

**THE NEW YORK  
LANDMARKS  
CONSERVANCY**

April 2, 2013

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE MARINE MIDLAND BANK BUILDING, 140 BROADWAY, NEW YORK AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK**

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

The Conservancy supports designation of the Marine Midland Bank Building as an individual landmark. The Skidmore Owings & Merrill design shows a restraint and simplicity that appears even more attractive than when it was completed, compared to less successful examples that have proliferated in New York and other cities.

As Ada Louis Huxtable said in 1968 about this building and several of its landmarked neighbors, "This small segment of New York compares in effect and elegance with any celebrated Renaissance plaza or Baroque vista. The scale of the buildings, the use of open space, the views revealed or suggested, the contrasts of architectural style and material, of sculptured stone against satin-smooth metal and glass, the visible change and continuity of New York's remarkable skyscraper history, the brilliant accent of the poised Noguchi cube—color, size, style, mass, space, light, dark, solids, voids, highs and lows—all are just right."

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