

# The Watch Corner

70-72 Bowery  
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Lex DiGiorgio; Owner

August 6, 2009

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

Dear Chair Burden,

For 25 years I have proudly owned and operated "The Watch Corner" at the Jewelers Exchange in one of the busiest, most colorful parts of the Bowery. Working alongside countless other vendors of many different backgrounds, it has always been a friendly, even fun-loving place to make a living. While some tourists flock to Tiffany's to gawk at the splendor, an increasing number of them come to our more affordable jewelry district to not only look, but buy something.

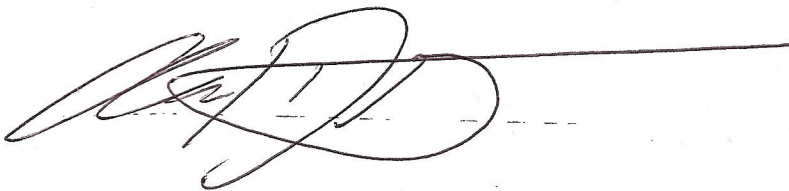
I am writing to you today to express my concern that the wonderful spirit and character of this neighborhood is in great danger of disappearing because of the speculative greed of a handful of developers on the east side of the Bowery. Unlike the Bowery's west side, which is protected by the low-rise zoning of the Little Italy Special District, its east side has virtually unlimited building heights and is thus increasingly vulnerable to the wrecking ball. Thus far, several old buildings have been torn down and the residents and small businesses on both sides of the Bowery are experiencing dramatic rent increases; in some cases rents have been doubled or tripled!

I am thus strongly supportive of the East Bowery Preservation Plan, which proposes to extend the low-rise zoning on the Bowery's west side (in the Little Italy Special District) to its vulnerable east side.

By preserving the low-rise character of both sides of the Bowery we can better protect the area's thriving jewelry, lighting, and restaurant supply districts.

The plan would also help preserve for generations to come the Bowery's historic sense of place as the low-rise conjunction point for Chinatown, Little Italy, and the Lower East Side. Save the Bowery!

Respectfully,



Lex DiGiorgio, Owner  
The Watch Corner

