



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

May 2, 2018

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chairperson
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Supporting the Met Cloisters Museum's Library Window Art Glass Installation Project.

Dear Chairperson Srinivasan:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention supporting the Met Cloisters Museum's Library Window Art Glass Installation Project.

Whereas: The Met Cloisters Museum ("The Cloisters") is a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is located in Fort Tryon Park, was built in the 1930s and incorporates parts of five cloistered abbeys of Catalan, Occitan and French origins. The medieval European buildings were disassembled brick-by-brick, shipped to New York between 1934 and 1938 and reassembled in Fort Tryon Park. The area around The Cloisters was landscaped with gardens planted according to horticultural information obtained from medieval manuscripts and artifacts, and the building also includes cloistered herb gardens. Since The Cloisters has been designated as an individual landmark by the Landmarks Preservation Commission ("LPC") alterations to the building must be reviewed and approved by LPC; and

Whereas: The Cloisters proposes to undertake the Library Window Art Glass project (the "Project") as part of a more extensive project to restore six windows in the library. The library windows are 1930s diamond pattern leaded glass in steel frames. The scope of the restoration project includes dismantling and cleaning the windows and making the windows and frames watertight. The Project consists of installing a recently-donated panel of stained glass, known as 'The Architect' or 'The Builder', in one of the restored south-facing library windows that is visible from the Cloisters' driveway; and

Whereas:: The Cloisters has previously undertaken, with the support of Community Board 12-Manhattan, projects to install stained glass panels that are part of the museum's collection in window openings of the Cloisters building; e.g.: the Langon Chapel and Boppard Stairwell projects. However, unlike the stained glass installed in these previous projects, the stained glass panel to be installed in the Library window, while originally

medieval, was restored on several occasions and is now considered a 19th century piece. Given this, instead of installing the panel in a gallery space, it will be installed and on display in the Library to provide educational information on 19th century restoration practices, and to potentially provide information about differences in durability, etc. between medieval glass and more modern glass. Information about the history of the stained glass panel will also be displayed in the Library; and

Whereas: On April 4, 2018 Kevin Daly, Technical Director at Walter B. Melvin Architects, LLC, and exterior envelope consultant to the Cloisters presented the Project to the Land Use Committee of Community Board 12-Manhattan. Now, therefore be it

Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan supports the Met Cloisters Museum's Library Window Art Glass Installation Project.

Sincerely,


Shalabuddin A. Ally, Esq.
Chairperson

cc: Frances Escano, Government Affairs Specialist, MET
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Marisol Alcantara, State Senator
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member