

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(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
Landmarks Committee
Monday, March 13, 2023 – 6:30pm
This meeting was conducted via Zoom

PLEASE NOTE: When evaluating Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness, the Landmarks Committee of Community Board 8 Manhattan ONLY considers the appropriateness of the proposal to the architecture of the building and, in the case of a building within a Historic District, the appropriateness of the proposal to the character of that Historic District. All testimony should be related to such appropriateness. The Committee recommends a Resolution to the full Community Board, which votes on a Resolution to be sent to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. These Resolutions are advisory; the decision of the Landmarks Preservation Commission is binding.

Applicants and members of the public who are interested in the issues addressed are invited, but not required, to attend the **Full Board meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2022**. They may testify for up to three minutes in the Public Session, which they must sign up for no later than 6:45PM. Members of the Board will discuss the items in executive session; if a member of the public wishes a comment made or a question asked at this time, he or she must ask a Board Member to do it.

MINUTES:

Board Members Present: Elizabeth Ashby, Michele Birnbaum, Alida Camp, Sarah Chu, Anthony Cohn, David Helpert, Jane Parshall, Marco Tamayo. Public Member, Kimberly Selway, was also present.

Resolutions for Approval:

Item 1: 972 Fifth Avenue:

Part A - Approval

Part B - Disapproval

Item 2: 40 East 72nd Street - Approval

Item 3: 63 E 93rd Street - Unanimous Disapproval

Item 4: 167 East 73rd Street - Unanimous Approval

1. 972 Fifth Avenue INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK (Upper East Side Historic

District) *Stephanie Gerard presenting for Architectural Preservation Studio.* Application is for installation of "The Little Prince" sculpture on the entrance wall to the garden/courtyard along the 5th Avenue sidewalk and for the installation of exterior glass sculptures with lighting behind on the front elevation.

THIS APPLICATION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS: Part 1 — the proposed sculpture of "The Little Prince", Part 2 — the installation of exterior glass sculptures with lighting behind on the front elevation.

Part A -- The proposed sculpture of "The Little Prince"

WHEREAS 972 Fifth Avenue, the Payne Whitney house, is a high Italian Renaissance style building designed by McKim, Mead & White and constructed in 1902 -1906;

WHEREAS 972 Fifth Avenue is the home of French Cultural Services in New York, also known as “Villa Albertine”;

WHEREAS the applicant proposes that a sculpture of “The Little Prince” by Jean-Marc de Pas and sponsored by the American Society of le Souvenir Francais be installed on the stone wall near the entrance gate to the courtyard adjacent to 972 Fifth Avenue;

WHEREAS the proposed sculpture is 4 1/2’ high, 1 1/2’ wide and 1 1/2’ deep; 4 stainless steel pins to attach the sculpture would be drilled into the top of the non-historic stone wall;

WHEREAS the applicant also proposes an 8” x 10” bronze plaque to educate the public about the book, The Little Prince, and its author, Antoine de Saint-Exupery, who lived on Central Park South when he wrote The Little Prince;

WHEREAS Antoine de Saint-Exupery left New York before the book was published in 1943 and 15 months later disappeared while on a reconnaissance mission for the US Air Force; while there are memorials honoring him all over the world, there are none in Manhattan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Part A of this application be **APPROVED** as presented.

VOTE: 7 In Favor (Ashby, Camp, Chu, Cohn, Helpern, Parshall, Tamayo)

1 Abstention (Birnbaum)

1 Public Member In Favor (Kimberly Selway)

PART B - The proposed exterior lighting

WHEREAS the proposed exterior lighting is designed by BOA Light Studio with offices in New York and Vincennes, France;

WHEREAS Nadir Benkhelifa presented this part of the application for BOA Light Studio;

WHEREAS the applicant proposes to create a light installation for night illumination of the front elevation; a secondary purpose of the installation would be to express or create a relationship to the fine arts-related activities inside French Cultural Services;

WHEREAS the applicant proposes thin glass modernist sculptures that present as vertical rods placed between the columns on the front elevation with lighting behind; the lighting would be programmed to provide movement that presents as abstract for the thin glass sculptures;

WHEREAS the lighting behind the sculptures would create the movement; to express the movement, the lighting will be programmed with very slow moving lights that will not change color;

WHEREAS 4 lights would be placed on each floor of the west elevation and one light would be placed on each floor of the south elevation to emphasize the corner;

WHEREAS the glass rod-like sculptures with lights behind will be fixed onto a hanging system; each fixture will be hung from the upper and lower part of the sculptures;

WHEREAS the fixing system will drill into the joints between the stones; the fixing system will be easy to remove;

WHEREAS the glass sculptures with the lights behind will range in size from 16’ at the first floor to 6 1/2’ at the 4th floor; there will be 20 glass sculptures/lights altogether; each with a width of 4 3/4” and a thickness of 1 1/4”;

WHEREAS the applicant did not present a timeframe for the installation;

WHEREAS the applicant noted that the intent is not to damage the building; however, however, the applicant stated that 45 holes would be drilled into the joint mortar to support the glass sculptures with the lighting behind;

WHEREAS there is no guarantee that some of the historic material on the front elevation would be damaged either during installation or possible removal:

WHEREAS the applicant's proposal is antithetical to the architecture of the McKim, Mead & White INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK; for individual landmarks, the standard must be higher;
WHEREAS the Committee was especially concerned that the proposed application does not have a timeframe attached to it;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Part B of this application is **DISAPPROVED** as presented.

VOTE: 7 In Favor (Ashby, Birnbaum, Camp, Chu, Cohn, Helpern, Tamayo)
1 Against (Parshall)

2. **40 East 72nd Street (Upper East Side Historic District)** - *Barry Rice, Rice Architects* - A neo Classical Style building designed by Robert B. Lynd and constructed in 1881. Application is for canopy extensions.

WHEREAS 40 East 72nd Street requires a canopy for protection from the weather;
WHEREAS there is a hydrant in front of the building that precludes a canopy with posts;
WHEREAS the building has brick façade;
WHEREAS the building has a nominal 12'-0" wide central masonry opening framed with a brick piers and a shallow curved brick arch;
WHEREAS the entrance within the masonry opening is composed of a pair of glass doors with bronze frames and glass panels with bronze frames either side of the doors;
WHEREAS the glass in the doors and the side panels have a diamond pattern with bronze tracery;
WHEREAS the canopies on the street and in the neighborhood are typically of canvas;
WHEREAS canvas is considered the appropriate material and the material of choice for a residential canopy;
WHEREAS the major material for the proposed canopy will be canvas;
WHEREAS the proposed canopy follows the curve of the arched opening;
WHEREAS the proposed canopy extends 4'-0" from the face of the building;
WHEREAS the proposed canopy has a bronze frame and bronze tube tie backs either side of the canopy;
WHEREAS the three-quarter inch diameter bronze tubes are connected to six-inch diameter bronze plates;
WHEREAS the address number of the building is centered on the front fascia of the canopy;
WHEREAS the green color of the canopy will be adjusted and finalized by the architect together with the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Board of the Building;
WHEREAS the underside of the canopy will be white;
WHEREAS there will be no light fixtures within the canopy;
WHEREAS the proposed canopy is contextual and appropriate within the Historic District;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that this application is **APPROVED** as presented.

VOTE: 5 In Favor (Chu, Cohn, Helpern, Parshall, Tamayo)
3 Opposed (Ashby, Birnbaum, Camp)
1 Public Member In Favor (Selway)

3. **63 E 93rd Street (Expanded Carnegie Hill Historic District)** - *Resolution: 4 Architecture* - A renaissance revival style building designed by A.B. Ogden & Son and constructed in 1891. Application is for proposed rear yard and rooftop penthouse addition.

WHEREAS 63 East 93rd Street is a Renaissance revival-style building designed by A.B. Ogden & Son and constructed in 1891;

WHEREAS the applicant is proposing a 4-story rear yard addition as well as a penthouse at the roof;

WHEREAS both the rear yard addition and the penthouse are visible from a public courtyard;

WHEREAS at the rear, the proposed 4-story brick clad addition would measure 15' x 15' with casement windows on 3 floors and French doors with casement lights at the ground level;

WHEREAS the rear yard is now 45' deep; after addition, the rear yard would still be 30' deep;

WHEREAS the proposed penthouse would be 15' wide x 18' long and 11' high at the midpoint of its sloping roof; rooftop mechanicals increase the overall height by an additional 5 1/2';

WHEREAS the addition of the penthouse would cover two adjacent lot line windows at the west elevation at 65 East 93rd Street;

WHEREAS the windows are part of the historic fabric of the Extended Carnegie Hill Historic District and the apartment building where the windows are located is named in the designation report;

WHEREAS the addition of the penthouse will bring a whole new element to the composition of the streetscape where 63 East 93rd Street is located; the neighboring adjacent houses to the west do not have penthouses;

WHEREAS there is a very unusual privately owned public space (POPS) or courtyard at the rear of 40 East 94th that cuts through from 94th to 93rd Streets;

WHEREAS the plaza was created to allow for bonus floors at 40 East 94th Street;

WHEREAS the plaza/courtyard is behind 63 East 93rd Street and is considered a public way; all additions — both at the rear and at the roof — will be highly visible and intrusive from the plaza/courtyard;

WHEREAS the applicant's proposed additions at the roof and at the rear not meant to be seen from the public way; the rooftop addition is not contextual and the addition at the rear should be stepped back as it rises;

WHEREAS while lot line windows are not legal, in this situation, the lot line windows are part of the fabric of the historic district and must be retained;

WHEREAS the rear at 63 East 93rd Street is not part of a closed donut hole; normally rear yard additions are within a closed donut hole -- the plaza/courtyard at 40 East 94th Street prevents this and allows for both additions to be highly visible and obtrusive from the public way;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this application is **DISAPPROVED** as presented.

VOTE: 8 In Favor (Ashby, Birnbaum, Camp, Chu, Cohn, Helpert, Parshall, Tamayo)
 1 Public Member In Favor (Selway)

4. **167 East 73rd Street (Individual Landmark)** - *Jattuso Architecture* - A two story building designed by George L. Amoroux and constructed in 1903-04. Application is for the installation of one sign and two flags serving the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic.

WHEREAS the former carriage house is occupied by the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic;

WHEREAS the Consulate General requires identification;

WHEREAS other consulates nearby have two flags;

WHEREAS two flags are proposed for the building for the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic;

WHEREAS one flag is of the Slovak Republic and the other flag is of the European Union;

WHEREAS the two flags are supported on bi-parting flag poles from one mounting;

WHEREAS the flag poles are 10'-0" long;

WHEREAS the flag poles extend 7'-0" from the façade of the building because they angle outward and upward;

WHEREAS the flag poles will be steel, painted brown to match the color of the windows;

WHEREAS the escutcheon plate for mounting the double flag poles will be on top of the projected stone sill over the central entrance to the building and will not be visible;
WHEREAS the flags are 4'-0" by 6'-0" – smaller than the 6'-0" by 8'-0" flags on the nearby consulates;
WHEREAS the flags are proportioned for the two-story building;
WHEREAS the proposed sign will be the size of the sign that will be replaced;
WHEREAS the proposed sign will be on the brick pier on the east side of the central entrance, in the same position as the former sign;
WHEREAS the sign will be a stainless steel plaque with etched letters filled with black paint;
WHEREAS the sign will be about 10" high by 24" long;
WHEREAS the proposed flags and the sign are contextual and appropriate for the landmark building;
THEREFORE, this application is approved as presented.

VOTE: 6 In Favor (Birnbaum, Camp, Cohn, Helpern, Parshall, Tamayo)

1 Abstention (Ashby)

1 Public Member In Favor (Selway)

David Helpern and Jane Parshall, Co-Chairs