

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

June 23, 2009

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE
LANDMARKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING PLANS FOR
A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING TO REPLACE PUBLIC SCHOOL 133 AT 375 BUTLER
STREET, BROOKLYN**

Good morning Chair Lappin and members of the City Council. I am Alex Herrera speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy is strongly opposed to a plan to demolish Public School 133 in Brooklyn. It is an excellent example of the work of C.B.J. Snyder. Snyder was the renowned architect who designed the City's schools from 1891 to 1923. The Conservancy has long had an interest in protecting his civic masterpieces, which provide not only space to educate, but with their lofty ceilings, large windows, and elegant historic details, are structures that inspire. We ask that the Council not approve the SCA's plans for its demolition. A way must be found to reuse the historic building and make it a part of the new plan.

PS 133 is an architecturally significant five-story limestone and brick building. Because it has been found eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places any proposal involving the building will require the approval of the State Historic Preservation Office. We understand that the matter is currently under review at that office and that they are requesting alternatives to the demolition of the building.

We encourage the SCA to continue working with the State Historic Preservation Office to find an alternative approach to the proposal. A well-designed addition would provide the extra classroom space needed and would function alongside the restored older school building.

Today, we ask the Council to give the SCA the clear message that they must come up with an alternate proposal; one that does not entail the demolition of PS 133

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