



THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

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October 2, 2019

Ms. Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Carroll,

The Garden Conservancy enthusiastically supports the Morgan Library & Museum's proposal for a new garden, improved lighting, and new signage in conjunction with the comprehensive exterior restoration of its 1906 landmark library building by McKim, Mead, and White. As the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and sharing America's gardens for the education and inspiration of the public, the Conservancy strongly endorses the plans for these improvements. The plans respect the character of the library's historic architecture; they complement it aesthetically and will facilitate public engagement with the building and the site.

We note that the project team includes distinguished and highly respected firms, including Todd Longstaffe-Gowan Landscape Design. Based in London, the firm has designed diverse public and private historic landscapes in many countries. In Britain, Todd Longstaffe-Gowan serves as Gardens Advisor to Historic Royal Palaces, landscape adviser to the Crown Estate Paving Commission in Regent's Park, and president and founding member of the London Parks and Gardens Trust. This is his firm's first commission in the United States.

We also appreciate that the new garden will contribute to a more attractive public streetscape, increase public accessibility, and display antiquities from the museum's holdings—objects that have not previously been on view to the public and which will hint at the collections within the museum. In addition to bringing some of the museum's cultural treasures out to the public, the new design provides an inviting new space for programs and events.

On behalf of the Garden Conservancy and our board of directors, I urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to give the green light to this beautiful new green space.

James Brayton Hall
President and CEO

cc: Colin B. Bailey, Director, The Morgan Library & Museum