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I have been in the business of restoring and fabricating stained glass windows for the last 30 years mostly in New York City and the Boroughs. Throughout the years my studio employed a staff that varied in size depending on the projects "in house". Without the ability to restore the stained glass windows in historic landmark buildings my staff would have been limited to only a few craftsman.

Without the protection of the Landmark Preservation Designation owners would opt to remove the historic stained glass panels and replace them with window glass due to the cost of restoration. Original one of a kind stained glass windows would be lost forever. The possibility of reproducing these artworks is both very difficult and costly. Many stained glass windows in the New York area were designed and manufactured during the turn of the century. Artist such as Tiffany, La Farge and Armstrong were the first to design stained glass windows in the true American style, a style that created a completely new type of stained glass window.

A number of years ago the New York Landmarks Conservancy supervised a program that funded the restoration of Harlem historic building facades. Needless to say many had stained glass windows. My studio bid and received many of these commissions and during that period I had the largest staff in the history of the studio and was able to train young people in the craft of restoring stained glass windows.

In summary, I strongly feel that the New York Landmark Commission is instrumental in creating and generating work for many construction trades and the training of artisans in the crafts that would be lost if not for their involvement.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond Clagnan