

**TESTIMONY OF MARK GINSBERG**  
**NOMINEE TO THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, & ELECTIONS**  
**JANUARY 9, 2023**

Good morning, Speaker Adams, Chair Powers, and members of the Rules, Privileges, and Elections Committee. My name is Mark Ginsberg. Thank you to the City Council for inviting me to appear before you today. I want to thank Mayor Adams for my nomination to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Council for your time and consideration. As a native New Yorker who has lived in our remarkable City for my entire life, I love this city: its character, history, and people. I grew up surrounded by a landmark district, and for the last 32 years I have lived in a landmark district.

For 37 years, I have had a diverse architecture career in New York – the last 33 for my own firm. I have worked on several historic buildings and my firm has received awards for this work. My work with the Commission has reinforced my belief in the importance of historic preservation and preserving significant buildings and areas of the past.

The focus of my firm has centered on affordable housing, sustainable and community-based design. We have designed and renovated over 21,000 units of housing, supportive housing, and shelter housing. Sustainability has been increasingly important to our work. We have completed six large residential and mixed-use passive house buildings that are incredibly energy efficient, just completed our first two all-electric buildings, and have several more in design. These affordable buildings will meet the 2050 requirements of Local Law 97 for Sustainable Buildings today. Our work has shown that historic renovation and sustainability can be complementary, such as the recent work on the renovation of the Harlem River Houses, an individual landmark, and a jewel in NYCHA's portfolio. Harlem River Houses was in much need of restoration and upgrading, and the renovation respects the building's historical importance while installing all electric heating and cooling that, when the renovation is complete, will significantly reduce the operational carbon footprint.

The Commission is tasked with protecting New York City's architectural, historical, and culturally significant buildings and sites. Preserving the historic character of landmarked buildings and districts is a particular challenge in a city like New York where there is constant change. Change in the 21st century requires addressing the existential issue of climate change by reducing both operational and embodied carbon. My knowledge and practical experience will bring expertise to the Commission that, I hope, will support the Commission's deliberations, and assist the Commission in meeting its charge, while also being a model for how a 21st century city can be both environmentally cutting-edge and respectful of New York's globally important cultural, historical, and architectural history. With my experience in affordable housing and life-long advocacy for adequate housing for all New Yorkers, I will also bring to the Commission knowledge and expertise that hopefully will assist the Commissioners in reviewing these types of projects and will allow us to make New York City a better place to live and work for all our citizens.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I look forward to answering any question you have.

January 6, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

The American Institute of Architects New York (AIANY) is expressing its strong support for the candidacy of Mark Ginsberg, FAIA, to serve as a Commissioner of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC).

Mr. Ginsberg is incredibly qualified to serve in this role. Since co-founding Curtis + Ginsberg Architects in 1990, he has overseen countless mixed-use, multi-family, institutional, cultural, and commercial projects in New York City, a number of which required LPC approval. This professional experience provides him with the unique understanding of how commissioners impact design and construction.


Mr. Ginsberg brings an expanded perspective of what preservation is. Having worked extensively to retrofit New York's aging housing stock, he understands the pressing need to incorporate sustainable design into preservation housing stock and appreciates that there is a social value to maintaining and reusing existing buildings.

Outside of his firm's work, Mr. Ginsberg has also committed himself to furthering preservation. He previously served as President of AIANY, currently serves as President of Citizen's Housing and Planning Council, and holds leadership roles in numerous other organizations.

For these reasons, AIANY strongly urges the City Council to support Mr. Ginsberg as LPC Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bremer, AIA



President

Benjamin Prosky, Assoc. AIA



Executive Director

The American Institute of Architects

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 1/9/2023

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: MARIE GINSBERG

Address: 55 BROAD ST. 8TH FL NY, NY, 10005

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆