



February 22, 2023

Sarah Carroll
Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007
VIA EMAIL: SCarroll@lpc.nyc.gov

Re: Request for Evaluation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 W. 14th St., Manhattan

Dear Mayor Eric Adams and Chair Carroll:

Considering the recently issued decree of relegation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 229-231 West 14th Street by the Archdiocese of New York, we write to express our support for the Church's landmark designation and for Village Preservation's Request for Evaluation.

When Our Lady of Guadalupe Church was established in 1902, it was New York's first church for a Spanish-speaking congregation, serving both Spaniards and Latin Americans; an important milestone at the beginning of a century in which Latin Americans become one of the City's largest ethnic groups.

The church consists of two altered ca. 1850 brownstone townhouses. Its 1921 Spanish Renaissance façade by architect Gustave Steinback is a tangible link to the once vast "Little Spain" immigrant community centered on these blocks, which attracted both Spanish and Latin American immigrants. The church is also significant for its connection, to the Delmonico Family, which sold the property to the church, and to Dorothy Day, who worshipped here, and attested to her very strong connection to its ministry and its impact upon her life.

The church is a significant piece of New York's Latin American and Spanish-speaking heritage. And although New York City now contains the largest Hispanic population of any city in the country, constituting roughly 30% of the city's residents, it has very few designated landmarks which honor or recognize this history of a huge segment of our city's population.

With the LPC's Equity Framework and stated commitment to including and recognizing our city's diverse histories and constituencies, the designation of Our Lady of Guadalupe is fitting and well-timed. This review should be calendared as soon as possible, before the opportunity to do so is lost.

Sincerely,

Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President

Brad Hoylman-Sigal
State Senator

Deborah Glick
Assemblymember

Tony Simone
Assemblymember

Erik Bottcher
Councilmember

CC: Manhattan Community Board 4
Save Chelsea
Village Preservation