

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**Commission on Fashion Arts and Events**



Public Roundtable on  
PR23-0165, the “Historic Preservation Review Board Chris Landis Confirmation  
Resolution of 2019”

Testimony of  
**Chris Landis**

Before the  
Committee of the Whole  
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairperson

John A. Wilson Building  
Room 412  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

May 2, 2019  
10:00am

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, and staff. . My name is Christopher Landis, and I am pleased to testify today regarding my nomination to continue serving on the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). I am honored to come before you as a longtime and proud resident of Ward 4. I will begin by thanking you for the opportunity to appear today and thanking the Mayor for her nomination.

I have served on the HPRB since [enter year], and I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve. It would be a privilege to be able to include my informed input in shaping and preserving the infrastructure and environment of this unique and historic city. I would attempt to continue to bring a pragmatic and sensible approach to balance the real and perceived rights of property owners with the duty to preserve the historic context of our city's buildings and neighborhoods. Although it is not always obvious, there can be common ground between progress and historic preservation and finding that common ground is an important part of the Historic Review Board Process.

As a registered architect, with almost 30 years of experience in the District assisting clients in making sound and lasting decisions, I will also bring a spirit of openness and thoughtful discussion to the process. At heart, I am a team player, and, if confirmed, it will be an honor to serve the public good alongside the other committee members.

During the 30 years that I have been a District resident, I have developed strong personal and business roots within the community. With my brother Ethan, I have a design/build construction company with a three-story office building in the Takoma neighborhood that we designed and built in 2006. My wife and I also raised our two boys in the District, and they both attended the School Without Walls. We have given back to the DC community, not only in the form of creating good jobs, but in being good citizens, personally and professionally.

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree from Vassar College in 1977 and my Master in Architecture from Columbia University in 1980. I am a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and was the past president of the Metro DC chapter of the National Association of Remodeling Industry (NARI). I also served on the Historic Preservation Review Board for two years in 2009 to 2011 and 2016 to 2018. After graduating from Architecture graduate school, I worked in the field of commercial construction in New York City for about 10 years. My brother and I founded Landis Architects/Builders in 1990. Over the past 29 years with Landis, I have been involved in the sales, design, permit and zoning, and construction of hundreds of projects, both large and small. I have watched with interest as the DC building department grew and evolved from its previous and computer-less incarnation on K Street to its increasingly efficient state-of-the-art facility in Southwest. During this time, I have also enjoyed seeing change and restoration in Washington. While most of my company's work is done within the District, we also have completed many projects in almost all local jurisdictions of Maryland and Virginia.

This breadth and depth of experience has provided me with firsthand knowledge of the building code and zoning requirements of nearly all local jurisdictions. I also have a lot of experience in the historic and fine arts processes, as well as inspections. My resume also outlines a brief list of some historic projects my company has worked on over the years. In addition, I am familiar with working with condo boards, homeowners associations, and community organizations.

Again, thank you Chairman Mendelson for this opportunity to testify. I am available at this time to answer any questions you may have.