

June 12, 2012

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF 227 BOWERY, MANHATTAN, THE BOWERY MISSION, AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK

Good day, Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy supports designation of 227 Bowery, which is a contributing building to the Bowery National Register Historic District, as an individual landmark. 227 has been home to the Bowery Mission, one of the City's most important social service organizations, for over a century. And, even as the Bowery evolves, and upscale hotels, restaurants, and galleries move in, the Mission continues in its critical role, offering housing and support to the homeless and hungry.

The Conservancy worked with the Bowery Mission several years ago to develop a scope of restoration and conservation work, and we are pleased to see the results of those endeavors. The 1876 neo-Grec building is a good example of the style at the upper floors, where brick and incised stone trim are mostly intact. The lower floors house an attractive stained glass window, which embodies the Mission's goal of reaching out to the community, as it is meant to be read from the street, not the interior.

Based on its architectural, cultural, and historic significance, the Conservancy urges designation of the Bowery Mission as an individual landmark. As we watch the historic Bowery changing so rapidly, we thank the Commission for bringing this important building forward, and hope that other Bowery buildings will be heard in the near future.

Thank you for this opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.