

Alida Camp
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue
Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

December 17, 2020

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

RE: 1000 Fifth Avenue (Metropolitan Museum of Art) INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK - *Michael Wetstone, Beyer Blinder Bell, Brett Gaillard, Head of Capital and Infrastructure Planning - Metropolitan Museum.* Application is for Rockefeller Wing Sloped Glazing (“curtain wall”) Replacement.

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on December 16, 2020, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 46 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS the Rockefeller Wing was designed by Kevin Roche Dinkeloo and Associates and opened in 1982; the wing houses collections for the arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas;

WHEREAS In 1967 Kevin Roche Dinkeloo and Associates created the master plan for the Metropolitan Museum of Art designing all of the subsequent new wings, beginning with the Lehman Pavilion which opened in 1975;

WHEREAS the sloped glazing to be replaced is 200’ long x 60’ tall and has a 70 degree slope with a surface area of approximately 12,000 square feet and is on the south elevation flanked or sandwiched between two limestone buildings (designed by McKim, Mead & White on the right and Kevin Roche Dinkeloo on the left);

WHEREAS the tinted plastic protective film on the existing glazing has deteriorated and the curtain wall framing has badly corroded;

WHEREAS the proposed new sloped glazing system will achieve the following objectives: a) provide greater resistance to condensation, critical for a humidified museum b) improve energy efficiency c) improve glass with solar and thermal control layers d) provide natural daylight and visual connection to Central Park (existing glazing system cannot mitigate the sun from the south-facing glass so that interior shades have to be constantly deployed during the summer) e) improve the conservators’ requirements for daylighting the collections housed in the Rockefeller Wing f) provide bird safe glass with a visual “frit” pattern to avoid bird collisions and to help with light reduction [NB: “Frits”, which present as a barely visible polka-dot design within the glass will be required as part of New York City Building Code new requirements for bird-friendly glass materials, effective in 2021. Birds perceive the barely visible white dots as a white surface.]

WHEREAS the design of the proposed new sloped glazing system will be 8 glass panels high; each panel will be 3'7" wide x 7' tall; **the new glass panels will be bigger than the existing panels so that there will now be a larger grid;**

WHEREAS as the eye moves up the sloped glazing system, the transparency of the glass will change; the first two rows of glass present as the view zone and as one moves up the glazing, the light transmission becomes less and less (A "view zone" to a "daylighting zone" to a "limited daylight zone" — *each row of glass will be less translucent as the eye moves up the slope of the 60' wall — at the very top the glass panels are opaque.*);

WHEREAS the horizontal and vertical mullions will now be on the interior side of the new sloped glazing system; the glass panels on the existing glazed wall are joined together with an aluminum "cap system" on the exterior to form the grid pattern of the glass panels — the new system of panels are fastened on the interior so that the joints are flush on the outside; this method, ***while diminishing the texture of the existing sloped glazing system,*** provides a significant increase in energy efficiency;

WHEREAS while the texture and the proportions of the glass panes will change the appearance of the sloping glass wall as originally designed by Kevin Roche Dinkeloo, the benefits to the collections housed in the Rockefeller Wing are considerable;

WHEREAS these benefits outweigh the changes to the original design and take advantage of the many technological improvements in the design of glass curtain walls since 1975;

WHEREAS Beyer Blinder Belle is to be commended on the thoroughness and beauty of their stunning presentation;

Please note that this resolution is based on the context and appropriateness of only the replacement glass curtain wall for the Individual Landmark, the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Beyer Blinder Belle also discussed aspects, including the history, of additional existing and future capital projects for the museum, including skylight reconstruction now underway, that were not part of the application before us.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this application is approved as presented.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Alida Camp

David Helpern and Jane Parshall

Alida Camp
Chair

David Helpern and Jane Parshall
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District