



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**

215 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor—New York, NY 10027

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**CICELY HARRIS**  
Chairperson

**ANDREW LASSALLE**  
District Manager

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer  
431 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10027

**Re: Support for The Studio Museum in Harlem's New Building**

Dear Manhattan Borough President Brewer,

At its regularly scheduled General Board meeting held on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, Community Board 10 approved the following resolution **re: Support for The Studio Museum in Harlem's New Building Project** by a vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstention.

**Whereas**, The Studio Museum in Harlem, since 1968, has served as the nexus for artists of African descent locally, nationally and internationally and for work that has been inspired and influenced by black culture. It is a site for the dynamic exchange of ideas about art and society; and

**Whereas**, The Studio Museum in Harlem is a member of the Cultural Institutions Group, a body of 33 member organizations each of which are located, either wholly or partially, on City-owned property, and receive significant capital and operating support from the City to help meet basic security, maintenance, administration and energy costs. In return for this support, these institutions operate as publicly-owned facilities whose mandate is to provide cultural services accessible to all New Yorkers; and

**Whereas**, during its nearly 50 year history the Studio Museum has amassed a permanent collection of over 2,000 objects and has provided a unique home for the creation, exploration and appreciation of work by black artists. The Studio Museum has served as a cultural anchor on 125th street and consistently offers Harlem residents opportunities to engage with the work of artists spanning the 19th through the 21st centuries; and

**Whereas**, the Studio Museum also offers award-winning education and public programs for all ages (families, students, seniors and adults) which bring the Studio Museum's mission to life, expand upon seasonal exhibitions, and survey prevalent issues in contemporary art and black culture, including literary series, academic and internship programs, artist-in-residence programs, artist talks, panels, screenings, hands-on workshops, family programs, a weekly program for elders with dementia and their caregivers, school visits and other on-sight tours; and

**Whereas,** The Studio Museum intends to replace the existing museum building (a converted 1914 commercial structure with an adaptive reuse design by J. Max Bond, Jr.) and outdoor sculpture court with a purpose-built facility designed by renowned architect Sir David Adjaye OBE, with Cooper Robertson serving as the architect of record, with the goal of enhancing its services and physical setting; and

**Whereas,** the Project will provide custom-built and expanded facilities, enriched visitor experience and strong architectural presence appropriate to a premier center for contemporary artists of African descent, the principal visual art institution in Harlem and a magnet for visitors from around the world; and

**Whereas,** the Project will enable the Studio Museum to better serve its growing and diverse audiences, provide additional educational opportunities to museum goers from toddlers to seniors, expand its world-renowned exhibitions of art by artists of African descent and influenced and inspired by black culture, and effectively display its singular collection of artwork from the nineteenth century to the present day; and

**Whereas,** The Project's design has been driven by its desire to serve the public with an experience of art at various moments of engagement – from the street, lobby, galleries and circulation corridors – and to function as an exhibition gallery, an archive, a workplace for artists in residence and a “living room” for the Harlem community and its visitors; and

**Whereas,** the Studio Museum presented its Construction Documents design and signage program to the Community Board 10 Land Use Committee on Thursday, May 17, 2018; and

**Whereas,** the Studio Museum presented its Construction Documents design and signage program at the Community Board 10 General Board meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2018; now

**Therefore, be it resolved that,** Manhattan Community Board 10 supports the efforts of The Studio Museum in Harlem to build a new facility on its current site at 144 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street; and

**Be it also resolved that,** Manhattan Community Board 10 supports the final design of the building and signage program presented by the Studio Museum and looks forward to a favorable review and approval from the NYC Public Design Commission. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the District Office at (212) 749-3105.