O'Lampia Studio, Inc.

Handcrafted Lighting Design
155 Bowery
NY, NY 10002
Kwang Lee, President / Lighting Designer

July 30, 2009

Amanda Burden, Chair City Planning Commission 22 Reade Street NY, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Burden,

As the hardworking owner of one of the Bowery's most successful and respected businesses, I have been saddened in recent years as high-rise developments on the Bowery's east side have begun destroying the area's unique character and low-rise charm. In addition to their negative impact on the aesthetic/visual tradition of the Bowery, these luxury developments are also causing soaring rents and the rapid displacement of longtime residents and small businesses. Many of us have worked and sweated for decades to make our dreams come true and at the same time to help make the neighborhood better and safer. It is sad that there is no commercial rent protection and that so many of the longtime businesses are being forced to close their doors.

I therefore strongly support the East Bowery Preservation Plan which is being proposed by the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors. By extending the low-rise zoning of the Bowery's west side to its vulnerable east side, both sides can maintain their historic low-rise character and sense of place as the convergence point for the equally low-rise areas of Chinatown, Little Italy, and the Lower East Side. By protecting and preserving the Bowery, the Plan would also bring much needed help to the struggling lighting, jewelry, and restaurant supply businesses.

Respectfully,

Kwang/Lee

President / Founder/ Lighting Designer

O'Lampia Studio, Inc.