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September 16, 2022

The Honorable Sarah Carroll, Chair
The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Center Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Re: 60 Wall Street

Dear Commissioner Carroll,

We are in receipt of your letter in response to the interior and individual request for evaluation for the former J.P. Morgan Building also known as 60 Wall Street.

We agree with the staff determination that the building and interior POPS merit further study within the context of Postmodern commercial architecture and interiors. 60 Wall Street retains a high level of integrity on the exterior and the interior and as a significant public amenity, it is rare if not almost unheard of that such an important project retains this original, unaltered fabric. At a mere 33 years old, this building is highly regarded by the architectural community and the public as a vibrant representation of this style. This is expressed in the July 29, 2022 article “The Fight to Save New York’s Extravagantly ’80s Subway Entrance” that was published in the New York Times. The article’s comment section is almost unanimously positive and supportive of landmark designation.

Now that a public meeting has been announced for the proposed alterations, we do not think it is appropriate for the Landmarks Preservation Commission to make a decision or sign off on any alterations until the evaluation of the building can be completed. We understand and are sympathetic to the agency’s priorities but seeing as this review is ongoing and the agency believes the project merits further study, we believe the review of the revised proposal by the agency is premature at this time.

To aid and expedite this further study, I would be happy to put your staff in touch with the Kevin Roche staff archivist and make our network of experts available to you so that the study of the project can be completed.



Docomomo US does not stand alone in this effort. Community Board 1 Manhattan, City Councilmember Chris Marte, Historic Districts Council, the Municipal Art Society, and the Landmarks Conservancy all spoke at the June 28, 2022, hearing asking the agency to thoroughly consider 60 Wall Street's merits for landmarking. It is our hope that can still happen, but a decision to allow the proposed project to proceed would significantly impact, if not erase any possibility for landmark consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TG", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Todd Grover
Vice President Advocacy
Docomomo US

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Waytkus", with a stylized, cursive-like script.

Liz Waytkus
Executive Director
Docomomo US

Cc: Jeanne Lutfy, Fred Bland, John C. Gustafsson, Anne Holford-Smith, Michael Devonshire, Michael Goldblum, Adi Shamir Baron, Wellington Chen, Everardo Jefferson, Kate Lemos McHale, Mark A. Silberman