

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

September 11, 2012

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF RAINBOW ROOM, 30 ROCKEFELLER CENTER, 65TH FLOOR, MANHATTAN, 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 the Rainbow Room 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 is 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, we believe the 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.

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 this historic space atop Rockefeller Center.

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