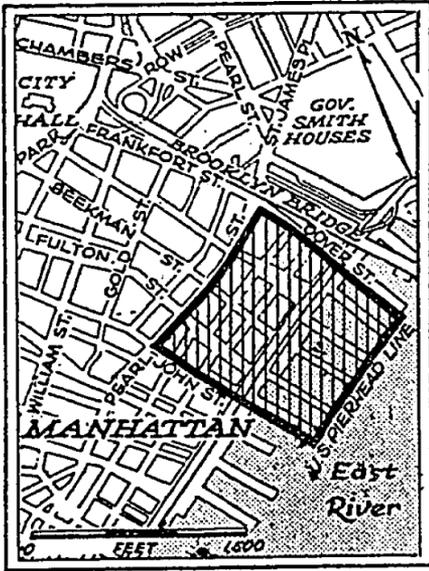


SAVE OUR SEAPORT COALITION

WATERFRONT | MUSEUM | MARKET | DISTRICT



The New York Times March 28, 1968

In 1968, the City of New York designated the only remaining fragment of our first port and commercial district as a special Urban Renewal Zone with the stated goal of preserving, restoring, and revitalizing its buildings, streets, and piers. This rare and valuable public asset was never meant to be a shopping mall.

The Lower Manhattan neighborhood now called the “South Street Seaport Historic District” is a largely intact 19th-century port and market district at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge. This 12-block remnant of New York’s original waterfront—in continuous use as a public marketplace and working harbor since 1642—includes some of the city’s oldest, most compelling public spaces. But despite five decades of community involvement and over \$200 million of city, state, and federal funding, this unique and irreplaceable repository of the city’s past remains threatened by insensitive development proposals that will forever undermine its vast economic and cultural potential.

The Howard Hughes Corporation (HHC) is now seeking City Council approval to replace the Pier 17 Pavilion with an even larger, big-box shopping mall. Preserving none of the existing building’s civic character, the new mall is an aggressive imposition on the waterfront. Even worse, as described in its Letter of Intent, HHC plans to reshape the Seaport District entirely by replacing the Fulton Fish Market with a luxury hotel and residential tower, and by commercializing all remaining city-owned sites on Fulton, Front, and Water Streets (by rights part of the Seaport Museum) while leaving nothing for the public benefit.

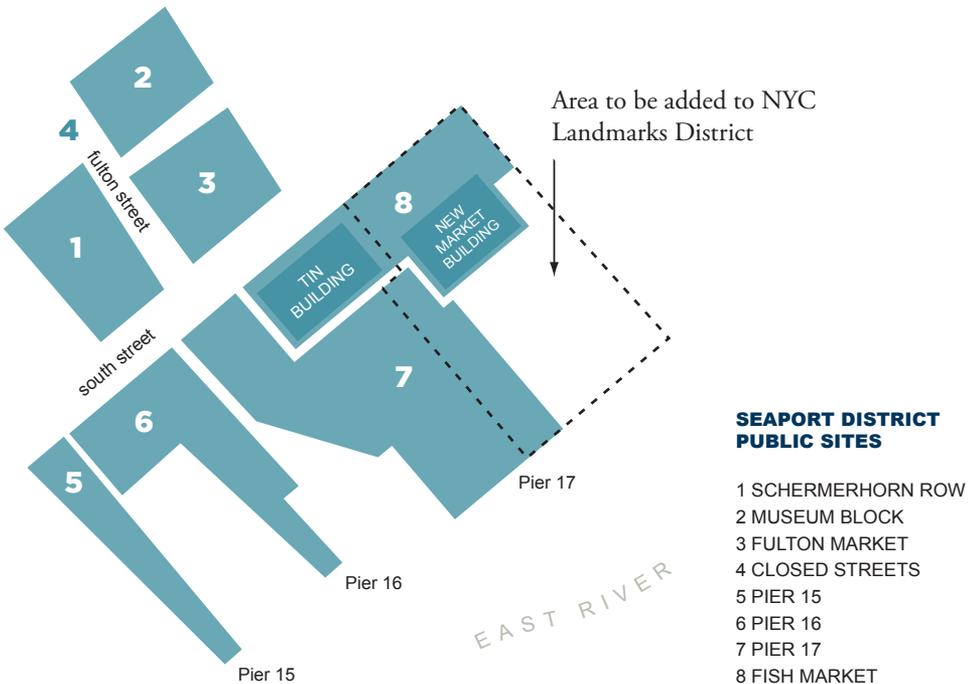
Save Our Seaport Coalition’s goal is simple: to preserve and enhance the original founding concepts of the South Street Seaport Historic District as reflected by its Museum, merchants, architecture, streets, public markets, piers, and ships.

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WHO WE ARE

Save Our Seaport is a grassroots organization that began as a group made up primarily of South Street Seaport Museum volunteers and former staff, including its founding President Peter Stanford. We came together in 2011 when it looked as though the Museum would shut its doors and divest itself of its collections and working vessels; we sought a new beginning for this unique and critical waterfront institution. We believe that the Museum, including its fleet—now capably managed by the Museum of the City of New York — cannot thrive if the neighborhood around it succumbs to usurpation by development interests that do not respect its inherent character and public purpose. The destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy, the insensitive development proposals by the Howard Hughes Corporation, and decisions by the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) have prompted us to build a broader coalition, citywide and beyond, of institutions, organizations, prominent individuals, and community groups to defend this fragile neighborhood and ensure its revitalization.



*Petition to the Honorable
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor;
& to the Council
of the City of New York.*

February 2013

To ensure the future of the South Street Seaport Historic District and maintain its public purpose, we the undersigned support the SOS Coalition mission and respectfully demand that the Pier 17 rezoning (ULURP) request by HHC be either withdrawn or made subject to the following four conditions:

STOP any further handover of city-owned properties within the Seaport to private developers;

MANDATE a community-based oversight committee to study all city-owned property at the South Street Seaport and to determine its future disposition, uses, and boundaries in keeping with the public purpose to which this neighborhood was dedicated;

STRENGTHEN the South Street Seaport Museum and preserve and expand its maritime presence on the waterfront;

ALIGN the New York City Landmark District with the federal and state boundaries for the South Street Seaport Historic District, and dedicate the city-owned Fulton Fish Market New Market Building and Tin Building sites as a world-class public food hub and economic development engine as proposed by New Amsterdam Market.

sign the petition at saveourseaport.org

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OUR MISSION

PRESERVE PUBLIC SPACE The Letter of Intent (LOI) signed December 12, 2011 between EDC and Howard Hughes Corporation shall be amended to exclude any option for future disposition of city properties to Howard Hughes that are not currently demised under the 1981 Marketplace Lease.*

PLAN FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT The City Council shall create an Oversight Committee to study all city-owned property in the South Street Seaport Historic District and determine its disposition and future uses so as to maintain the public purpose to which the District was dedicated; maximize commercial revenue for infrastructure maintenance and public programming; support local, independent businesses; serve community needs; promote contextual uses; retain within the District a viable public market & working waterfront; and position this fragile neighborhood as a model of resilient, sustainable redevelopment. The Committee shall include New Amsterdam Market, the South Street Seaport Museum, and other community representatives.

RETAIN AND ENHANCE MARITIME USES The South Street Seaport Museum shall be assured a permanent presence in the Seaport District; its unique maritime character will be preserved and enhanced by a steady stream of lease revenues sufficient for programming and infrastructure, including dockage for the Museum's historic vessels, operating and stationary, as well as for visiting vessels, recreational and commercial uses.

REVIVE THE MARKET DISTRICT The New York City Landmarks "South Street Seaport Historic District" boundaries shall be extended to be contiguous with the federal and state historic-district boundaries, including the 1939 New Market Building and site. The former Fulton Fish Market shall be reserved for public market purposes, as proposed by New Amsterdam Market, in keeping with the District's past and the goal of retaining that history while serving contemporary needs.

*City properties that are not currently demised to HHC under the 1981 Marketplace Lease include but are not limited to: 1) the space located on the second stories of certain Buildings on the Museum Block known as 209, 211, and 213 Water Street (the "Water Street Galleries"); 2) the premises located on the second through fifth floors of 14-18 Fulton Street, 189-195 Front Street and 159 John Street and the entrance areas to such properties (collectively, the "Schermerhorn Apartments"); 3) the Tin Building and the Land on which the Tin Building is currently located (the "Tin Building Site"); 4) The New Fish Market Building and the Land on which the New Fish Market Building is located; 5) the Land (the "Waterfront Premises") under the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive, along the waterfront and abutting the easterly side of South Street, from the southerly side of Pier 15 to the southerly side of Peck Slip; and 6) the first and second floors of the building known as 133 Beekman Street (the "Translux Property").

learn more & sign our petition: saveourseaport.org