



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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

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March 1, 2018

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

### **Re: Supporting the American Academy of Arts and Letters Audubon Terrace Restoration Project.**

Dear Chairperson Srinivasan:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, February 27, 2018 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention supporting the American Academy of Arts and Letters Audubon Terrace Restoration Project.

**Whereas:** The American Academy of Arts and Letters (the "Academy") occupies three buildings within the Audubon Terrace Historic District ("Audubon Terrace" or the "Historic District"). The Historic District is located between West 155<sup>th</sup> and West 156<sup>th</sup> Streets west of Broadway, and was designated as a New York City Historic District by the Landmarks Preservation Commission ("LPC") in 1979. The buildings occupied by the Academy include the original south building (the "South Building"), located at West 155<sup>th</sup> Street and built in 1921, the north building (the "North Building") located at West 156<sup>th</sup> Street and built in 1928, and the building that formerly housed the American Numismatic Society (the "East Building"), located adjacent to the South Building, built in 1907 and purchased by the Academy in 2005. Since Audubon Terrace has been designated as an historic district alterations to the premises must be reviewed and approved by LPC; and

**Whereas:** The buildings occupied by the Academy are entered from the Historic District's central brick paved terrace (the "Paved Terrace"). Boricua College, which also occupies a building at the Historic District, undertook a restoration project of the sidewalks around the Historic District and front portion of the Paved Terrace. However, the Paved Terrace near the buildings occupied by the Academy is uneven and deteriorated; sections are covered with roofing material; and

**Whereas:** The Academy proposes a three-part restoration project (the "Restoration Project" or the "Project"): restoration of the Paved Terrace; addition of a free-standing planter and bench; and reconfiguration of the existing steps connecting the lower and upper section of the Paved Terrace. The planter and bench will create a soft green edge between the Paved Terrace and the residential buildings at its westernmost end. The reconfiguration of the stairs will eliminate a condition that causes a circulation conflict with the Church of Our


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Lady of Esperanza, which is located adjacent to the North Building and opposite the East Building. The existing stone stairs and balustrade will be restored, relocated and reused. LPC will consider the Restoration Project in March 2018; and

**Whereas:** David Bae, AIA, the Academy's architect for the Restoration Project, attended the February 7, 2018 meeting of the Land Use Committee to present the Project. Now, therefore be it

**Resolved:** Community Board 12-Manhattan supports the American Academy of Arts and Letters Audubon Terrace Restoration Project.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.  
Chairperson

cc: Cody Upton, Executive Director, Academy of Arts & Letters  
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