



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Harlem Meer - Central Park
July 30, 2024**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The Certificate of Appropriateness Committee wishes to comment on the Harlem Meer project proposed within Central Park, An English Romantic style public park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux and built in 1857-1858. Application is to establish a master plan governing future modifications to the shoreline and pathways, and the installation of a ramp and a boardwalk.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee appreciates that the Central Park Conservancy is continuing its work to make most areas of the park ADA compliant and amending some of its prior decisions by replacing invasive plant species with a more diverse set of plantings.

However, our Committee believes that if incremental elements must be added to the park, that they serve an essential public purpose, and if they *absolutely MUST* be added, then these elements should be consistent with the design and naturality of the Olmsted and Vaux park. The proposed boardwalk at the South Shoreline is inconsistent with the original design intent of the park. Boardwalks like these are more appropriate at nature reserves than a Victorian style urban park.

Thank you.