

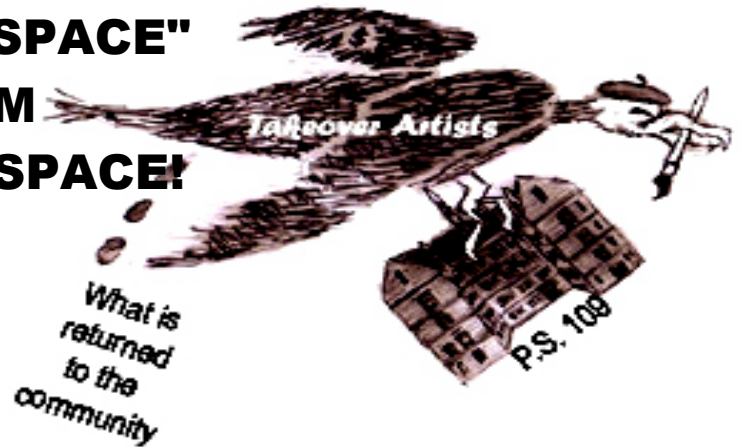
ART versus EDUCATION? State Sen. José Serrano
hosts and invites constituents to Arts Workshops and Roundtables. But in his own district, where art classes are eliminated due to school overcrowding, he supports GIVING AWAY a public school to Artspace Projects, Inc., developers as a taxpayer-subsidized elite artist condominium!

**Demand restoration, reopening & reuse of P.S. 109
AS A SCHOOL! NO "ArtSpace" give-away!**

Artist Housing: always the spearhead of gentrification

**STOP MINNEAPOLIS "ARTSPACE"
CULTURE VULTURES FROM
STEALING KIDS' SCHOOL SPACE!**

- *Join the Coalition to Save P.S. 109.*
- *Urge new Gov. Eliot Spitzer, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Schools Chancellor Joel Klein: restore and reuse P.S. 109 as a public school for its rightful owners: the children of El Barrio.*



Our School, Our Jewel, Our Children



Against very steep odds the Coalition to Save P.S. 109 successfully stopped the illegal demolition of P.S. 109 in 1999, then went on to landmark the building with the National register of Historic Places. The proposed ArtSpace takeover is not a done deal. Minneapolis-based ArtSpace suddenly snuck onto the scene in July 2005, with a no-bid, sweetheart offer brokered by Operation Fightback's Gus Rosado, with the apparent connection of his brother Felix, ex-El Barrio District Leader later ensconced in the office of Allen Hevesi, the recently ousted NYS Comptroller (see UrbanElephant.com). During the entire 7-year struggle to save the building, Operation Fightback never even wrote one letter of support or took any stand to save the building. Now they want to jump the line ahead of everyone else, and permanently deprive kids of desperately needed school space. Not only Serrano, but Rep. Charles Rangel,

Assemblymember Adam Clayton Powell IV have all reversed themselves to jump onto this now-stalled bandwagon of destruction, at the crack of the whip by NYC Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito.

The smell of money and contracts has a way of luring political climbers away from the true public interest. Just ask architect Raymond Plume who recently jumped ship from the Coalition to Save P.S. 109, to throw his support to the ArtSpace proposal, while maneuvering for a piece of the action in the form of a lucrative job. Plume admits that P.S. 109 can be restored to a school for \$60 million, as opposed to \$120 million to build a new no-frills box structure—not that any replacement for P.S. 109's space is even promised!

The restoration and reuse as a school of P.S. 109 would provide 1,200 additional seats for the children of New York City, and would educate thousands many thousands of children in the future. It would also help educate the public that yes, you can fight City Hall and win!

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