

Neighborhood
Association of the
Back Bay



August 6, 2010

Susan D. Pranger, Chair
Boston Landmarks Commission
Environment Department
City of Boston, Boston City Hall/ Room 805
Boston, Massachusetts 02201

Regarding: Christian Science Center Complex Study Report Petition #223.07

Dear Ms Pranger:

We appreciate the comment period for the opportunity to strongly urge the Boston Landmarks Commission toward a straightforward landmark designation that incorporates none of the caveats or amendments currently included in the Boston Landmarks staff report for Petition #223.07 or any amendments developed through a sub-committee process.

The Christian Science Plaza is the rare successful example of mid-20th century urbanism. The plaza as a holistic space, with its reflecting pools, bosque allee, and major buildings, is a treasure to be protected by the full attention and weight of the Boston Landmarks Commission. It is an important and successful modern space within the context of historic brownstone homes deserving the recognition and protection of landmark designation with no amendments to dilute said protection.

Straightforward landmarks designation would recognize the vision of the church in creating and maintaining this highly valued modern space within the historic context of the surrounding neighborhoods. And it would ensure that which is necessary for the protection of this world recognized space. Landmarking will safeguard the historical qualities of the area by establishing the set of criteria outlined in the Study Report.

Landmarking the site as it exists today would not preclude development, but would ensure that development proposals receive a thorough public review before the Commission.

We conclude by again advocating for landmark designation with none of the dilatory amendments in the current report or any amendments developed through a committee process.

Very truly yours,

Ann Gleason, Chair

Linda Zukowski, President

cc:	Mayor Thomas Menino	mayor@cityofboston.gov
	Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz	Sonia.Chang-Diaz@state.ma.us
	Rep. Martha Walz	Marty.Walz@state.ma.us
	Rep. Byron Rushing	byron.rushing@state.ma.us
	Councilor Michael Ross	michael.ross@cityofboston.gov
	Ms Ellen Lipsey, Executive Director	ellen.lipsey@cityofboston.gov
	Jackie Yessian, Chair NABB Development Committee	

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Jackie Yessian

Lois Harvey
Office Administrator