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**NATIONAL GROUPS DECRY IMPACT OF ATLANTIC YARDS ON  
BROWNSTONE BROOKLYN AND JOIN BROOKLYNSPEAKS.NET**

Two of the nation's leading preservation and conservation organizations, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Scenic America, have declared the impact of the Atlantic Yards plan on Brooklyn's brownstone neighborhoods to be a "national concern," noting that the neighborhoods are of incomparable cultural and historical importance. The two groups today joined with 10 local partners in BrooklynSpeaks.net.

"The collection of historic brownstone neighborhoods and landmarks that surround the Atlantic Yards site are so rare in their extent, cohesiveness, and historic and architectural qualities that their fate is of national importance," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust. "If it is built as proposed, its massive scale and incompatible design would gravely impact the essential historic character and setting of these treasures."

The National Trust joins with numerous other organizations and individuals who have previously recognized the national importance of brownstone Brooklyn, including Paul Goldberger, architecture critic for *The New Yorker*, who has said that Brooklyn's brownstone streetscapes are the "equal of great urban streets anywhere in the world."

Joining the National Trust today in finding the Atlantic Yards design inappropriate was Scenic America.

"The Atlantic Yards proposal would permit signage of up to 150 feet, override local regulations and set an alarming precedent for other historic neighborhoods throughout the city and the nation," said Kevin Fry, president of Scenic America. "Brooklyn doesn't know what it's getting into. The state and developers should not be permitted to import Times Square garishness to one of the most beautiful and architecturally significant neighborhoods in America. The project demonstrates a total disregard for the wishes of the people of Brooklyn and for the fundamental character of the community."

Kent Barwick, president of the Municipal Art Society, welcomed the new support and said, "Concern over the impact of Atlantic Yards has now reached a national level, demonstrating how important Brooklyn's brownstones are to the country. The impact of the project is truly a national concern."

As proposed, the Atlantic Yards project will irreparably harm Brooklyn's historic streetscapes. The sun will set early in Brooklyn. The excessively tall buildings will leave the brownstone neighborhood of Fort Greene — and a portion of Fort Greene Park nearly half a mile away — in shadow. The plan would overwhelm surrounding neighborhoods with enormous towers, create deadening superblocks, and create a giant wall between neighborhoods. Advertising signage rising up to 150 feet, three times the height of the average Brooklyn brownstone, will dramatically change the character of the community. Intense development pressure will severely impact surrounding streets not protected by historic district designation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to protect the irreplaceable places that tell America's story. Staff at the Washington, DC, headquarters, six regional offices and 28 historic sites work with the Trust's 270,000 members and thousands of preservation groups in all 50 states.

Scenic America is the nation's leading non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to scenic conservation and preventing visual blight. One of their top priorities is battling the blizzard of monstrous billboards that are appearing in every large city and in local hometowns. Their headquarters are located in Washington DC.

BrooklynSpeaks.net has been created by civic and community groups to inform New Yorkers about the Atlantic Yards project and enable them to ask the decision-makers only to approve a plan that works for Brooklyn. The website has been organized by Atlantic Avenue LDC, Boerum Hill Association, Brooklyn Heights Association, Fifth Avenue Committee, Municipal Art Society, Park Slope Civic Council, Pratt Area Community Council, Project for Public Spaces, Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council and the Tri-State Transportation Campaign.

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