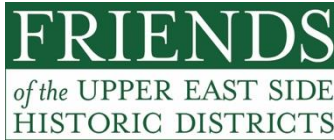
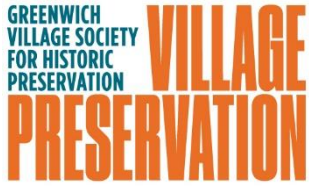




THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS



January 18, 2024

Commissioner Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10008

Dear Chair Carroll:

Happy New Year! Given that nine months have passed since the announcement of the Vulnerable Buildings Plan, we are writing as a group to ask for an update on how the implementation of the plan is currently going and if there may be ways to improve this now that it has been in place for some time.

While we appreciate the goals of the plan and the improved communication between agencies, most notably the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and the Department of Buildings (DOB), there still seem to be some issues that have not been improved since the announcement of the plan in April 2023.

Since the plan was implemented, the city has lost at least five designated landmarks: 66-68 West 119th Street in the Mount Morris Park Historic District, 323 Story Avenue and 322 Murray Street in the Fort Totten Historic District, and 28 7th Avenue in the Park Slope Historic District. In all of these cases, despite the LPC's best intentions and even some efforts by owners, the DOB insisted these buildings be entirely demolished.

Other current and emerging issues we are concerned about include the proposal for construction adjacent to the individually-landmarked Merchants House Museum. How will the Vulnerable Buildings Plan help improve the outcome here for this delicate situation? And finally, how will the future proposed reconstruction of the BQE impact the neighboring Brooklyn Heights Historic District and its large group of historic structures along the promenade?

We would welcome a follow-up meeting with LPC staff at your convenience to discuss these and any other questions we may have or updates you can share with us. Please let us know if this is possible. Feel free to coordinate with Frampton Tolbert at HDC in planning a meeting, he will coordinate with other coalition members.

Thank You for your consideration,



Frampton Tolbert
Executive Director
Historic Districts Council



Peg Breen
President
New York Landmarks Conservancy



Elizabeth Goldstein
President
Municipal Art Society



Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Village Preservation



Anna Marcum
Executive Director
Friends of the Upper East Side



Sean Khorsandi
Executive Director
Landmark West



Claudette Brady
Executive Director
Save Harlem Now