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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

VIA E-MAIL

April 10, 2019

Sarah Carroll
Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Resolution of support for The Morgan Library and Museum renovation of the J. Pierpont Morgan Library building and grounds

At the March 13, 2019 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, representatives from the Morgan Library and Museum, located at 425 Madison Avenue, presented initial renovation and restoration plans for the original J. Pierpont Morgan Library building to the Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) Parks, Landmarks, and Cultural Affairs Committee on March 5, 2019;

WHEREAS, the plans are centered on the J. Pierpont Morgan Library building of the museum campus. J. Pierpont Morgan commissioned the architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White to build the current structure to house his private library. Completed in 1906, the building embodies the Renaissance ideal of unity of the arts through the integration of architecture, sculpture, and painting with exceptional craftsmanship and materials. Notable features include a manicured lawn separated by an ornate metal fence and a pair of lioness statues sculpted by Edward Clark Porter, who also created the two lions at the New York Public Library's main building;

WHEREAS, the Morgan Library retained the services of Integrated Conservation Resources, Inc. (ICR), who were responsible for the 2010 interior restoration. ICR will be supported by architecture firm Beyer Blinder Belle, and the upcoming restorations will address issues such as masonry deterioration, masonry joint failure, roof conditions, deterioration of the fence and other metalwork corrosion, and sculpture conservation;

WHEREAS, another objective of the restoration is to enhance the entrance of East 36th Street through enhanced lighting and activation of the green space. The firm Todd Longstaffe-Gowan Landscape Design will develop designs to address these issues. Once complete, the garden will be a new space for tours and other programs;

WHEREAS, construction will commence in two phases, with the first starting in 2019 which will focus on the building restoration, with the second phase will begin in March 2020 and will focus on the green space. This renovation will preserve the structure and enhance the architectural elements of the facade, which together, contributes to the rich cultural offerings of both New York City and Manhattan Community District Six (CD6);

WHEREAS, staff from the Morgan have already begun in engaging with the local community. The Library interior will remain open during the restoration. Staff also encouraged people to follow the restoration efforts via the Library's website and social media;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board Six supports the forthcoming renovation.

VOTE: 39 in Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstention 0 Not Entitled

Best regards,



Jesús Pérez
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Keith Powers, Council Member
Amber Nowak, External Affairs Coordinator, Landmarks Preservation Commission
Colin B. Bailey, Director, The Morgan Library and Museum
Pamela Vassil, Chair, CB6 Parks, Landmarks & Cultural Affairs Committee