

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

March 18, 2021

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: RUIN AMONG THE GARDENS MEMORIAL

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on March 17, 2021, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS the Smallpox Hospital was designed by, James Renwick, an American architect in the 19th century and one of the most successful American Architects of his time;
WHEREAS the history of the Smallpox Hospital, situated on what was then known as Blackwell’s Island and intertwined with the social and economic history of the city, should be preserved for generations to come;
WHEREAS the hospital structure is located on the southernmost tip of the island — to the south is the human rights memorial Four Freedoms Park and to the north is the Cornell Technion campus;
WHEREAS the project to create a memorial and a ruin among gardens open to the public is in the very initial planning and fundraising stages;
WHEREAS the Landmarks Committee of Community Board 8M supports creating a memorial and a garden at the “Ruins” that will remind New Yorkers of the history of the hospital, the history of the island and the history of the pandemics that the city has faced over the years, including Smallpox, AIDS, HIV, and COVID;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution is **APPROVED** as presented.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Chair

David Helpern and Jane Parshall

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 José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District