



**SOCIETY FOR
INDUSTRIAL
ARCHEOLOGY**

Society for Industrial Archeology
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Roebling Masterpiece Threatened

Tower Would Block Views of Landmarked Brooklyn Bridge

New York, New York— The Society for Industrial Archeology's president, Mary Habstritt, joined representatives of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Districts Council, Dumbo Neighborhood Association, and other preservation groups in a rally on the steps of City Hall today to oppose plans for an 18-story tower in Dumbo that would block views of and from the Brooklyn Bridge.

The Brooklyn Bridge is recognized as a New York City Landmark, by its enrollment on the National Register of Historic Places, by its designation as a National Historic Landmark, and as a Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

"The Brooklyn Bridge is a symbol not only of New York City, but of American ingenuity," said Habstritt. "It was the longest, strongest and tallest bridge ever when it was built and the first suspension bridge to use steel cables. Yet the Roebling family who designed and built it also made it beautiful, a truly outstanding achievement."

The proposed tower would also overshadow historically significant industrial buildings of the National Register DUMBO Industrial District as well as the Tobacco Warehouse and Empire Stories in the Fulton Ferry Historic District.

"Dumbo was an incubator of industry, a manufacturing center that gave rise to some of the earliest reinforced concrete buildings in the country," said Habstritt. "It deserves buildings that are more reflective of this past and which better suit the scale of one of New York City's prime industrial heritage areas."

Habstritt went on to say, "Although this bridge is admired by people from around the world, it is up to us as New Yorkers to protect it. We are its stewards. In a city of skyscrapers, some places, like the setting of this magnificent jewel should remain uncrowded and inviolate."

The Society for Industrial Archeology studies, interprets, and seeks to preserve the remnants of our industrial and engineering history. It has over 1,600 members nationwide. For more information, see www.sia-web.org.

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