

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAVE OUR SEAPORT DENOUNCES PLAN BY NYC TO DEMOLISH
THE NEW FULTON FISH MARKET BUILDING AT
NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC SOUTH STREET SEAPORT**

(New York, NY) January 4, 2018 – Something smells fishy again at the South Street Seaport.

Yesterday, Save Our Seaport (“SOS”) was informed that the City of New York will act unilaterally later to demolish the New Fulton Fish Market Building (1939), making way for a construction crane relocating the adjacent Tin Building.

No public discussion has taken place to authorize this demolition plan. No plan is in place for a future use. In 2014, the Seaport Working Group further resolved to “Maintain the historic character, visual corridors and sense of place of the Seaport through the preservation and creative adaptive reuse of existing historic buildings to the greatest extent practicable.”

In 2009, the New Fulton Fish Market Building was judged to be a contributing element within the landmarked State and National South Street Seaport Historic Districts. At the time, the Municipal Arts Society noted that the “New (Fulton Fish) Market Building has both architectural and cultural significance as the last functioning site of the important commercial and shipping hub at South Street Seaport. The historic New (Fulton Fish) Market Building is both the last building constructed exclusively for and occupied by this cherished institution in Lower Manhattan, and is thus representative of the final phase of the district’s period of significance. Its innovative modern design only adds to its importance.”

In 2010, an inspection report commissioned by the NYC Economic Development Corporation detailed the decay, concluding that approximately \$10 million was needed to stabilize and repair the building. Those repairs were never made. “I see it as benign neglect” said Michael Kramer, a Community Board One public member and SOS volunteer. “The city has put no real money into this building and allowed it to deteriorate – they have absolved the developer Howard Hughes Corporation (“HHC”) of any blame to facilitate work – even though HHC still has designs about monetizing the Air Rights at this site. The irony of it all is that HHC has missed all of its milestones and should no longer have a first option or any other say as to what happens next here.”

“This Seaport fight marks a critical crossroads in the preservation of our city’s history,” said David Sheldon, a member of SOS. “If demolition and development become the order of the day, we will lose the essence of this historic district that contains some of New York City’s oldest buildings, historic ships and the South Street Seaport Museum. Our vision enables the growth of a viable neighborhood with an ongoing maritime practice and tradition. SOS proposes that these public assets be re-purposed to serve the public’s interests, rather than those of stockholders.”

The New Fulton Fish Market Building should be repurposed as a maritime center, with use of the second floor for a South Street Seaport Museum gallery, meeting and educational spaces. The ground floor space would be dedicated for ship maintenance and other uses in the public view.

March, 2015

SAVE OUR SEAPORT
A Vision for the New Fulton Fish Market Building
Preserving History and Building Toward the Future

The Howard Hughes Corporation's current redevelopment plan for the South Street Seaport is irresponsible and an unrealistic solution to the much-needed revitalization of the 11-block historic district. Our plan has 4 core components:

- Reinvigorate the South Street Seaport Museum
- Recreate a "Street of Ships"
- Repurpose contributing significant Historic Buildings
- Restore the quality of life with Community Amenities

The Howard Hughes Corp. does not own, lease, nor have they yet exercised lease "options" on the New Fulton Fish Market Building, piers 19-21 and other public-owned inland sites within the South Street Seaport Historic District.

Save Our Seaport's "Vision" for next steps follows:

1. In addition to the Museum's continued presence in Schermerhorn Row and on Water Street, the New Fulton Fish Market Building should be repurposed as a center of Maritime Activity and use the second floor (23,350 sf) for the SSSM gallery, public meeting and educational spaces and a possibility of performance/rehearsal/ studio space. Dedicate ground floor space for ship maintenance and projects.
2. Create berthings in the East River for visiting historic ships and/or a working waterfront, with control of ghost piers 12-14 and 18-21 to go to the South Street Seaport Museum for earned revenue.
3. Revive the Seaport Working Group to engage the Howard Hughes Corporation as one of many stakeholders in a Master Planning process.
4. Require ULURP approvals for downtown Developers to include a Community Benefit Agreement to renovate the New Fulton Fish Market Buildings and repair pier pilings and platform. Authorize the South Street Seaport Museum ("SSSM") to lease unused space creating a revenue stream and insuring certainty of SSSM operational cash flow.
5. A new governing authority, with local stakeholders, would replace the involvement of NYEDC in the Brooklyn Bridge Southeast Urban Renewal Plan district. It would act as the Landlord to the South Street Seaport and environs, (from The Battery to Pier 42).

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About *Save Our Seaport*

Save Our Seaport (“SOS”) is a grassroots organization that began primarily among South Street Seaport Museum volunteers and former staff, including its emeritus founding President, Peter Stanford. Since 2011, SOS has grown to include a broad array of citizens concerned with the preservation of the Museum, the Seaport Historic District, New York and American maritime history, the Museum ships and waterfront, and the District’s public markets.

SOS continues to defend the inherent character and public purpose of this neighborhood, seeks to ensure its revitalization, and opposes the imposition of development interests over those of residents and New Yorkers at large.

Visit our website: SaveOurSeaport.wordpress.com On Twitter: [@SaveOurSeaport](https://twitter.com/SaveOurSeaport) and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaveOurSeaport

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