



January 28, 2025

The Honorable Sarah Carroll, Chair  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
David N. Dinkins Municipal Building  
1 Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor North  
New York, NY 10007

Re: LPC-25-06122 Certificate of Appropriateness  
945 Madison Avenue, the former Whitney Museum of American Art

Dear Chair Carroll:

I am John Arbuckle, President of DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State, a local chapter of Docomomo US, which is a national working group of Docomomo International, an organization founded in 1988, now working in over 70 countries to increase public awareness and appreciation of Modern architecture, landscapes and urban design; to identify and document local examples; and to advocate for the protection of those determined most significant. Since 1996, the chapter has been advancing this mission in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

I am testifying today on item LPC-25-06122, the proposed changes to 945 Madison Avenue, the former Whitney Museum of American Art.

After reviewing the proposal, DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State does not object to the addition of the elevator bulkhead and the changes in signage to the existing vitrine. However, we are opposed to the addition of a large reflective metal panel to the underside of the entrance canopy. Neither painting the underside of the canopy, as previously proposed, nor installing either a bronze or a stainless steel panel would be acceptable. We believe that uplifting the canopy from below would be a more appropriate solution here which would add illumination while keeping the concrete texture on the underside of the canopy visible as the architect intended.

In closing, let me add that DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State in collaboration with Docomomo US, submitted a RFE to the Commission to designate the building's interiors in late 2023 and we are grateful that the Commission voted in December to calendar the building as both an Interior Landmark and an individually designated landmark. We strongly encourage the Commission to enact both designations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Arbuckle".

John S. Arbuckle  
President  
DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State  
info@docomomo-nytri.org