

For Immediate Release

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Owner of Long Embattled Community Center Found in Default of Mortgage Judge Orders Foreclosure and Sale

Community Coalition Urges Mayor Adams to Return the Once Vibrant Center

Members of Save Our Community Center CHARAS/former P.S. 64, SOCCC-64 are rejoicing at the news that Gregg Singer, the developer who purchased the building that housed CHARAS Community Center at city auction over two decades ago has been found in default of his mortgage and the property has been foreclosed.

On December 23, 2022, New York State Justice Melissa Crane [ordered the Foreclosure and Sale](#) of former P.S. 64 at 605 East 9th St. with a default, including penalties and interest totaling approximately 90 million dollars. The Order could send the property back to auction within 90 days.

“We are excited to finally have the opportunity to return the building to full community use, and are ready to work with Mayor Adams to restore this once vibrant community hub.” – Chino Garcia, co-founder, CHARAS

“After twenty-five long years, Greg Singer has finally been forced to relinquish control of the beloved former P.S. 64/CHARAS-El Bohio Community Center. One critical piece of the great wrong done by former Mayor Giuliani at this site so near and dear to the heart of the East Village has finally been righted. But more needs to be done. Now the current administration needs to undo the final wrong and re-acquire this building to return it for once and for all to the community use it served for so many years when CHARAS-El Bohio was located and flourished here. This is a unique and fleeting opportunity, and Mayor Adams must seize it now.” – Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Village Preservation

“Today is the 21st anniversary of the eviction of our community center, which Mr. Singer moved quickly to evict. CHARAS was home to numerous artists, community organizations and nonprofits, and provided meeting space, rehearsal space, gallery and theatre space for hundreds of artists and residents a year. Since the eviction, the property has remained vacant, left open to the elements and allowed to deteriorate. It is time to return the center to the community.” – Susan Howard, CHARAS

“I hope the city finally rights the wrong that the unjust auction of CHARAS inflicted upon this community; and specifically, the opportunities and mentoring that my daughter and an entire generation of our youth have been robbed of.”- Barbara Caporale, President, Sixth Street & Avenue B Community Garden

At a community town hall in 2017, Mayor de Blasio announced that his administration would take steps to re-acquire this building, but he left office with no progress made.

In the decades-long battle to stop Gregg Singer from demolishing the landmarked building and violating the use restriction, the coalition now sees a real opportunity to return the beloved center to community use.

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