

June 11, 2024

Hon. Chair Sarah Carroll  
Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street, 9th floor  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Willoughby Hart Historic District, Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn

Dear Chair Carroll,

The Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) fully supports the designation of the Willoughby-Hart Historic District in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

MAS advocates for the preservation of places that exemplify the unique character and histories of neighborhoods across New York City, while allowing for necessary growth and development that supports resilient communities.

The proposed Historic District – Willoughby Avenue and Hart Street between Marcy and Nostrand Avenues – includes two distinctive streetscapes of late 19th-century neo-Grec-style, Second Empire and Romanesque Revival row houses, which create a unique sense of place.

Many community members have cared for and preserved these homes for multiple generations and the landmark designation would provide them access to resources that will further aid them in their efforts.

We understand that changes have been made and that maintaining historic buildings can be costly and therefore urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to be flexible in its review of existing and future thoughtful alterations and additions.

The Commission has long recognized the importance of these blocks for both their history and architectural significance, and community members have called for their preservation.

We recognize the hard work the community has put toward this designation and look forward to Willoughby Avenue and Hart Street between Marcy and Nostrand Avenues becoming New York City's newest Historic District.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Goldstein  
President