

**Save Our Lady of Loreto – Stop the destruction of Brownsville’s architecture, history, direct link to hardships of immigrants, equality for all and its future!**

**NYC Recipients: Mayor DeBlasio, CM Rafael Espinal, LPC Chair Srinivasan**

The Brownsville Cultural Coalition and the community of Brownsville is urging to Save Our Lady of Loreto church from demolition! The Coalition consists of Brownsville community residents, former parishioners, NYC residents, and cultural organizations including Nia Production, Brownsville Heritage House, and Preserving East New York. The committee is petitioning to urge the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate Lady of Loreto Church at 124 Sackman Street Brooklyn, NY (now 2367 Pacific Street) as a historical landmark.

The committee wishes to stop the demolition order, preserve the church, then transform it into an arts and culture center for the residents of Ocean Hill- Brownsville Brooklyn, NY; areas designated by New York City Council as ‘culturally underserved’. As a cultural center it would deliver artistic/cultural events and programs to residents by residents. As a landmarked cultural center Our Lady of Loreto will continue to serve the community and its history and architecture will be preserved. Brownsville will have the opportunity to attract its residents and tourists as a vibrant, diverse and balanced community.

Our Lady of Loreto church is a true marvel of advanced construction and first church built in Pure Italian Renaissance style in New York City from 1907. It is a rare and original example of being constructed in entirely cast stone and a complete reinforced concrete structure. This structure is a rare and only example of a church built by a team all Italian immigrant crafters during a time they endured the hardships of being a discriminated ethnic group. This church was built for and by Italian Americans at a time when we were discriminated against in many ways and one of them being not able to worship in other Catholic churches freely and limited to basements only while still scrutinized. This church is a symbol of the immigrant story and history in this country and NYC.

Our Lady of Loreto is an art treasure for its neighborhood and residents that is an inspiring structure to have in ones’ community for future generations. This building also serves as an inspiration to all immigrants that enter this country and NYC that anything is possible. Most of all we must not forget this building serves as a testament to the freedom and justice we fight so hard to maintain in this country still today. It is a reminder for fair treatment for all races, ethnicities, cultures and religions and we must not forget the sacrifices and discrimination that so many have endured to make NYC and America a fair and just place for all. Inequality will not be tolerated and this building serves as a prime example.

I implore you to take action to preserve this historic building by signing our petition to have it spared from demolition and designated as a New York City Landmark.

**Marialena Giampino of the Brownsville Cultural Coalition**