



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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**CICELY HARRIS**  
Chairperson

**ANDREW LASSALLE**  
District Manager

May 14, 2018

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioners:

On Monday, May 7, 2018, Manhattan Community Board 10 held a public hearing regarding the New York Public Library (NYPL)'s submission to New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) regarding the proposed new location of the Macomb's Bridge Library at 2633 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard in Harlem River Houses. The NYPL submitted an LPC application to replace storefront infill and install new window and door openings, a skylight, a canopy, and signage at this individual landmark.

Harlem River Houses was the first federally-funded public housing development built for African Americans in the United States in 1937 and one of only three NYCHA developments that are landmarked. We recognize the importance of the Harlem River Houses and its history.

The current Macomb's Bridge Library located at 2650 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard was opened in 1955 and is the smallest NYPL branch at approximately 600 square feet. The proposed new location at 2633 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard is a much larger space (approximately 3,000 square feet) and hence will be able to serve more residents of the Harlem River Houses and the adjacent communities.

We would like to express our support of the LPC application regarding the appropriateness of the proposed work; however, Community Board 10 and the larger community have raised several concerns related to the NYPL and the new location, which we would like to provide as context for the record.

At our public hearing, the community raised concerns about the outreach process that NYPL had conducted. The community feels that there was a lack of transparency in NYPL's process for searching for and selecting a new location for the Macomb's Library branch. We understand that the current location does not adequately serve the needs of the community, primarily due to its size constraints, but we would like to emphasize that the community was not properly engaged or enlisted in the effort to identify even larger sites which would be more appropriate to serve the large number of residents living in Harlem River Houses and the surrounding community.

Although we do have no issues with the LPC application related to 2633 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, given the community's legitimate concerns and discontent regarding the NYPL's approach to identifying a new library space, we strongly recommends that NYPL work in collaboration with the community in Central Harlem going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cicely Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Cicely Harris  
Chair, Manhattan Community Board 10

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raquel Vazquez". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Raquel Vazquez  
Chair, Historic Preservation, Landmarks, & Transportation Committee  
Manhattan Community Board 10