

THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY

February 19, 2015

Alicia Glen
Deputy Mayor, Housing & Economic Development
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Re: South Street Seaport Redevelopment

Dear Deputy Mayor Glen:

The New York Landmarks Conservancy has grave concerns about the impact that the current Howard Hughes proposal will have on the South Street Seaport Museum. The Museum is the last remaining connection to New York's historic Seaport. We don't believe it should be beholden to the revenue a developer would receive from a controversial tower which the Manhattan Borough President, local Councilmember, local Community Board and numerous residents and organizations oppose.

For decades, the City has had an unfortunate history of failing to recognize the Seaport as an asset. It has turned repeatedly to developers who also fail to understand the benefits of having a unique, authentic area that will attract visitors and residents alike. The result has been the loss of blocks of historic buildings that could have been vibrant shops and homes and a small but important historic district.

The Rouse Corporation once made promises about supporting the Museum similar to those Howard Hughes is making today. We believe connecting the future of the Museum to yet another developer is priming it for failure.

If this administration is truly concerned about the fate of the Museum and the area's viability, it should release the Museum from its contract with EDC, forgive its debts, and offer operating assistance, as is the case with other museums in City- owned buildings.

The Museum, and the landmark buildings it occupies, are the only authentic link to the Seaport's storied past and are an essential part of the area's future viability. Historic Districts across the City have proven to be economic engines.

We urge the Administration to recognize the significance of this historic district and to protect the Museum and the rare look at early New York Schermerhorn Row provides.

Sincerely,



Peg Breen
President