

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

October 27, 2009

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C.
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF THE SOHO CAST IRON HISTORIC DISTRICT EXTENSION.**

Good morning, Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of The New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy supports the designation of the SoHo-Cast Iron Historic District Extension. As one of the earliest historic districts, SoHo has been emblematic of the way designation can enhance the City. The designation has been a remarkable success, setting an example for how a collection of buildings can become a work of art that lives, breathes and adapts, as the needs of the City and its residents evolve.

The SoHo District is composed largely of commercial buildings from the second half of the 19th century, many with the distinctive cast-iron facades that create such an extraordinary sense of place. The buildings in the proposed extension are much the same. They have similar materials, styles, decorative elements, heights and massing, and similar uses historically and in the present. These buildings on the edges of the existing District, often across the street from the District should be included in the District. Designation will protect buildings vulnerable to demolition or alteration, and rectify an old omission.

We are pleased to join with neighbors, public officials, building owners, representatives of the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society of America, and in honor of Margot Gayle, we support for this designation. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.