

THE FINE ARTS FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

National Academy of Design
New York Chapter of the American
Institute of Architects
The Architectural League of New York
Municipal Art Society
Van Alen Institute
National Sculpture Society
National Society of Mural Painters
Brooklyn Chapter of the American
Institute of Architects
The Associates of the Art Commission
Historic Districts Council



New York Chapter of the American
Society of Landscape Architects
New York Metropolitan Chapter of the
American Society of Interior Designers
American Abstract Artists
Sculptors Guild
New York Metropolitan Chapter of the
American Planning Association
New Yorkers for Parks
New York Artists Equity Association,
Inc.
New York Society of Architects
Public Art Fund, Inc.

FOUNDED 1895

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February 10, 2003

Robert B. Tierney, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Fl
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Tierney,

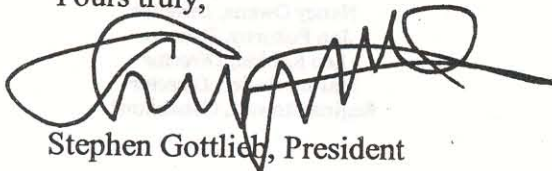
The Fine Arts Federation urges the Landmarks Commission to disapprove the application for a 14-story building behind the landmark Shearith Israel synagogue on West 70th Street. The building's height and design are inappropriate for the synagogue and for the historic district. The Fine Arts Federation, founded in 1895, is an association of 20 arts organizations dedicated to fostering and protecting the artistic interests of New York City.

A 14-story building will loom over the low-rise Beaux Arts style synagogue, detracting from its silhouette and visual impact on Central Park West. As our past president Giorgio Cavaglieri points out, Central Park West is a unique avenue, with Central Park on one side and on the other side a mix of tall apartment buildings and low-rise institutional buildings, like the synagogue and the New York Historical Society. A 14-story apartment building so close to the synagogue and to Central Park West will alter that historic and scenic streetscape.

The low-rise row houses on the side streets in ^{the} Upper West Side/Central Park West historic district are a key feature of the district. While West 70th Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue is not monolithically low-rise, the proposed 14-story building is much higher than any other building on the block and than the typical side street profile.

The present design of the proposed building does not relate to the base, materials, and fenestration of the synagogue ~~and inappropriately moves the entrance.~~

Yours truly,



Stephen Gottlieb, President