

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

June 28, 2011

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 17, 190 FORDHAM STREET, THE BRONX, 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 Public School 17 as an individual landmark.

Public School 17 is another building in the extraordinary portfolio of schools designed by CBJ Snyder which so dramatically improved the educational experience for New York's children in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Like many others, PS 17 stands out for its attractive utilitarian form, enhanced by historic revival details, which in this case include the Palladian window, pediment with oculus, and columned entry porch. Although there have been changes to the façade, Snyder's intention is clear in the massing and extant Colonial Revival details and the building certainly merits the protection of the Landmarks Law.

Beyond our overall advocacy for Snyder's schools, the Conservancy has a long relationship with Public School 17. Back in 1981, before its conversion to residential use, we were involved in its nomination to the National Register, and more recently we provided funds toward restoration of the porch after the 2007 fire. We hope to continue that relationship and offer our technical and financial assistance if the owners wish to consider additional restoration projects.

We applaud the Commission for its actions today, and urge it to continue designation of historic public school buildings and historic City Island buildings. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Conservancy's views.