

# LEEKAN DESIGNS

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August 16, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Burden,

As the owner of a respected specialty wholesale/retail business that specializes in rare and unusual African and Asian imports, I have been located just off the Bowery for the past ten years. When I first relocated here from SoHo, I took pride in helping to rejuvenate a somewhat neglected area. I was excited to locate here because despite several decades of underdevelopment, there was a thriving community of artists and a friendly neighborhood feel that was much stronger than in SoHo.

In recent years, that relaxed and friendly neighborhood feel has abruptly changed to one of nervous uncertainty as small buildings are torn down, luxury developments rise, rents soar, and many residents and small businesses are pushed out. Disappearing, too, is the area's wonderful sense of history. The Bowery was the main thoroughfare for the immigrant communities of Chinatown, Little Italy, and the Lower East Side, but that sense of historic place may soon be gone if the city does not act quick to stop the irresponsible overdevelopment that is raging through the east side of the Bowery.

I therefore strongly support the East Bowery Preservation Plan that is being proposed by the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors. This plan would extend the low-rise zoning that is protecting the west side of the Bowery to its endangered east side. Because buildings on both sides of the Bowery average about 4 or 5 stories, it makes logical sense that both sides would have the same zoning.

Sincerely,

Anne Lee,  
Owner, Leekan Designs, Inc.