



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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

JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

May 14, 2008

Kate D. Levin, Commissioner
Department of Cultural Affairs
31 Chambers, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Orchestra of St. Luke's – 450 West 37th Street

Dear Commissioner Levin:

Manhattan Community Board 4 strongly supports the endeavors of the Orchestra of St. Luke's in establishing a superior rehearsal and educational facility which will serve New York's freelance/nonprofit music community and school children from St. Luke's education program.

The center will be located at 450 West 37th Street. This 20,000 square foot facility will include 2 rehearsal halls, state of the art recording facility, art education facility, and numerous practice rooms, classrooms, and music library.

The proposed Music Center will become the permanent home of the Orchestra of St. Luke's; New York's busiest and largest freelance orchestra. In addition, it will provide rehearsal space for the freelance musical community and be an outstanding arts education center serving New York City school children and community residents.

Community Board 4 welcomes the Center to a neighborhood that already boasts a thriving cultural life whose neighbors include the Abington Theatre Company, Exit Art, and the Baryshnikov Arts Center.

Community Board 4 has always tried to assist cultural programs but has found the high cost of rental space and the dearth of space to be a major problem.

Therefore, we are thrilled to welcome the center to Community Board 4 because we firmly believe the center will provide an unprecedented opportunity for St. Luke's to participate in the life of our community.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4

Millie Glaberman
Co-Chair
Quality of Life
Committee

Howard Smith
Co-Chair
Quality of Life Committee

Cc: St. Luke's Orchestra
NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Assemblyman Richard Gottfried
State Senator Thomas Duane
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer