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

December 16, 2021

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

RE: Delacorte Theater, Central Park (Individual/Interior Landmark) – *Ennead Architects LLP* - Originally constructed in 1961-62 and altered in 1976 (Giorgio Cavaglieri) and again in 1998-99 (Kapell & Kostow). Application is for the construction of ramps and the reconfiguration of aisles to improve access for the disabled, the replacement of theater seating, the re-cladding and reconfiguration of the theater's exterior wall and canopy, an enhanced signage program, the improvement of existing lighting towers, and the replacement of deteriorated fencing.

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on December 15, 2021, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS the exterior and interior of the Delacorte Theater have deteriorated, the functionality has suffered, access for the disabled is inadequate, and wayfinding and miscellaneous signage is minimal;
WHEREAS there is a history of renovations that update the original design to improve the appearance and the functionality;
WHEREAS the proposed renovation is in the tradition of previous renovations in that the design improvements are thematic with respect to the original architecture;
WHEREAS the footprint of the theater will remain the same, the lower and upper levels of the façade are canted outwards to provide more interior space and a stronger presence to the structure;
WHEREAS the current façade is sheathed in cedar planks set vertically;
WHEREAS the proposed façade will be sheathed in cedar and redwood, vertically textured to create light and shadow, like the dappling created by trees;
WHEREAS the existing bluestone paving will be extended in the front of the theater to provide a wider pathway to and around the theater;
WHEREAS the existing canopy will be enlarged to provide greater protection;
WHEREAS the top of the canopy will be sheathed in zinc;
WHEREAS the interior seating area will be rebuilt with two new ramps, one either side, to provide for handicapped access to 32 seat locations at the front and at the cross aisle;
WHEREAS the new seats will be multi-colored, like the colors of nature;
WHEREAS permanent signage will be limited to the name of the theater and the gate numbers;
WHEREAS typical permanent signs will be individual letters about 3'-0" high;
WHEREAS signs for the gates will be super graphic numbers, 6'-3" high, recessed into the striated façade;

WHEREAS the temporary, removable signs associated with performances will be in color and have 18” high letters inserted into a painted continuous steel channel;
WHEREAS banners will be hung on the four individual light towers during the performance season;
WHEREAS there are four individual light towers and one double light tower;
WHEREAS the two lower individual light towers will be raised to match the height of the taller light towers;
WHEREAS the height of all the light towers will be 60’-2 1/2”
WHEREAS safe access will be provided for climbing the towers and the platforms at the tops of the individual towers will be enlarged for safe occupancy;
WHEREAS the lighting from the towers is focused on the performance space and not on the surroundings;
WHEREAS lighting fixtures for patrons outside the theater will be flush with the underside of the canopy;
WHEREAS lighting for the patrons will be for the area below the canopy and will not extend into the park;
WHEREAS up-lights will be incorporated at the top of the canopy to light the upper façade;
WHEREAS ticket booths will be recessed with operable windows and roll down shutters.
WHEREAS ticket booths will be fully closed during the off season with large wood panels that fill the openings flush with the façade and match the texture of the façade;
WHEREAS the proposed 7’-6” high fencing to replace the deteriorated fencing will be made of closely spaced posts with a solid lower portion about two thirds of the height of the fence, and with a striated appearance;
WHEREAS the park will be undisturbed, all trees will remain, and an arborist will see to the health of the trees;
WHEREAS the proposed renovation is the kind of renovation that has happened in the past in that each intervention has improved the aesthetics and the functioning of the theater;
WHEREAS the proposed renovation will maintain much of the original character of the theater yet add to the comfort and excitement of attending performances;
WHEREAS the proposed renovation is respectful of the natural surroundings;
WHEREAS the proposed renovation is contextual and appropriate;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that this application 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