

Administrative Headquarters
132 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016



212-684-2800
212-684-3740 fax
www.bowery.org

December 15, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Burden,

Since 1879, The Bowery Mission has been a part of the Bowery neighborhood. Today, we hold three chapel services each day at 227 Bowery. Our kitchen produces 800 hot and healthful meals daily for New Yorkers who are hungry, homeless, and hurting. Our shower and clothing program and weekly medical clinic provide critical care to people who do not have a home or a doctor to call their own. Eighty men are currently in our residential recovery program home as they recover from addiction and abuse, regain sobriety, connect with faith and family, and secure a job and a place to live.

We moved to our present location at 227 Bowery in 1909, when we opened a new chapel that was commissioned by U.S. President William Howard Taft. We recently celebrated the 100th Anniversary of The Bowery Mission chapel with an arts series that featured the rich diversity of people and talents in the Bowery neighborhood. Local artists exhibited photography; performed music, poetry and drama; lectured on local history; and screened documentary films. The audience was made up of rich and poor alike, sitting side-by-side and enjoying the cultural richness that makes up the Bowery neighborhood.

The Bowery Mission is concerned that the diversity and character of our neighborhood is threatened by unchecked real estate development. While we are not against development, we do believe that development should proceed responsibly and respect both the heritage and the future of our neighborhood.

For The Bowery Mission, the bottom line is people, whose lives are an eternal measure of success. That's why we support the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors as they work to prevent low-income Bowery residents from harassment and displacement, to ensure that permanent affordable housing is created as part of any development plan, and to ensure that people of diverse income levels continue to call the Bowery home.

On behalf of New York's neediest residents, we ask that you give the East Bowery Preservation Plan your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Morgan".

Ed Morgan
President