Trav S.D.

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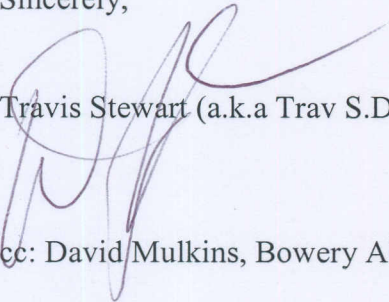22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Burden:

I am writing to express my support for the East Bowery Preservation Plan. As you no doubt know, the history of this famous street is not a matter of local, but of global culture. It is one of the most famous thoroughfares in the world, with one of the richest histories. The street is important for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that it is the Cradle of American Entertainment. It is was once the main stem for New York's theatre district, during the era when some of America's most distinctive original performing arts forms, such as minstrel shows, the American Yiddish theatre, the dime museum and the variety arts stage (precursor to vaudeville) were born. Tap dancing was invented on the Bowery, as was the famous vaudeville "hook". This is my personal connection to the street: it forms a crucial part of my popular theatre history *No Applause, Just Throw Money: The Book That Made Vaudeville Famous.* In more recent decades, the Bowery became the birthplace of two other influential, culturally important performing art forms in the shapes of punk rock and No Wave cinema.

It is naturally madness to preserve one side of a historic street and not the other – as insane as allowing what has already happened over the last several decades, the razing of countless historical buildings in order to accommodate luxury housing units and commercial structures that can frankly be built anywhere. We grant that people are attracted to New York because it is always reinventing itself. Just as true, however, is that people are drawn to New York on account of its legend.

Let's develop the east side of some street that DIDN'T change the face of popular culture across the world, and preserve the east side of the Bowery!

Sincerely,

Travis Stewart (a.k.a Trav S.D.)

cc: David Mulkins, Bowery Alliance of Neighbors