

CHAIR  
CHRISTY MACLEAR

PRESIDENT  
ELIZABETH GOLDSTEIN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GABRIEL CALATRAVA  
SANTIAGO CALATRAVA  
LISA SMITH CASHIN  
VIN CIPOLLA  
ELIZABETH DILLER  
MICHAEL P. DONOVAN  
MARK FISCH  
SUSAN K. FREEDMAN  
FREDERICK ISEMAN  
AMIT KHURANA  
JILL LERNER  
CHRISTY MACLEAR  
CHRIS MCCARTIN

JOSEPH A. McMILLAN, JR.  
RICHARD OLCOTT  
BARBARA KOZ PALEY  
CHARLES A. PLATT  
CARL L. REISNER  
DAVID F. SOLOMON  
KENT M. SWIG  
YEOHLEE TENG  
EARL D. WEINER, ESQ.

DIRECTORS EMERITI  
KENT L. BARWICK  
DAVID M. CHILDS  
JOAN K. DAVIDSON  
PHILIP K. HOWARD  
JOHN E. MEROW  
JANET C. ROSS  
WHITNEY NORTH SEYMOUR, JR.  
JERRY I. SPEYER  
STEPHEN C. SWID  
HELEN S. TUCKER

January 30, 2018

Ms. Layla Law-Gisiko, Chair  
Landmarks Committee  
Manhattan Community Board Five  
450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109  
New York, NY 10123

Dear Chair Law-Gisiko,

MAS writes to support the designation of the former AT&T Building at 550 Madison Avenue as an individual and interior New York City landmark. Designed by Philip Johnson and completed in 1984, this iconic building arguably launched the Postmodern movement in New York City and is a significant work of American architecture.

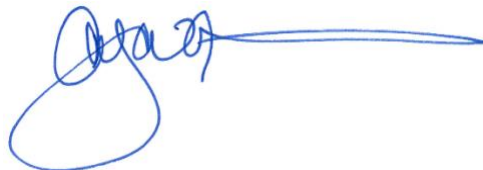
Philip Johnson is one of the most important architects of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was with this building that Johnson introduced the idea of adapting architectural features from the past for contemporary office towers. Indeed, Leland Roth and Amanda Roth Clark assert "The building that announced Johnson's wholehearted embrace of ironic Postmodern classicism, and his rise to the status of superstar in the architectural world, was the design for the AT&T building in New York, of 1975-1984."

At the time of its construction, the monolithic former AT&T Building was a daring shift away from contemporary glass towers in the International Style, a term coined by Johnson. The design for the former AT&T Building instead looked towards the historical, clad in the same granite used in Grand Central Terminal. The building rests heavily on the street atop wide stone pillars and a grand archway entrance, inextricably connected to its monumental lobby. Its beloved Chippendale top is a prominent fixture in the city skyline.

Although it is a controversial form, Postmodernism is an important chapter in American architecture and its archetype, the former AT&T Building, contributes to the diversity of building styles in East Midtown.

We urge Community Board Five to support the exterior and interior designation of this exemplary structure.

Yours truly,



Elizabeth Goldstein  
President