



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.ManhattanCB4.org

WALTER MANKOFF
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

April 7, 2005

Hon. Robert Tierney
Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
9 Center Street, north
New York, NY 10007

Re: 353 West 14th Street - Gansevoort Historic District

Dear Chair Tierney,

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the application for a new ground floor treatment of the building at 353 West 14th Street to accommodate the needs of the comedy club planned for this location.

We thank the applicant for his detailed presentation at the meeting of the Landmarks Task Force of the Board and are happy that the revised treatment appears responsive to many of the concerns the Board expressed on an earlier proposal. Among the improvements are designing the exit doors in such a way as to recall historic storefronts and grouping them using the existing cast-iron posts, placing the security gate inside the building, and incorporating etched-glass transoms above the doors.

The Board is, however, concerned about one element: the cornice of a depth of roughly a foot and a half that is to be placed somewhat above these transoms. This introduces a strong horizontal element on the façade that identifies and sets off the front of the club but relates awkwardly with the historic entrance to the residential floors upstairs. The Board recognizes that this element has also the functional purpose of enclosing a portion of a drainpipe as well as the lighting, which is to wash the front below in an appropriate fashion. We ask that the cornice be restudied, with the particular goal of reducing its depth, which should be no greater than necessary to fulfill this function

With this exception the Board recommends approval of the application.

Sincerely,

Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Edward S. Kirkland
Chair
Landmarks Taskforce

cc: Local elected officials
Applicant