycouncil.info/issues/intros_act.cfm?intro=Int%200705%2D2005.) Below is the list of organizations (over 50) that have endorsed this legislation as members of the "Citizens for a Responsive Landmarks Law." Also below is a list of council members that have signed on to the bill as co-sponsors - **is your council member on this list?** If not, **please call, email or fax them to show your support for passing this law** - and soon! (A complete list of council members, their districts and contact information is available at www.nycouncil.info.) Landmarks Subcommittee Chair Simcha Felder (felder@council.nyc.ny.us) and Land Use Chair Melinda Katz (katz@council.nyc.ny.us) are particularly key. Attached is a sample letter for inspiration.

Numbers matter. Even if you don't plan to speak, please plan to attend on Monday, 11/14 at 11:00 AM at City Hall.

Citizens for a Responsive Landmarks Law

MULTIBOROUGH

Art Deco Society of New York
Brownstone Revival Coalition
DOCOMOMO US—NY/Tri-State Chapter
The Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct
Four Boroughs Neighborhood Preservation Alliance
Historic Districts Council
Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America
Modern Architecture Working Group
The Roebling Chapter, Society for Industrial Archeology, Inc.
Society for the Architecture of the City
Women's City Club of New York

BRONX

Riverdale Historic District
Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct

BROOKLYN

Bay Ridge Conservancy
Clinton Hill Association

Council Member Vincent Gentile's Preservation Committee
Crown Heights North Association
Ditmas Park Association
Ditmas Park West Neighborhood Association
Fort Greene Association
Prospect Park South Association
Senator Street Historic District
Society for Clinton Hill
Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities

MANHATTAN

10th and Stuyvesant Streets Block Association
Association of Neighbors on the Upper East Side
CIVITAS
Clinton Special District Coalition
Coalition for a Livable West Side
Committee for Environmentally Sound Development
Community Board 9
Defenders of the Historic Upper East Side
The Drive to Protect the Ladies' Mile District
East 78th Street Block Assoc. Park/Lex
East Harlem Historical Organization
The East Village Community Coalition
Flatiron Alliance
Gramercy Neighborhood Associates
Greenwich Village Community Task Force
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
Hamilton Heights- West Harlem Community Preservation Organization
Harlem Preservation Foundation
Historic Neighborhood Enhancement Alliance
The HDFC Council
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Manhattan-Ville Heritage Society
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
NoHo Neighborhood Association
Roosevelt Island Historical Society
St. Agnes Apartments Board
Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Tribeca Community Association
Turtle Bay Association
Union Square Community Coalition
West 15th Street 200 Block Association
West 45th Street Block Association
West 122nd Street Block Association
WestSide Heights Citizens League

QUEENS

Beachside Bungalow Preservation Association
Douglaston Little Neck Historical Society
Jackson Heights Beautification Group
Jackson Heights Garden City Society
Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association
Parkway Village Historical Society
Richmond Hill Historical Society
Queens Civic Congress

STATEN ISLAND

North Shore Waterfront Greenbelt
Preservation League of Staten Island
West Brighton Restoration Society

(List in formation)

INTRO. 705 CITY COUNCIL CO-SPONSORS: *Is your council member on this list?*

BRONX

Larry B. Seabrook

Annabel Palma

G. Oliver Koppel

BROOKLYN

Charles Barron

Bill de Blasio

Yvette D. Clark

Lewis A. Fidler

Vincent J. Gentile

Letitia James

Kendall Stewart

David Yassky

MANHATTAN

Gale A. Brewer

Alan J. Gerson

Robert Jackson

Margarita Lopez

Eva Moskowitz

Bill Perkins

Philip Reed

QUEENS

Joseph P. Addabo, Jr.

James F. Gennaro

John C. Liu

James Sanders, Jr.

BOROUGH HISTORIANS

Ron Schweiger (Brooklyn)

Stanley Cogan (Queens)

Richard Dickenson (Staten Island)