



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
949 West End Avenue
November 24, 2015**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The Certificate of Appropriateness Committee wishes to comment on the application to replace the cornice of 949 West End Avenue, a Renaissance Revival style apartment building built in 1915 by Schwartz & Gross.

Our Certificate of Appropriateness Committee is in favor of this application.

While we prefer applicants to retain as much of the original fabric as possible when doing repair work, considering the nature of the terra-cotta construction, its integration with a failing substructure and its past history of ill-executed repairs, we agree with the Applicant's proposal that a full replacement in an alternate material would be logical and appropriate.

The proposed reinforced fiberglass replacement will more closely match the original design intent by returning shifted panels and decorative elements into original alignment to create an unmarred appearance. Further, the Committee expects that the replica's alternate materials will not be discernable from the public right-of-way.

The Committee applauds the applicant's investment in the cornice and encourages restoration of additional elements such as either of the two balconnettes whose absence leaves a visible scar on the facade. The Applicant's facility in replication makes a strong argument that doing so is materially, and technically, in the realm of possibility and appropriateness. Our Committee is eager for such a proposal to come before us.