

OCTOBER 22, 2013

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
WOOLWORTH BUILDING, 233 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, AN EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR LANDMARK**

Good day Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. Our Public Policy Committee reviewed this proposal and would like to thank the project team for a clear and thorough presentation.

The accolades for the Woolworth Building, an interior and exterior City landmark and National Historic Landmark, are many and well-deserved. Over a decade ago, the Conservancy offered mixed testimony in response to a proposal to convert it to residential use. While we applauded the adaptive use and supported several of the alterations that the conversion required, we opposed the penthouse additions. In the years since, the Woolworth Building, one of the City's greatest, has been partly vacant. We are pleased that this unfortunate situation will be repaired with implementation of the plan presented today.

Much of the proposed work will barely be visible from the ground. The restorative work, including installation of new windows, will be a benefit to the building. The creation of new window openings and enlargement of some existing openings is acceptable. At the base of the tower, the relocation of mechanical equipment, construction of new, low-scale additions in materials that harmonize with the existing, and installation of cresting to match the historic will create a more streamlined effect than the current, blockier mechanicals.

One element raised concerns. At the side entrance, the Committee did not take issue with modifications to an existing storefront or installation of a canopy, but felt that the proposed canopy, while clearly distinct from the historic style of the building, was too generic to represent the Woolworth Building. This sidewalk-level component will have the most public visibility of all the changes presented today, and should better complement one of the City's finest landmarks.

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