

Hon. Jessica Lappin, Chair
Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

October 9, 2007

Dear Chair Lappin:

On behalf of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and its more than 4,000 architect and public members, we respectfully submit this letter of support for the confirmation of Sunnyside Gardens, Queens, as an Historic District. We join the voices of our colleagues at AIA Queens in calling for this confirmation, because preserving Sunnyside Gardens is a matter of importance, not only for residents of the immediate area and the borough of Queens, but for all residents of New York City.

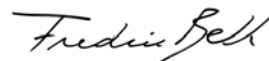
It is the responsibility of our elected and appointed officials to define, delineate, and protect districts that have a distinctive and irreplaceable historic character. As architects, we at the AIA New York Chapter feel especially strongly that Sunnyside Gardens requires protection. The neighborhood is one of New York's best remaining examples of planning from the 'City Beautiful' movement; its unique character is quiet and modern with an understated and elegant design. The scale and charming details, the internal courts, and consistent brick-lined streets all contribute to a peaceful and cohesive whole. The architectural concepts and integrity of this planned community must be preserved.

As New York City transforms at an increasingly rapid pace, it becomes vital that historically, culturally and architecturally significant areas be granted the protection of the landmarks law if we are to preserve them for future generations. We are delighted that the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission has designated Sunnyside Gardens as an Historic District, and urge the Council to confirm this designation.

Sincerely,



Joan Blumenfeld, FAIA, IIDA
2007 President, AIA New York Chapter



Fredric Bell, FAIA
Executive Director