



Italian American Museum

July 23, 2009

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22 Reade Street

New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Burden,

I am writing to urge you to extend zoning protection to the east side of the Bowery, just as the west side has been previously protected.

The Bowery is a unique community made up of low rise buildings, many dating back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It is a community of residents of all incomes, families, artists, workers, small businesses, and cultural establishments. Without protection, large out-of-scale hotels and condos will destroy not only the historic architecture of the Bowery, but its still vibrant residential, business and cultural mix.

I strongly support the Bowery Alliance of Neighbor's (BAN's) proposed East Bowery Preservation Plan:

“The Bowery Alliance of Neighbors (BAN) proposes that the east side of the Bowery, from 9th Street to Canal Street, should be rezoned to ensure that it is in line with the rest of the community--the Special Little Italy District, the NoHo Historic District, and the East Village/Lower East Side. Since the buildings on the east side of the Bowery are comparable to those on the west side, it is logical to have the same regulations that are already in effect on the west side. This would limit the height of the buildings to 85 feet, or eight stories, and would protect buildings of special significance to prevent their demolition.

This plan will protect the current residents and businesses on the Bowery and ensure that the restaurant supply, lighting and jewelry districts will continue to be a presence in New York City.”

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa
Founder & President

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