

**THE NEW YORK  
LANDMARKS  
CONSERVANCY**

February 8, 2013

Hon. Amanda Burden  
Chair, New York City Planning Commission  
22 Reade Street  
New York, NY 10007

Re: East Bowery Preservation Plan

Dear Amanda:

I am writing to express The New York Landmarks Conservancy's support for the East Bowery Preservation Plan. The Bowery is one of the City's most historic thoroughfares, with distinctive architecture and a powerful connection to the City's cultural history. Today, that special mix of architecture and history is attracting new residents and visitors and once again revitalizing a community.

In recent years, however, the historic low-rise character of the neighborhood has been threatened by a proliferation of high-rise towers. The west side of the street has some protections in place, due to the Little Italy Special District and the NoHo Historic District, and the area east of the Bowery is shaped by the East Village/Lower East Side Rezoning, so all development pressure is focused on the east side, which has no such protections. Historic buildings are being lost. Once that demolition is complete, the unique characteristics that draw residents and tourists to this neighborhood are lost forever, often replaced by bland glass towers that could be found in any city or suburb in the world.

The East Bowery Preservation Plan calls for this side of the Bowery to retain its low-rise character, even while allowing new development. Setting a height limit to match that on the west side will reduce development pressure, and ensure that the new construction is of a scale that complements the existing historic structures.

The Conservancy recognizes that growth and development are integral to the City's success, but that we must find a balance that also protects historic structures such as those on the east side of the Bowery. We join with many of our preservation colleagues, local elected officials, and Community Board 3 in supporting this initiative.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Peg Breen  
President