

MARTIN SCORSESE

March 13, 2013

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

Dear Chairwoman Burden,

I write to you today as a former resident of the Bowery and a lifelong supporter of the protection of its history, character and integrity.

Having grown up on Elizabeth Street, the neighborhood and residents of the Bowery became clear catalysts for turning me into a storyteller. Whether it's *Mean Streets* or *Gangs of New York*, the influence of The Bowery – the grittiness, the ambience, the vivid atmosphere – is apparent.

I urge you to insure that the Bowery remains preserved and intact so its history continues to influence and inspire the upcoming artists of tomorrow. The high-rise apartment buildings and condos only create more chaos, more disruption and ultimately offer The Bowery up to the elements of conformity.

For over 150 years, the Bowery was its own world. With its own denizens, language, theater – in fact, its own genre of plays and vaudeville – it has become synonymous to other famous districts which helped make up what we know as the folklore of New York: Greenwich Village, Harlem, Broadway, etc.

I hope you will stand with me and my other supporters in acknowledging the East Bowery Preservation Plan. As I'm sure you are nostalgic to your hometown, I hope you sense my urgency in leaving the Bowery rich with history, artistry and distinction.

Sincerely,

