



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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

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September 29, 2017

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

**Re: SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION OF A BOTANICAL GREENHOUSE IN THE NORTH  
COURTYARD OF THE MET CLOISTERS MUSEUM**

Dear Chairperson Srinivasan:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, September 26, 2017 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention Supporting the proposed installation of a greenhouse in the north courtyard of the Met Cloisters Museum.

**Whereas:** The Met Cloisters Museum ("The Cloisters") is a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art located in Fort Tryon Park and built in the 1930's, incorporating 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:** As part of its efforts to elevate the status of the gardens, which were considered to be as important as the artworks when the museum opened in 1938, The Cloisters has been propagating rare and Old World plants that cannot otherwise be easily sourced in a greenhouse on the Kykuit Rockefeller Estate in Sleepy Hollow, NY, 45 minutes north of the museum. In order to facilitate its gardening efforts, The Cloisters now seeks to build a small greenhouse in a courtyard at the north side of the building; and

**Whereas:** The courtyard, which provides storage in garage bays and access to museum loading docks, is not visible from inside the museum or from public roadways and currently houses two modern air handling units; and

**Whereas:** The area of the greenhouse will be less than 400 square feet, and it will be built with a knee wall of Manhattan schist to blend in with surrounding garage bays as much as possible. It will be built without structural alteration to the building, and is designed to be removable without building damage; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved:** Community Board 12-Manhattan supports the proposed installation of a greenhouse in the north courtyard of the Met Cloisters Museum.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.  
Chairperson

cc: Tom Schuler, Chief Government Affairs Officer, 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  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District Office  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member