

Testimony of the Municipal Art Society  
Before the City Council's Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections  
By Melissa Baldock, Kress/RFR Fellow for Historic Preservation and Public Policy  
Appointments and Re-Appointments of Landmarks Preservation Commissioners  
September 4, 2008

The Municipal Art Society is a private, non-profit membership organization that fights for intelligent urban planning, design and preservation through education, dialogue and advocacy

I am Melissa Baldock, Kress/RFR Fellow for Historic Preservation and Public Policy, speaking on behalf of the Municipal Art Society's Preservation Committee. The MAS Preservation Committee supports the appointment of Frederick Bland as a member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), and the re-appointment of Joan Gerner and Christopher Moore as LPC Commissioners.

We are pleased that the Mayor is officially reappointing two Commissioners who have long served on the LPC, but who are currently serving on expired terms. Both Commissioners Gerner and Moore have served on the LPC for over a decade, and as such are seasoned in the functions and regulations of the Commission. They have long been qualified candidates for the LPC, and their institutional memory is valuable to the incredibly important work of the LPC.

While the experience of existing members like Commissioners Gerner and Moore is critical to the LPC, new commissioners are likewise essential to bring fresh ideas and viewpoints to the Commission. Frederick Bland is a commendable choice for the LPC. As an architect who has worked extensively in New York City's historic districts, Mr. Bland already has the background knowledge of the LPC's guidelines and the way its decisions are made. His work as an architect will help him make the balanced decisions that are needed at the LPC.

Thank you for your attention.



# BROOKLYN HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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September 4, 2008

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Statement by the Brooklyn Heights Association Before The City Council  
Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections

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Re: Candidacy of Frederick Bland as a Landmarks Preservation  
Commissioner

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As a leading steward of New York City's first designated historic district, the Brooklyn Heights Association is extremely proud to endorse the proposed appointment of Frederick Bland as a member of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

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Fred Bland is a past president of the Brooklyn Heights Association and he continues to serve actively on our Board of Advisors. His voluminous resume documents many other civic leadership roles, notably his chairmanship of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

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In the preservation community, Mr. Bland is probably best known for his distinguished architectural career as a partner of Beyer Blinder Bell. Having designed and managed a vast array of preservation projects around the globe as well as here in New York, he brings a wealth of qualifications and practical experience to this Commission.

It is our expectation that Fred Bland will consider each and every Certificate of Appropriateness in an evenhanded and thoughtful manner with the utmost integrity. Mayor Bloomberg has made a wise choice and we hope the City Council will vote unanimously to approve his appointment.

Re: Re-Appointments of Joan Gerner and Christopher Moore to the  
Landmarks Preservation Commission:

As a group who frequently testifies before the LPC, the Brooklyn Heights Association fully supports the reappointments of current Commissioners, Joan Gerner and Christopher Moore. We have found them to be careful decision makers, with an ear to the preservation community.

### Executive Director

Julia Stanton

We appreciate this opportunity for comment.

### Office Manager

Irene Janner

**THE NEW YORK  
LANDMARKS  
CONSERVANCY**

September 4, 2008

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE CITY  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS RE: THE PROPOSED  
APPOINTMENT OF FREDERICK BLAND TO SERVE ON THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION**

Good morning Chair Reyna and Council Members.

I am Alex Herrera speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

The Landmarks Conservancy knows Fred Bland well and commends him to you wholeheartedly. He is an excellent choice for the Landmarks Preservation Commission in so many ways. He is an experienced professional with 35 years experience in the fields of architecture and historic preservation; he is a partner in one of the most highly regarded architectural firms in the city, Beyer Blinder Belle; and he is a longtime resident of the City's oldest historic district, Brooklyn Heights. In addition he is level-headed, fair, and widely respected in the historic preservation community.

Mr. Bland and his partners are nationally and internationally known for their preservation expertise. His experience and insights will be very helpful to the Commission in its review of applications for alterations and new construction on landmark sites throughout the city. Some of his projects that we have followed over the years include the restoration of, and additions to, the campus of the General Theological Seminary in Chelsea, the restoration of a magnificent limestone façade at the Sports Museum of America in Lower Broadway, and the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Empire, Harris, and Liberty Theaters on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street,

In addition to his formidable professional experience, Mr. Bland understands the community side of preservation as he is a longtime resident of an historic district where preservation is a daily reality. In short, we believe he is one of the best-equipped individuals to serve on the Landmarks Commission. We congratulate the Commission for its excellent selection and strongly recommend that you act favorably upon his candidacy.

Thank you