



April 27, 2023

Mayor Eric Adams  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Sarah Carroll  
Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Eric Adams and Chair Sarah Carroll,

We write to urge you to assist with the survival of Theatre 80 on St. Mark's Place in our districts by considering 78-80 St. Mark's Place for a landmark designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. For years, our offices have advocated for this beloved cultural institution and piece of New York history to remain. Currently, it is in danger of being lost to real estate speculation that is plaguing many neighborhoods in our city, especially the East Village. A landmark designation for these buildings will honor the legacy of artists and immigration in the East Village, as well as protect this important cultural institution for today's audiences and future generations.

Theatre 80 is located in a building that has stood on St. Mark's Place for nearly 180 years and has overseen and embodied the evolution of St. Mark's Place from a fashionable merchant-class neighborhood through waves of immigration and an artistic revolution following World War II. The building was once home to the Jazz Gallery, which saw performances by Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, and Frank Sinatra among others. After converting to a theater in the 1960s, it has since hosted diverse programming that has included Shakespeare, contemporary pieces and the premiere of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Currently, the building is home to Theatre 80, the Museum of the American Gangster, and the William Barnacle Tavern, one of the last preserved bars of the speakeasy tradition from the prohibition era.

The rich history of 78-80 St. Mark's Place continues to this day and must be preserved, and its potential loss to the neighborhood makes the urgency of a designation even more important. We encourage the Landmarks Preservation Commission to consider this location for landmark designation, and ask the Mayor's Office to support this important cultural institution.

Sincerely,

Carlina Rivera  
New York City Council  
2<sup>nd</sup> District

Deborah J. Glick  
New York State Assembly  
66<sup>th</sup> District

Mark Levine  
Manhattan Borough President