

To whom it may concern,

When man is given dominion over something that is intended to be pure, it is inevitable that one will corrupt it. I am a strong believer that in this world, God would want us to operate in a way in which those with the most abundance would serve those that have not, so as to allow them the opportunity to be able to move up. I believe most sensible and good people would agree that in a perfect world, this is how we would operate in order to allow for everyone to have an opportunity to better themselves and grow on to serve others. And of course, in this day and age we need to be providing our youth with spaces within their community for them to better themselves so that they need not fall into the temptation of turning to self-destructive behaviors. However, it is clear that the Armory Foundation would disagree. Having grown up in Washington Heights, I have walked right past the Armory Foundation countless times and not once would I think there was a single resource in that building that could benefit me. If I had to tell you one thing that I would have wished above all else to have been available to the neighborhood, it would be exactly what The Armory claims falsely to be - a space for the community. Why is it that we see the employees with the highest salaries within the foundation continuously increase their salaries by thousands of dollars while the prices of the Armory's activities have increased as well? Why is it that these price increases have come with no greater benefit to anyone within the community that should be having access to those spaces? Why does no one in the neighborhood even know that space within that building was intended to be for their use. The stench of corruption is powerful, and The Armory Foundation will have their corruption come to light. It is very clear indeed with all the information we have to show the blatant distortion of the Armory's intended purpose. Not once would I or any other resident of Washington Heights even have inkling of an idea that the Armory was intended for the usage of the community because of how it is currently being managed. It is clear that The Armory Foundation's leadership is a corrupt cabal of penny pinchers looking for any and every opportunity to profit off of what is supposed to be a space for the community. It is clear that the Armory needs to be scrubbed of its current staff. It is clear that the armory needs to return to reasonable pricing for hosting or attending events. It is clear that the fiefdom needs to collapse, and above all that the community needs to take back its space and reverse the corruption.

Sincerely,

Steve Fermin