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536 LaGuardia Place
New York, NY 10012
212 683 0023
info@aiany.org
www.aiany.org

May 5, 2015

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Re: 28 Liberty Street

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

On behalf of the AIA New York Chapter and our more than 5,000 members in New York City, we would like to register our support for the proposal to renovate 28 Liberty/One Chase Manhattan Plaza by SOM Architects.

One Chase Manhattan Plaza was created for a social and urban context that has transformed over the intervening 40+ years since its original design. We believe that changes to individual landmarks must be judged not only for consistency with original ideas, but also for their ability to renew public appreciation of the historic structure. The proposal put forward today seeks to address contemporary conditions and contexts, refreshing the relationship of the building and plaza to the sidewalk and city around it.

With the proposed design, SOM can ensure that the building's utility is extended well into the future. The adjustments to access will increase public engagement and enhance the value of the ensemble. The proposed design changes make the plaza more welcoming and accessible to NYC residents and visitors. Commercial amenities will be brought to a district historically dominated by office culture, but now increasingly residential. The addition of street-level retail will recharge the pedestrian streetscape with activity and vitality.

We stand behind Fosun for retaining SOM (the original design firm responsible for this great building) for the renovation, and we support this project, which will contribute to this noteworthy landmark's character and value.

Sincerely,

Caterina Roiatti, AIA, NCARB, Principal, TRA STUDIO Architecture, PLLC.
Co-Chair, AIANY Historic Buildings Committee