



Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission 1 Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Urgent Request for Evaluation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 West 14th Street, Manhattan

August 23rd, 2023

Dear Mayor Adams and Chair Carroll

The Preservation Committee of the City Club of New York supports Village Preservation's urgent request for evaluation (RFE) by the Landmarks Preservation Commission of Our Lady Of Guadalupe Church. These two 1850 residential buildings altered in 1921 to serve as a church clearly merit protection as they are a beautiful example of adaptive architecture and the kind of historical layering that makes New York City great.

Beside its architectural significance the building holds significant social and historic significance. We urge you to calendar it for public commentary.



Respectfully submitted,

Françoise Bollack, AIA, DESA
Chair, Preservation Committee, City Club of New York
CC.: Village Preservation.



Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

June 9, 2023

Re: Evaluation for the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 229-231 West 14th Street, Manhattan

Dear Mayor Eric Adams and Chair Carroll,

The Hispanic Society of America in New York, an institution founded in 1904 by the Hispanic scholar Archer M. Huntington and dedicated to promoting the study of all aspects of the Hispanic and Portuguese cultures, fervently supports the efforts of Village Preservation's Campaign support to landmark the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located at 229-231 West 14th Street in Manhattan.

The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe was founded in 1902 and became the first parish in New York City to serve the swelling numbers of Hispanics and is of enormous significance as New York City's very first Spanish-language church for a Spanish-speaking congregation. The church and building are also important as a tangible reminder of the once-thriving "Little Spain" immigrant community centered upon 14th Street and surrounding areas.

Although a small parish church, it is an architecturally and historically significant building. The monumental façade completed in the Spanish Baroque, "classically proportioned Spanish Revival" style was built in 1921 by the architect Gustave Steinback, to reflect the cultural heritage of its congregation.

For these reasons, we strongly believe that the building is a rare architectural jewel, worthy of being accorded landmark status in the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guillaume Kientz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Guillaume Kientz
CEO

Hispanic Society Museum & Library



695 Park Avenue, Rm E 1429 | New York, NY 10065 | www.centropr.hunter.cuny.edu

March 30, 2023

Honorable Eric L. Adams
Mayor
The City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Honorable Sarah Carroll
Chairperson
Landmarks Preservation Commission
David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, Ninth Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Re: Evaluation of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 West 14th street, Manhattan

Dear Mayor Adams and Chair Carroll:

I write in support of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation's urgent request for the designation of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church as a designated landmark. As you may know, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has made an urgent request for the evaluation of the church for designation as a landmark. We believe Our Lady of Guadalupe Church deserves such designation given its special historical value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of the City and the state.

As you may know, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church served as an institutional, cultural and spiritual anchor for the "Little Spain" community that settled in the blocks around the church. Bear in mind that Puerto Ricans and Cubans were part of the "Little Spain" community at that time, since both peoples were still colonial subjects of Spain until the end of the 19th century, and in New York City they often settled among peninsular Spaniards. Moreover, Chelsea, whose southern boundary is West 14th street, had been a neighborhood of traditional Puerto Rican settlement. Other cultural institutions that served the Hispanic community, such as Librería Lectorum or Macondo, were on the same block or near it. Collectively they were all a place of respite, comfort and enrichment for newcomers and old-term residents of New York.

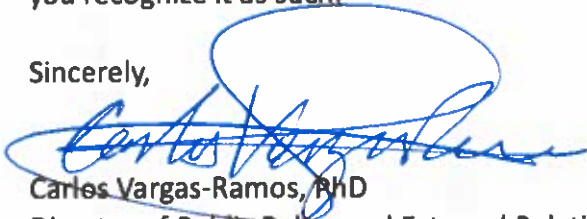
The church is therefore a significant site of New York's Latin American and Spanish-speaking heritage. However, despite representing about 30% of the city's population and having the

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country's largest Hispanic urban population, New York has very few designated landmarks that recognize the presence, contributions and history of a leading community of our city. We hope you recognize it as such.

Sincerely,



Carlos Vargas-Ramos, PhD
Director of Public Policy and External Relations

March 22, 2023

Hon. Chair Sarah Carroll
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Urgent Request for Evaluation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 West 14th Street, Manhattan

Dear Chair Carroll,

MAS urges the Landmarks Preservation Commission to evaluate the critically important Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 229-231 West 14th Street. This church is of great significance to New York City's Hispanic and Latino population and the Greenwich Village and Chelsea neighborhoods. Also known as Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe and Iglesia Católica Guadalupe, it was the first Spanish-language church in our city. The structure is now threatened because the Archdiocese of New York has deconsecrated and deaccessioned the church, and most likely is contemplating selling the building.

When the church was established in 1902, West 14th Street was the center of the former "Little Spain" neighborhood. From its beginning, Spanish and Mexican immigrants comprised a large part of the congregation, which grew with migration from Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Central America. The Spanish-speaking population at the church's beginning was around 45,000; today the city has 2.4 million residents with Hispanic and Latino heritage, more than any other city in the nation. This church serves as an integral reminder of the Little Spain neighborhood, which provided a community hub for Hispanic and Latino residents from across the city. The church's location had an intentional equitable purpose, chosen to be central to a large working-class population. Additionally, the church was a crucial part in the life of activist Dorothy Day, who is now being considered for sainthood by the Catholic Church.

The church is architecturally unique, comprising two combined 1850 single-family brownstones, once owned by the Delmonico's Restaurant family. The Spanish Colonial Baroque façade addition was added in 1921, designed by the prolific architect Gustave E. Steinback. The building has been

featured in every edition of the AIA Guide to New York City since 1979 and is also eligible for the State and National Register of Historic Places.

It is imperative that the building's historic and architectural significance is clear to any potential new owners. There are many notable examples of adaptive reuse of former houses of worship, ranging from museums, music venues, community centers, and housing. This church embodies a history of this ever-changing neighborhood, and it is a vital piece of the Hispanic community's experience in New York. Aesthetically creative and rare, it has been a meaningful presence on busy 14th Street for over a century. We urge you to complete an evaluation of the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe as soon as possible.

Yours truly,



Elizabeth Goldstein
President

cc. Keri Butler, Vice President of Planning and Policy
Aislinn Klein, Advocacy Associate
Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Village Preservation

The Stevens

*1607 Academy Drive
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18301*

March 18, 2023

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams:

The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 229-231 West 14th Street should receive landmark designation. As scholars of religion who have focused on the Latino Catholic experience, we cannot overstate the historical importance of this building as home to the parish established in 1902 and ministered by the Assumptionist Fathers. It was the first Spanish-language house of worship in the Archdiocese of New York and, because of the notable contributions to the city by all Hispanic peoples today, this material witness to our legacy ought be preserved. We urge you to act in the name of the City of New York to defend the integrity of this building and thus honor its unique history.

Located near the docking for cargo ships from Spain, the church was fashioned from existing brownstone homes in a neighborhood created by Spanish merchants and their families. However, the naming of the church for Our Lady of Guadalupe indicates that at its inception, Catholic leadership intended this parish to serve all Spanish-speaking groups and not just the inhabitants of "Little Spain." While the title, "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe," originated in medieval Spain during the Muslim presence, the Madonna's image was transformed in Mexico into a multi-racial woman. Thus, she represents the diversity of New York's Latino population today and is fittingly considered a patron of all the peoples and of all the races in the Americas.

Assuredly, you are aware that this building on West 14th Street has been determined eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places for its artistic and architectural design. The façade added in 1921 is a sterling example of the Spanish Colonial Baroque style. We would add that the church's material beauty is enhanced by its historical significance, thus commanding its preservation in New York City within the Landmarks Preservation Commission's 'Equity Framework'.

Recognizing that there are few designated landmarks that honor the history of New York City's numerous Hispanic and Latino peoples, we strongly urge you to award landmark designation to the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sincerely Yours,



Ana María Díaz-Stevens, Ph. D.
Professor Emerita of Church & Society
Union Theological Seminary



Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo, Ph. D.
Professor Emeritus of Puerto Rican & Latino Studies
Brooklyn College, CUNY

The Stevens

*1607 Academy Drive
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18301*

March 18, 2023

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

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Recognizing that there are few designated landmarks that honor the history of New York City's numerous Hispanic and Latino peoples, we strongly urge you to award landmark designation to the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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Ana María Díaz-Stevens, Ph. D.

Professor Emerita of Church & Society

Union Theological Seminary



Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo, Ph. D.

Professor Emeritus of Puerto Rican & Latino Studies

Brooklyn College, CUNY

17 March 2023

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams:

I write to express my enthusiastic support for the landmark designation of the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 229-231 West 14th Street, also known as *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* and *Iglesia Católica Guadalupe*. Founded in 1902 as the first national parish for the 45,000 Spanish-speaking Catholics in New York City, and dedicated to the Patron Saint of Mexico, the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe has long been a fixture in New York City's Hispanic and Latinx community.

Historically, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church is a rare and, according to the AIA Guide to New York City, "extraordinary brownstone conversion" of two circa 1850 single-family row houses into a religious space. The establishment of this church was key to the growth of the "Little Spain" neighborhood around 14th Street near the Hudson River. In 1921, architect Gustave E. Steinback designed the Spanish Colonial Baroque-style façade, which was added as part of the remodeling of the building, its style chosen to reflect the cultural heritage of its congregation.

It was an important gathering place for Spanish-speaking Catholics, who came to Our Lady of Guadalupe for weddings, christenings, funeral services, and daily masses and confession offered in both Spanish and English. Other Spanish commercial and cultural institutions soon clustered in the vicinity of the church, and the neighborhood became a hub for Spanish-speaking immigrants from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, and other parts of Central and South America.

This building has been determined eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places. And, indeed, Our Lady of Guadalupe fits well within the Landmarks Preservation Commission's "Equity Framework" and stated commitment to including and recognizing our city's diverse histories and constituencies.

As those of us who have lived and worked a good part of our lives in New York City derive much pride from its multi-ethnicity and its commitment to diversity, it has been a concern of ours that the city has very few designated landmarks that honor the history of New York City's Hispanic and Latinx populations. This would be a fine opportunity to recognize a place of worship that historically has served those populations.

Mayor Adams, I believe your administration can make a fine contribution to that goal, by giving Our Lady of Guadalupe Church the recognition it deserves and thus lay the foundation for future accomplishments. This would be a powerful symbol of respect and empathy that will be greatly appreciated by our community.

Sincerely,
Orlando José Hernández
Independent writer and Professor Emeritus
Hostos Community College-CUNY

17 March 2023

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chairperson
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Carroll:

I write to express my enthusiastic support for the landmark designation of the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 229-231 West 14th Street, also known as *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* and *Iglesia Católica Guadalupe*. Founded in 1902 as the first national parish for the 45,000 Spanish-speaking Catholics in New York City, and dedicated to the Patron Saint of Mexico, the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe has long been a fixture in New York City's Hispanic and Latinx community.

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As those of us who have lived and worked a good part of our lives in New York City derive much pride from its multi-ethnicity and its commitment to diversity, it has been a concern of ours that the city has very few designated landmarks that honor the history of New York City's Hispanic and Latinx populations. This would be a fine opportunity to recognize a place of worship that historically has served those populations.

Commissioner Carroll, your support to this petition can make a difference. Giving Our Lady of Guadalupe Church the recognition it deserves would be a powerful symbol of respect and empathy that will be greatly appreciated by our community.

Sincerely,
Orlando José Hernández
Independent writer and Professor Emeritus
Hostos Community College-CUNY



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

424 West West 33 Street, Suite #580
New York, NY 10001
tel: 212-736-4536
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

March 10, 2023

Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building, 9th Floor
One Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 West 14th Street, Manhattan

Dear Chair Carroll,

On February 21, 2023, reflecting the unanimous vote of Chelsea Land Use Committee, Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4), by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible, voted to recommend that Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 229-231 West 14th Street be designated a landmark for its historical and cultural significance. A Request for Evaluation to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) was submitted by Andrew Berman on behalf of Village Preservation earlier this month. Designation of this significant site would align with LPC's Equity Framework instituted 2021, by recognizing Hispanic history in New York City.

Architectural, Historical, and Cultural Importance

Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe and Iglesia Católica Guadalupe, bears enormous significance as New York City's very first church for a Spanish-speaking congregation. Dedicated to serving the estimated 45,000 Spanish-speaking Catholics of the archdiocese, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church was opened under Archbishop Michael Corrigan in 1902 at 229-231 West 14th Street in two ca.1850 brownstones combined to house the church on their lower floors. The church was remodeled in 1921 with the present Spanish Colonial Baroque façade addition by Gustave E. Steinback.

The transformation of these buildings from residences to a church is noteworthy and distinctive within New York City. The church boasts a double-height sanctuary, complete with a monumental entrance, side chapel, balcony, and clerestory, as well as a limestone Spanish Colonial Baroque façade with elaborate detailing and scrollwork recalling the parish's Iberian heritage.

The Church bears enormous historical and cultural significance as a tangible remnant of the once-thriving “Little Spain,” an immigrant community that established itself in the area near the Hudson River south of 14th Street. Our lady of Guadalupe was founded as the national parish for all Spanish-speaking Catholics in New York City. It was also the first apostolate of the Assumptionists in the United States, who came to America in 1891. Despite their roots in France, the Assumptionists were deeply involved in the creation of Catholic ministries for Spanish speakers in New York, also establishing the second Spanish congregation in the city, Our Lady of Esperanza, which opened in 1912 on 156th Street.

The church and the building are also historically significant for their strong connections to several important figures of the 19th and 20th centuries, including:

- Parishioner Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and candidate for sainthood in the Catholic Church.
- The Delmonico family, founders of Delmonico’s restaurant, were the residents of 229-231 West 14th Street before the building’s conversion to a church. Delmonico’s is considered America’s first fine dining restaurant and the cornerstone of what became a vast hospitality empire.
- Architect Gustave E. Steinback, who over the course of his career designed more than thirty buildings for the Roman Catholic church. Other New York City Landmarks designed by Gustave E. Steinback include Our Lady Queen of All Saints Church (1910-1915) and the Church of the Blessed Sacrament (1917).

Following the church’s founding, several other Hispanic institutions opened nearby on West 14th Street, including Casa Maria (a Spanish Settlement house run by the Servants of Mary), La Nacional: The Spanish Benevolent Society, St. Raphael’s Spanish Immigrant Society, and the Spanish American Workers Alliance. When Our Lady of Guadalupe opened its doors, the city had a relatively tiny Spanish-speaking population. Now nearly 30% of its population, or over 2.4 million people, claim Hispanic heritage—more than any other city in the United States.

Recent History

After a century at 229 West 14th Street, the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe consolidated with the much smaller St. Bernard’s parish in 2002. The new Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Bernard, or La Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en San Bernardo, began meeting at the St. Bernard’s Church building at 328 West 14th Street.

On January 1, 2023, the Archbishop of New York issued a decree on the relegation of the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located at 229-231 West 14th Street, signaling the

church will be deconsecrated and deaccessioned by the Archdiocese of New York. The recent decree puts this vital historic and architectural resource in imminent danger.

In his decree, Archbishop Timothy Dolan stated, “negotiations that may lead to the sale of the property may start.” Because of this deconsecration, LPC must act urgently to prevent any harm to this important historic and cultural site, which could result from its sale.

The Property

The property consists of two adjacent lots. The site of 331 West 14th Street (The property) is 3,124 square feet, with a frontage of 25 feet. The seven-story building covers the entire lot and has a total gross area of 13,555 square feet. The site of 229 West 14th Street (the Church) is 3124 square feet, with a frontage of 25 feet. The four-story building covers the entire lot and has a total gross area of 7,812 square feet. The building’s façade is remarkably intact. The floors above the church are residential. The building sits between other multi-family residential buildings on a mixed-use block. Both sites are in a C6-2A district which permits commercial uses (6.0 FAR), residential uses (6.02 FAR) and community facility uses (6.5 FAR). The existing building and church cover the full lot.

Analysis

Our Lady of Guadalupe is a rare architectural remnant of Little Spain surviving in the contemporary built environment. Its historical and cultural significance to Hispanic New Yorkers is well documented and storied. There is a precedent for designating the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe as a Landmark. In May, 2021, LPC designated Holyrood Episcopal Church-Iglesia Santa Cruz in Washington Heights as part of its Equity framework commitment and stated that the church “fills a gap in representation of New York City’s Latino community.” Similarly, the Church of our Lady of Guadeloupe has stood as a beacon for the Catholic Hispanic population citywide and must be designated to continue to tell the stories of *all* New Yorkers.

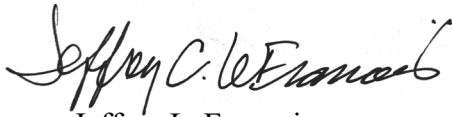
As LPC stated in its Equity Framework, “New York City’s diversity is its greatest strength, essential to its significance as a thriving cultural, intellectual, artistic, and economic center.” The Hispanic experience has been and continues to be central to New York. The lives, history and culture of New York’s Hispanic residents and leaders should continue to be recognized in landmarks and historic districts throughout the city.

CB4 Recommendation

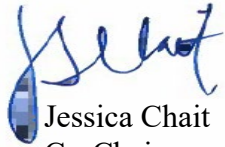
CB4 urges the Commission to expedite the Request for Evaluation of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church for designation as an individual New York City Landmark. It is of critical historic, cultural, and architectural significance. The church was determined eligible for the State and National Register of Historic Places in 2011 for its association

with important historical events, and for its embodiment of a specific architectural style by an architectural master. Furthermore, the church undoubtedly meets the criteria established for consideration under the Landmarks Preservation Commission's Equity Framework. Our Lady of Guadalupe's continued cultural importance to the history of the Hispanic population in Chelsea, and the city as a whole, is undeniable.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Jessica Chait
Co-Chair
Chelsea Land Use
Committee



Kerry Keenan
Co-Chair
Chelsea Land Use
Committee

cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, New York Senate
Hon. Deborah Glick, New York Assembly
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council
Village Preservation



Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission 1 Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Support for Request for Evaluation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 West 14th Street, Manhattan

Dear Mayor Adams and Chair Carroll,

Please accept this letter as our unequivocal support for landmark designation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 229-231 West 14th Street.

Our organization, La Nacional – Spanish Benevolent Society, and Guadalupe Church have anchored this block on West 14th Street, once known as “Little Spain” for over 100 years. Guadalupe has always been the heart of this area, providing countless memories for the entire community. For this reason we’d like to express our support for the Request for Evaluation submitted for this site by Village Preservation, and to express our strong support for landmark designation to recognize and preserve this uniquely important site.

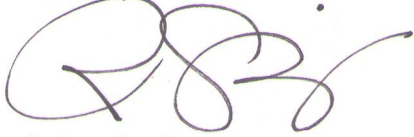
Consisting of two altered ca. 1850 brownstone townhouses, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church was established in 1902 as New York’s very first church for a Spanish-speaking congregation, serving both Spaniards and Latin Americans from its earliest days. As New York City now contains the largest Hispanic population of any city in the country, constituting roughly 30% of the city’s residents, this was an incredibly important milestone, at the beginning of a century which saw Latin Americans become one of the largest ethnic groups in New York City.

The church’s 1921 Spanish Renaissance facade by architect Gustave Steinback is a tangible link to the once vast 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 an incredibly important, seminal piece of New York’s Latin American and Spanish-speaking heritage. Especially in light of the Landmarks Preservation Commission’s ‘Equity Framework’ and stated commitment to including and recognizing our city’s diverse histories and constituencies, the need for designation of Our Lady of Guadalupe would seem undeniable.

Lastly, Guadalupe's preservation for our community is vital. Thousands of our members can trace their ancestor's first mass, baptisms, weddings and memorial services to Guadalupe. The city currently has very few designated landmarks which honor or recognize this history of the Spanish-speaking population. And if the Commission doesn't act soon, the possibility to do so here may be lost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'RS', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Sanfiz
Executive Director
La Nacional – Spanish Benevolent Society



Consulado General de España

New York, March 2nd 2023

RECEIVED

MAR - 7 2023

LANDMARKS PRES
COMMISSION

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission 1 Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Request for Evaluation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 West 14th Street, Manhattan

Dear Mayor Adams and Chair Carroll,

We are paying attention and reading with a favorable consideration the messages that this Consulate General of Spain in New York is receiving from various American institutions in support for landmark designation to recognize and preserve Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 229-231 West 14th Street.

This General Consulate of Spain is aware of the extraordinary links that this Church (also known as Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe) -as New York City's very first Spanish-language church- has for the Spaniards, especially for the once-thriving "Little Spain" immigrant community centered in northwest Greenwich Village and lower Chelsea.

This church is also of incalculable value to the Latin American community in New York, as it bears the name of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in honor of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world.

We also see this monument as a relevant Hispanic architectural heritage in New York.

For all these reasons, we would applaud any initiative to preserve this treasure for New York City.

Sincerely,

Pedro Calvo-Sotelo

Consul



THE ART of EVERYDAY LIFE – SINCE 1986

March 1, 2023

Sarah Carroll, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, Ninth Floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 W. 14th Street

Dear Chair Carroll,

City Lore and Place Matters write to express support for Village Preservation’s campaign to landmark Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, located at 229-231 W. 14th Street in Manhattan. Opened in 1902 by New York Archbishop Michael Corrigan, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, or Nuestra Señora de la Guadalupe, was the first church or congregation dedicated to serving the estimated 45,000 Spanish-speaking Catholics of the archdiocese, and was founded as the national parish for all Spanish-speaking Catholics in New York City.

Immigration from Spain to the United States reached its peak between 1905 and 1920. Almost two-thirds of the immigrants from Spain in the early twentieth century came from the north of the country; from the provinces of Leon, Asturias, Old Castile and Catalonia, and particularly from Galicia, north of Portugal, whose provinces Coruña, Lugo, Orense, and Pontevedra provided slightly over a third of the total. Once in New York, the immigrants created footholds in different parts of the city, largely in tenement areas. Galicians and Basques lived on the Lower East Side and Greenwich Village; Andalusians lived in Brooklyn. Like their counterparts among other immigrant groups, they created community anchors—churches, clubs, and businesses—that reflected the regions they came from, such as El Centro Asturiano, El Centro Andaluz, and La Casa Galicia (in the building on E. 11th St. that we know as Webster Hall).

Following the inauguration of Our Lady of Gaudalupe, several other related institutions serving the city’s Spanish-speaking communities opened nearby on West 14th Street. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church thus became a long-time community anchor for a neighborhood known as “Little Spain.” Organizations and stores that provided services and goods to the Spanish immigrant community around 14th Street included the settlement house Casa Maria, St. Raphael’s Spanish Immigrant Society, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. They were all located on the same block of 14th St. and constituted the heart of Little Spain. Nearby were the Spanish American Worker’s Alliance, the Hotel Espanyol, and other businesses serving the Spanish immigrants. The famed Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca, Spanish director Luis Buñuel, who was in exile from his country during the 1940s, as well as the Spanish poet Antonio Machado all spent time in and around Little Spain.

Over the course of the 20th century, Spanish-speaking New Yorkers, including Galicians, Asturians, Puerto Ricans, Basques, Cubans, and Mexicans, all relied on Our Lady of Guadalupe for critical life events including weddings, christenings, burials, as well as holiday services and celebrations. As the Spanish community declined and other Spanish-speaking communities moved in, such as Puerto Ricans and Mexicans, new institutions like the Spanish-language bookstore Macondo and the Asociacion Tepeyac de New York (named after the hill outside of Mexico City where the Virgin of Guadalupe was sighted) opened.

While we usually associate the Virgin of Guadalupe with the Mexican community, her history goes back further. The Virgin of Guadalupe in Spain is represented by one of the Black Madonnas found throughout southern Europe (France, Italy, Spain). Legend has it that the icon arrived in Spain in the 6th century and developed a reputation as a healing icon, until it disappeared during the Moorish invasions of Sevilla in 711 CE. In the 13th century the Virgin "appeared" to a peasant in the hills of Extremadura, a region in central Spain. The icon found there (though it does not seem to be dated to the 6th century) is enshrined in a nearby monastery in Guadalupe, Spain, called Santa Maria de Guadalupe. Hernan Cortes and his men were from Extremadura so it is not surprising that the version of Catholicism practiced in Mexico at the time was influenced by those beliefs. However, when the vision of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531, it is believed the Virgin referred to herself using an Aztec Nahuatl word pronounced, "quatlasupe" interpreted as "she who crushes the serpent"--referring to the Aztec serpent-god Quetzalcoatl. The Virgin's appearance on Tepeyac was also at the spot the Aztecs had worshipped an Earth goddess called Tonantzin. Guadalupe was to become the patroness of Latin America and the first Native Americans converted to Christianity were brought to Santa Maria de Guadalupe in Spain to be baptized.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, at 229-231 West 14th Street, possesses rich architectural and historical significance despite being a small parish church. The building occupied by Guadalupe is a mid-nineteenth-century brownstone (interestingly, the former home of restaurateur Charles Delmonico) that has been masterfully converted from a posh rowhouse to a double-height sanctuary, complete with a monumental entrance, side chapel, tiny balcony, and clerestory. This transformation from residence to church, a form which makes Guadalupe extremely rare, spanned two decades and involved several notable architects, including George H. Streeton, Paul C. Hunter, and Gustave Steinback. Steinback, known for his work on religious projects, designed No. 229's classically proportioned limestone Spanish Colonial Baroque facade in 1921. The facade on No. 231 was added at a later date by a yet unknown architect. Although the church remained extremely popular, it was consolidated with nearby St. Bernard's parish. Today, Guadalupe is a rare architectural trace of Little Spain and highly worthy of New York City landmark designation.

Sincerely,
Elena Martínez, Folklorist, City Lore
Molly Garfinkel, Co-Director, City Lore





Preservation League of NYS

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February 25, 2023

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams and Chair Carroll:

On behalf of the Preservation League of New York State, I write in support of the evaluation and designation of the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 229-231 West 14th Street, also known as Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe and Iglesia Católica Guadalupe. This building, which has been determined eligible for the State and National Registers based on both its historic and architectural significance, is highly worthy of designation and protection.

The building has its origins as two brownstones dating to the mid-nineteenth century, which were combined in 1902 to house the church. This was the first church dedicated to serving what were then about 45,000 Spanish-speaking Catholics in the archdiocese. Although New York's Spanish-speaking community then consisted largely of natives of Spain, the church was dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico, reflecting what was then a small but very important Mexican community in New York.

The establishment of this church was key to the growth of the "Little Spain" neighborhood around 14th Street near the Hudson River. It was an important gathering place for Spanish-speaking Catholics, who came to Our Lady of Guadalupe for weddings, christenings, funeral services, and daily masses and confession offered in both Spanish and English. Other Spanish commercial and cultural institutions soon clustered in the vicinity of the church. In 1921, architect Gustave E. Steinback designed the Spanish Colonial Baroque-style façade, which was added as part of the remodeling of the building, its style chosen to reflect the cultural heritage of its congregation.

Although the Spanish presence in the neighborhood dwindled in the twentieth century as natives of Spain dispersed, the growth in immigration from Central and South America meant there was a continuing, and rapidly expanding, population of Spanish speakers in New York City. Our Lady of Guadalupe continued to serve as an important cultural and religious center for an increasingly diverse community of Catholics hailing from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, and other parts of Central and South America. Today, people of Hispanic heritage make up about 30% of New York

City's population. This church is a tangible link to the long roots of Spanish and Latin American culture in the city.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church is unique and notable for its early and ongoing association with the Spanish-speaking population of New York, as well as for its unusual architectural evolution and elegant design. The Preservation League strongly supports the evaluation and landmark designation of this highly significant building.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KCC', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Katie Eggers Comeau
Vice President for Policy and Preservation



February 23, 2023

Honorable Sarah Carroll
Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, Ninth Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Re: Request for Evaluation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 West 14th Street, Manhattan

Dear Sarah,

The Landmarks Conservancy supports the request by Village Preservation that the Commission urgently consider landmark designation of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Village Preservation's RFE submission clearly establishes that the site has:

"a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation,"

as New York City's very first Spanish-language church. For well over a hundred years, until its recent relegation, the former Our Lady of Guadalupe Church has served generations of Spanish-speaking immigrants and New Yorkers, both before and after this parish merged, in 2003, with nearby St. Bernard's. This important cultural significance is reinforced by a façade skillfully altered by Gustave E. Steinback in 1921 in Spanish Colonial Baroque style. Despite de-consecration and pending adaptive use, this site- and its present façade- clearly marks this century of Spanish and Latin American culture and history in New York City, and therefore strongly merits consideration as a landmark.

Local landmark designation would ensure that, as this property moves forward to a new and different use, that the significant Spanish Baroque elements of the façade are maintained going forward, and this important marker of New York City's Spanish heritage and immigration history does not disappear from our collective streetscape and memory. It would also be a major milestone in the Commission's implementation of its Equity Framework, adopted in 2021, by helping to "ensure diversity and inclusion in designations, to make sure that we are telling the stories of all New Yorkers."

Thank you for considering the Landmarks Conservancy's views.

Sincerely,



Peg Breen
President



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



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THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

232 East 11th Street New York NY 10003
tel (212) 614-9107 fax (212) 614-9127 email hdc@hdc.org

February 21, 2023

Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Carroll,

The Historic Districts Council is writing to express support for Village Preservation's campaign to landmark Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, at 229-231 West 14th Street in Manhattan. Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe and Iglesia Católica Guadalupe, bears city-wide significance as New York's first Spanish-language church or church for a Spanish-speaking congregation.

Founded as the national parish for Spanish-speaking Catholics in New York City, and dedicated, since its founding in 1902, to the Patron Saint of Mexico, Our Lady of Guadalupe has always served Hispanic and Latinx community, writ large. Given that nearly a third of New York City residents today claim Hispanic heritage, yet sites related to Hispanic and Latinx history are drastically under-preserved, it is vital that the Landmarks Preservation Commission recognize this site as an individual landmark. The designation would not only protect a unique part of the city's history, but also align with LPC's own Equity Framework and commitment to designating sites that recognize diverse histories.

Those histories extend outside the Latinx community into the discussion of contemporary Catholic sainthood. Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker movement, and current candidate for canonization, attended the church shortly after her conversion to Catholicism, and learned and grew in her faith there.

Beyond its eminently meritorious cultural history, the architecture of 229-231 West 14th Street, described in the AIA guide as an "extraordinary brownstone conversion," which transformed two single-family row houses from 1850 into a house of worship, also offers historic lessons about successful adaptive reuse. Given that conversions and resource conservation are major tenets of New York's own City of Yes climate resiliency and fair housing plan, examples like Our Lady of Guadalupe Church offer a roadmap for architects and developers working today.

On the merits of both its cultural and architectural significance, it is urgent that the LPC move swiftly to landmark Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sincerely,



Frampton Tolbert
Executive Director



PO Box 1315 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10113-1315
website: www.savechelseany.org email: savechelseanyc@gmail.com

February 17, 2023

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: **Landmark Designation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 229-231 West 14th Street, Manhattan**

Dear Mayor Adams and Chair Carroll:

Save Chelsea strongly supports landmark designation for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. We ask the Landmarks Preservation Commission to review Village Preservation's Request for Evaluation of February 7, 2023, without delay.

The church is an invaluable record of Chelsea's multicultural working-class history, from Spanish arrivals during the peak years of European immigration to the waves of Latin American immigration that followed. A symbol of the influx of cultural diversity that makes New York great, the church's Spanish Colonial Baroque façade stands out from the staid rowhouses surrounding it. Its exotic presence enlivens the streetscape and tells the story of Little Spain, which we in Chelsea are so proud to claim as our own.

Our Lady of Guadalupe merits individual landmark designation for both its inherent architectural interest and the rich cultural history it embodies. Its designation would lend credibility to the Equity Framework which the Landmarks Preservation Commission established to "ensure diversity and inclusion in designations, to make sure that we are telling the stories of all New Yorkers."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela Wolff', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pamela Wolff,
President

Cc: Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Assemblymember Tony Simone
City Council Member Erik Bottcher
Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine