

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

December 11, 2008

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 5 FULL BOARD MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF THE RAINBOW ROOM, 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, 65th FLOOR AS AN
INTERIOR LANDMARK**

Good evening. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy hopes that the Community Board will support the proposed designation of the Rainbow Room and associated spaces on the 65th floor of 30 Rockefeller Center as an Interior Landmark. This Modern Classical space has been an icon of New York's architectural and social history from its Depression-era origins to the present. Designation as an Interior Landmark would ensure that it remains intact and open to the public for future generations.

Located within the Rockefeller Center Historic District, the Rainbow Room is distinguished by both its interior décor and its relationship with the New York City skyline, visible from the double-height windows which line the circular room. While there have been some alterations to the interior, its overall design scheme is largely intact as are many of the original features. Those include the "color organ" which still projects colored lights across the ceiling (via an updated computerized system); the circular, revolving dance floor; windows; original crystal chandeliers; and, terraced dining spaces with crystal balusters and brass railings. Likewise, while the other spaces on the 65th floor have had their decor changed and dimensions slightly altered, the overall composition of the floor is similar to the original. These rooms have been used continuously as restaurants, club rooms, and lounges.

The Rainbow Room is one of the few survivors of the group of restaurants and nightclubs that opened in the City shortly after the repeal of Prohibition, and has long been the symbol of New York's glamour and elegance. We urge the Commission to work quickly to designate and thus protect these historic spaces atop Rockefeller Center.

The Landmarks Conservancy urges Community Board 5 to join us in support of this designation. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Landmarks Conservancy's views.