



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
2080 Broadway
July 10, 2018**

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 2080 Broadway, a modern style commercial building designed by Arthur Weiser and built in 1938. The application is to replace the parapet.

While the LW! C of A Committee understands that there has been damage to this parapet—and while we do appreciate the efforts to make more of the terracotta work visible—we cannot condone a plan that would in fact eliminate vast amounts of the original terracotta work under the guise of revealing it. We find it hard to believe that the applicant is really proposing the loss of 75 to 80% of this beautiful original material. We urge them to explore other options for a more delicate reconstruction of the damaged parapet—one that would not destroy as much of this building’s crown of enduring historic materials.

We do accept that some damage to the original materials may be impossible to avoid. However, best practice would be to replace the *historic material in kind*—with replica terracotta work. The applicants’ claim that terracotta replacements would be too heavy for the building should be looked at as a problem to solve, not an excuse for the loss of historically accurate materials. If the parapet must be rebuilt, this is a chance to structure it properly so that the terracotta can and will be supported in the years to come.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee is in favor of work to repair this parapet, but we cannot endorse the loss of historic material. The “Sleepy’s” sign on the parapet reminds us of their classic jingle—“Trust Sleepy’s—for the rest of your life”. Let’s make a plan that ensures the endurance of this landmark and its historic materials for the rest of *its* life. We urge the applicants to revise their proposal and make provisions for the protection of this landmark’s historic fabric.