

**June 4, 2013**

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY  
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING ROOFTOP ADDITIONS AT THE  
TOBACCO WAREHOUSE, 45 WATER STREET, BROOKLYN**

Good morning Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy regarding a proposal to alter the Tobacco Warehouse.

We believe that this application is premature. There is a process underway to legally remove the Warehouse from Brooklyn Bridge Park and allow the City to convey it for a private use – the theater shown in renderings today. However, that process is ongoing, and we hope that the Commission will wait for its completion before approving substantial changes to the Warehouse.

The Conservancy has a long history with the Tobacco Warehouse, which demonstrates our interest in finding the best outcome for this unique structure. In 1999, when the State was considering demolition, we engaged an engineer, who found that the walls were sound and who developed a stabilization plan, which the State followed. More recently, we were co-plaintiffs in a successful lawsuit, which determined that the City obey Federal and State laws to remove the Warehouse from the Park. Those laws require that the National Park Service accept land in substitution for the Warehouse, in a process called conversion. The NPS has not done so. We understand that this application is conditional upon that approval, but given the background, we ask that the Commission refrain from voting until conversion is complete and the Warehouse no longer public parkland.

Regarding the proposal, if it is to be considered today, we ask only that the Commission ensure that any alterations are reversible and will not compromise the historic fabric of this remarkable building.

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