

NEWS FROM...



Deputy Majority Leader Bill Perkins Council Member, 9th District

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Councilmember Perkins Blasts Landmarks Commission Refusal to Hold Hearings Concerning 2 Columbus Circle

- Perkins will Chair "People's Hearing" in July

Joining preservationists and community leaders at a rally to save 2 Columbus Circle, Deputy Majority Leader Bill Perkins criticized the Landmarks Preservation Commission for failing to even hold hearings on the preservation of this historic building. Perkins also announced that he would Chair "People's Hearings" on pioneer modernist architect Edward Durell Stone's nationally recognized building.

"The refusal of the Landmarks Preservation Commission to hold hearings on the future of 2 Columbus Circle demonstrates a shameful disregard for the will of the people and the Commission's charter-mandated responsibility," said Perkins. "The Preservation League of New York State placed this building on its "Seven to Save" list; the National Trust for Historic Preservation, America's leading preservation organization, named the building to its 2004 list of "11 Most Endangered Places"; and this week the World Monument Fund added it to its "Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites"; yet the LPC won't even hold a hearing. This abuse of power must not stand.

"Next month, I will Chair the "People's Hearings" to make sure the people's voice is heard on the future of this significant building. The Mayor and the Landmarks Preservation Commission must understand that this is not their city alone. It is all of our city and we must fight to protect it. The people's voice must be heard."

2 Columbus Circle was built in 1964 by prominent American architect Edward Durell Stone. The City is finalizing plans to sell the building to the Museum of Arts and Design, which intends to take down the original façade and gut the interior. The LPC continues to ignore the over 1,000 individuals and organizations calling for a public hearing to determine the building's merits for designation as an official NYC Landmark.

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