



Greenwich  
Village  
Society for  
Historic  
Preservation

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November 1, 2010

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Landmark designation of Westbeth and other Far West Village sites**

Dear Chair Tierney:

As the end of 2010 nears, I write to encourage the Landmarks Preservation Commission to vote to landmark Westbeth before the end of the year, as you previously indicated would be done, and to strongly encourage the Commission to take up the three remaining sites in the Far West Village which you promised to consider for landmark status in 2004 – Charles Lane, 370 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, and 372 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street – which the Commission has still not acted upon.

As you know, at the hearing on the proposed landmark designation of Westbeth earlier this year, there was overwhelming support for designation, including from the Board of Directors of Westbeth, the Westbeth Artists Residents Council, and individual Westbeth residents. The Westbeth complex is uniquely rich in architectural and cultural history, having served as the laboratories for Bell Telephone for nearly seventy-five years, having been the site of the invention of the transistor, chain broadcasting, the vacuum tube, the transatlantic telephone, and production of the first “talkie,” and being one of the first large-scale adaptive re-uses of an industrial building for residential use anywhere in the world and the first subsidized artists housing in the United States.

Late last year, GVSHP successfully nominated Westbeth for listing on the State and National Register of Historic Places, which qualifies the complex for grants and loans for preservation and restoration work. As this year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Westbeth as an artists residence, it would be particularly appropriate for the Landmarks Preservation Commission to move ahead with designation before the end of the year.

Charles Lane and the houses at 370 and 372 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street are also deserving of landmark designation, as the Commission itself noted in 2004 when it promised to consider them by 2006. Six and a half years now since that commitment was made, it is time for the Commission to move ahead with fulfillment of that promise and to protect these important sites for the future.

I hope the Commission will move ahead right away with landmark designation of Westbeth and with consideration of the three remaining sites in the Far West Village for landmark designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Berman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew Berman  
Executive Director

Cc: Westbeth Board of Directors  
Westbeth Artists Residents Council  
Greenwich Village Community Task Force