



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND**

Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**

District Manager

May 9, 2008

Mr. Robert B. Tierney, Chair  
Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Municipal Building  
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, 547 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Mr. Tierney:

Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing in general support of future expansion plans of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet.

Cedar Lake is located in a unique building with a double-peaked roof on West 26<sup>th</sup> Street in the northern M-zone of the Special West Chelsea District. Since purchasing the building in 2004, Cedar Lake has invested extensively in restoring and adapting the building and has become a valued member of the community. In addition to using this beautiful space for its own well-received productions, Cedar Lake has donated its use for community activities such as public presentations of the developing High Line design.

Cedar Lake has had long-standing plans to expand the building to meet their projected future needs, including expanded performance space for their own use and for the use of other groups, a dance school, and additional office and wardrobe space. The inclusion of the building in the proposed West Chelsea Historic District will complicate these plans.

While we have expressed significant reservations about a preliminary design that Cedar Lake has shown to us, we support the company's general plan for growth. We hope that exploration of all options - including setbacks that would make an expansion significantly less visible from the High Line and

the street as well as the possibility of expanding over an adjacent building - will lead to a solution that can accommodate the expanded needs of the company in a way that preserves the character of this unique building and of the proposed West Chelsea Historic District.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland  
Chair



J. Lee Compton  
Chair, Chelsea Preservation and Planning

Cc: Speaker Christine Quinn  
State Senator Thomas Duane  
Assembly Member Richard Gottfried  
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer