



*Testimony in Support of the Proposed Designation of the  
LGBT Community Center, 208 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan,  
as a New York City Landmark*

*Tuesday, June 4, 2019*

My name is Andrew Dolkart and I am a co-founder/co-director of the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project, a cultural heritage initiative founded by historic preservationists in 2015 to document historic places connected to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the city's five boroughs.

On behalf of both the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project and myself, I strongly support the designation of the LGBT Community Center as an individual New York City Landmark. The LGBT Community Center is central to the development of the LGBT community in New York, having created a place where groups and individuals could meet in a safe and supportive environment. Prior to the conversion of this former school into the LGBT Center, there was no place where the various groups that make up the LGBT community could meet.

Founded in 1983, the Center has witnessed the founding of ACT UP, GLAAD, Las Buenas Amigas, Queer Nation, Lesbian Avengers, the Gender Identity Project, and over 400 other groups that provide significant support to a diverse array of queer New Yorkers. The Center has also hosted a long-term lecture and readings series and is home to a major archive of LGBT research material. A year after the Center acquired the building, Francoise Bollack undertook an exceptionally fine restoration of the façade, as well as work on the interior. There is no other building in New York that is so central to the everyday lives of so many LGBT people and, while it is already part of the Greenwich Village Historic District, its recognition as an individual landmark is to be celebrated.