

AIA New York Chapter

The Founding Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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Councilmember Diana Reyna
Chair, Rules, Privileges and Elections Committee
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re: Nomination of Margery Perlmutter to Landmarks Preservation Commission

Dear Councilmember Reyna:

On behalf of the AIA New York Chapter and its 4,100 architect and public members here in New York, it is my pleasure to speak in strong support of the nomination of Margery H. Perlmutter to serve on the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Margery is an extraordinary and multi-talented individual, combining the disparate skills of architecture and law in a career that has brought an interdisciplinary awareness to challenging sites and issues in her practice and in her community. With service as co-chair of the Community Board 8 Landmarks Committee, Margery has shown herself to be extraordinarily effective in achieving consensus and seeing the complexities of land use, preservation and institutional expansion issues resolved into solutions that have benefited her neighborhood and the City of New York.


The American Institute of Architects awarded Ms. Perlmutter a first prize award in the 2004 New Housing New York competition, an endeavor initiated, sponsored and funded by the New York City Council to envision ways that significant quantities of high-quality affordable housing could be constructed in the five boroughs of our city. Her solution, according to the nationally-known jurors who conferred her award, demonstrated significant creativity in meeting the needs of a large waterfront site in Queens. The jury comments stated that her plan "respects both the man-made and natural contexts, while proposing a phased and sustainable approach to an expanded mixed-use urban community."

In terms of specific architectural solutions, complex urban design, preservation, restoration and planning issues, and the legal underpinnings that make projects succeed or fail, Ms. Perlmutter has consistently demonstrated an unfailing sense of seeing the big picture, while understanding the detailed concerns that educate conscientious solutions. Her work in preservation started early, with work at the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and has continued through practice in both architecture and law dedicated to the highest standards of both professions.

Ms. Perlmutter exemplifies the rare ability to understand precedent and context from both procedural and design parameters, and act on that understanding to make the legacy of New York City a living part of our daily life. Consequently we support her nomination and call upon the Rules Committee to assist with a speedy ratification.

Yours truly,


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