

Valerie S. Mason
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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

December 2, 2024

Honorable Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Center Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

RE: Presentation from Docomomo US regarding an Request for Evaluation (RFE) Proposal to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission for an Interior Landmark Designation of 945 Madison Avenue (Breuer Building, former Whitney Museum).

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on November 20, 2024, the Board approved the following resolution by a vote of 33 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS 945 Madison Avenue, formerly the Whitney Museum, is under consideration by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for an Interior Landmark Designation; and

WHEREAS consideration by the LPC was requested by Docomomo, an organization dedicated to the preservation of Modern Architecture; and

WHEREAS 945 Madison Avenue was designed by Marcel Breuer, one of the foremost modern architects; and

WHEREAS the exterior of the building is part of the historic district; and

WHEREAS the building is noted for its iconic form as an inverted, stepped ziggurat; and

WHEREAS the building has a powerful presence in its monolithic dark gray granite façade pierced by hexagonal window openings; and

WHEREAS exterior elements such as the entrance bridge over the sunken sculptural court are built of board-formed concrete; and

WHEREAS the interior is an extension of the exterior in its spaces and materials; and

WHEREAS the transparency at the entry level reveals the lobby, and the transparency at the lower level connects the cafeteria and sculpture court; and

WHEREAS a potential area to be designated is the lobby with its concrete and leather benches, fixed granite and concrete information desk, ceiling grid of circular fixtures, and coat check; and

WHEREAS another potential area for designation includes the lower cafeteria level with phone booths, stairwell entrance, and all elements of the main stairwell; and

WHEREAS the lobby, stairwell, lower level, bridge, and sculpture court can all be experienced together as a unique sculptural and spatial event; and

WHEREAS other potential areas for designation include the fourth-floor gallery, second and third floor galleries, coffered ceilings, window openings, and elevator and stairwell surrounds; and

WHEREAS the architectural features within this building create a cohesive interior that, if lost, will not be replicated;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 encourage the Landmarks Preservation Commission to preserve interiors of 945 Madison Avenue through an Interior Landmark Designation.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

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Chair

Anthony Cohn and David Helpern

Anthony Cohn and David Helpern
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District