



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Mineral Springs - Central Park  
October 31, 2023**

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 Mineral Springs building, a concession and restroom building, built in 1959, within an English Romantic style public park designed in 1857-1858 by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, and designated a Scenic Landmark in 1975. The application is to construct a partially enclosed pergola assembly and modify walls and paving.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee believes that if incremental elements must be added to the park, that they serve an essential public purpose, and if they *absolutely MUST* be added, then these elements should be consistent with the design and naturality of the landmarked park. This proposed “temporary,” but permanent-looking construction’s design and materiality ascribes to an International Style with little allegiance to the design of Scenic Landmark Central Park. Offering no relation to the original nor current Mineral Springs, this design adds a whole new language architecturally, and our Committee believes this is a mistake.

The proposed materials lack cohesion with one another, with the park, and may also prove difficult to maintain: the synthetic wall screens will stain from sun exposure, and this mesh-like material is difficult to clean if any vandalism or other staining may occur. An improvement using the existing wood pallet or even brick may offer more sympathetic options.

Further, we have to caution that the enclosure design presented to us appears as if it is intended to serve as an event space, not simply publicly accessible outdoor seating as currently exists. We hope this is not the case and that this space will not simply fill our landmark park with a street-ery like those which proliferated during the height of the pandemic, or coveted solely for corporate parties.

The LANDMARK WEST Certificate of Appropriateness Committee recommends the applicant go back to the drawing board, and we hope a proposal that matches with the surrounding artistic and naturalistic elements of the park is presented.

Thank you.