



April 2, 2013

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, SEWARD PARK BRANCH, 192 EAST 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 Seward Park Branch of the New York Public Library for both its architectural and cultural significance.

This attractive Renaissance-Revival style Carnegie Library maintains much of its historic fabric, including a robust brick and limestone façade and rare roof-top reading room. As its Lower East Side neighborhood has changed with waves of immigrant populations, the Library has also adapted. Early on, it was a center for the Jewish life with an impressive Yiddish language collection of reading materials, while more recently it has served African-American, Latino, and Asian residents, and an active artistic community. Throughout these changes, the library building has remained a solid, Classical expression of municipal commitment to improving and educating its citizenry.

In an era when we face the loss of a Carnegie library in Brooklyn, and some of the City's finest public buildings, we thank the Commission for recognizing the significance of the Seward Park Library.

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