



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson
Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

April 19, 2024

Jehovah's Witnesses
44-17 Greenpoint Avenue
Sunnyside, NY 11104

Subject: **Proposal for Collaborative Discussion on the Future of Bliss Theater**

Dear Esteemed Leaders of the Queens Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses:

On behalf of Community Board 2 in Queens, NY, we are reaching out to express our profound admiration for the exceptional care your congregation has taken in maintaining the historic Bliss Theater. As representatives of the local community, we deeply appreciate your efforts in preserving the architectural and cultural integrity of this important landmark.

As you are no doubt aware, the former Bliss Theater holds a cherished place in the hearts of our community members. Built in the 1930s, it has served many of our community's needs as a space of worship, communion, and joy, and we believe it still holds immense potential to benefit our community in meaningful ways.

We understand your decision to put the theater on the market and respect the concerns you have expressed about potential delays in the sale process. However, we believe that there is a unique opportunity for us to collaborate on a vision that benefits both your congregation and the broader community.

In light of this, we are respectfully requesting a meeting at your earliest convenience with representatives from your congregation to explore potential pathways for the theater that honor your needs while also preserving its historic value and accessibility for community use. This discussion would be exploratory and non-binding. We are committed to a dialogue that is respectful of your time constraints and sale objectives.



We believe that by working together, we can find a mutually beneficial solution that respects the historical significance of the Bliss Theater and meets the goals of your congregation. Please let us know a suitable time for you to engage in this important conversation.

Thank you for considering this gesture of partnership. We look forward to the possibility of discussing this further and hope to hear from you soon.

Please feel free to contact Community Board 2 at (718) 533-8773.

Sincerely,


Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager, CB 2

 
Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson, CB 2

Christine Hunter
Chair, Land Use &
Housing Committee


Karesia Batan
Chair, Arts &
Cultural
Affairs
Committee

Cc: Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate
Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senate
Honorable Jessica Ramos, NY State Senate
Honorable Juan Ardila, NYS Assembly
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, NYS Assembly
Honorable Steven Raga, NYS Assembly
Honorable Robert Holden, NYC Council Member
Honorable Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member
Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Prameet Kumar, Vice Chair, Land Use & Housing Committee

Proposal for Collaborative Discussion on the Future of Bliss Theater