



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

LANDMARKS LION AWARD

November 10, 2020





CONGRATULATIONS

HDC!

FRIENDS

of the UPPER EAST SIDE
HISTORIC DISTRICTS

LANDMARKS LION AWARD

ABOUT THE AWARD

Since 1990, the Landmarks Lion Award has honored those who have shown unusual devotion and aggressiveness in protecting New York City's historic buildings and neighborhoods. The Landmarks Lion Award has gone to advocates, architects, historians, engineers, lawyers, writers and artisans who are united in their belief that New York City's physical and cultural heritage is something worth fighting for. We are moved by their accomplishments and inspired by their achievements.

This year, the Historic Districts Council is using this annual event to celebrate its 50 years of advocacy for New York's historic neighborhoods. Since our founding in 1970, HDC has grown a coalition of individuals and community groups representing New York City's designated historic districts into the foremost citywide voice for historic preservation.



CTA ARCHITECTS P.C.

2020 LANDMARKS LION

**HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE
HISTORIC DISTRICT COUNCIL
FROM CTA ARCHITECTS**

**Stained Glass,
Roe Mansion Restoration,
West 72nd Street**

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL 2020 LANDMARKS LION

PROGRAM



WELCOME
Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director

INTRODUCTION
The Bowery Boys

VIDEO PRESENTATION
50 Years of HDC

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL



Following a mandate of community-based preservation advocacy, the Historic Districts Council (HDC) works to ensure the preservation of significant neighborhoods, buildings and open spaces, uphold the integrity of the New York City Landmarks Law and further the preservation ethic. We work continuously to broaden and educate the preservation constituency—from producing zoning and architectural surveys of unprotected historic neighborhoods, to meeting with government officials and decision makers, to creating educational programs on the techniques and strategies of neighborhood preservation. HDC provides ongoing programs offering hands-on assistance to more than 500 community and neighborhood-based groups through direct advocacy, public-policy initiatives, publications, educational outreach and participation in community events.

The driving principle behind all of HDC's work is that the preservation and enhancement of New York's historic neighborhoods, buildings and public spaces are central to the continued success of the city. This goal does not seek to enshrine the past but to guide the future.



DIRECT ADVOCACY

HDC is the only organization in New York City that reviews every public proposal affecting historic buildings, totaling more than 300 projects annually. A staffed committee of preservationists and architects meets regularly to review proposals submitted to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and monitors meetings of the agency, testifying on specific projects when necessary. Additionally, HDC reviews planning proposals for their potential effects on historic properties and regularly participates as a preservation expert in community planning processes. HDC's weekly reports from the Landmarks Commission are regularly circulated to over 500 professionals and activists, as well as being posted online for the general public.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HDC's community outreach stretches through neighborhoods across the city. Locally-based organizations from block associations to community boards benefit from HDC's strategic advice, technical expertise, organizational development and advocacy resources. One of HDC's most intensive programs, the Six to Celebrate, has forwarded preservation campaigns in all five boroughs and helped over 50 community groups and coalitions

achieve their goals of neighborhood surveys, public education and landmark designation. Since its debut in 2011, the program has helped create over 13 New York City Historic Districts, 5 National Register Districts, over 50 sites individually designated or placed on the National Register Properties: 21 neighborhood surveys, resulting in the documentation of thousands of buildings across the city and has leveraged over \$130,000 in private and public grants for community-driven projects. An illustrated guidebook with a self-guided walking tour is developed for each project area and available in print and electronic form.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

HDC hosts an ambitious calendar of more than 50 public programs each year, aimed toward the general public and preservation practitioners. Every year, HDC hosts an Annual Preservation Conference, which is now in its 26th year. A day-long gathering of professionals, students and activists, this is the only preservation program in New York City which draws its agenda directly from its participants by providing space for the audience to suggest and lead educational sessions on current matters of concern. HDC also offers two semesters of Preservation School every year, a four-part series of lectures which teaches people the fundamental skills of preservation activism; from how to properly photograph a building to understanding the basic principles of landmark designation to learning to read and assess architectural plans. For practicing professionals, HDC offers periodic professionally certified

classes on topics such as façade inspection and building material conservation. Finally, as the best way to learn about a neighborhood is to visit it, HDC hosts at least one walking tour of each Six to Celebrate site a year, with additional tours of previous sites often offered. In total, over 1,500 people are served by HDC's educational and public programs annually.

CONGRATULATIONS

on 50 years of advocacy and
preservation.

Thank you to HDC and its staff for facing
the sometimes insurmountable challenges
fighting for the character of our city.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

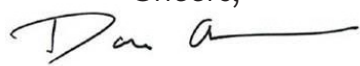


Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us at this virtual event celebrating fifty years of the Historic Districts Council (HDC). Having no idea what 2020 would hold, last year's president's letter looked ahead to our anniversary and said "it has been fifty years and we're not even tired yet". Well, I don't know about you but ten and a half months of this year have left me a little winded. Winded but optimistic and incredibly proud of this organization. Even in these dark times, HDC perseveres. Our talented and committed staff never stopped working and we have accomplished much. Our board of Directors and Advisers have also continued to work. We have created new initiatives such as the Bronx Borough Landmarks Committee in addition to working with our Six to Celebrate groups which have helped push new designations forward. Highlights include Manida Street in The Bronx as the 150th Historic District; Public School 48 in Queens; and Underground Railroad site 227 Duffield Street and Six to Celebrate East 25th Street, both in Brooklyn, are on their way to being designated. We have maintained our presence at the Landmarks Preservation Commission and continue to be a forceful voice for the public in regulating our landmarks. We have greatly increased our social media outreach in 2020. We now have over 2,000 followers on Instagram and have had over 5,000 views on YouTube in the last year that have been viewed

from all over the world. We have produced 21 videos of walking tours, lectures, classes and more since March that are free for all on our website and on YouTube.

All this is possible because of you, a dedicated group of people who truly care about this city and what makes it the remarkable place that it is. It is a great pleasure to find myself again in the midst of this group, if only virtually. So let me urge you to enjoy the program and raise a glass to HDC and another fifty years. Be safe and well and let's get together soon.

Cheers,

Dan Allen

Congratulations
Historic Districts Council
**For 50 years as The Advocate for
New York City's Historic Neighborhoods**



Preservation For Us is a Way of Life

Arlene S. Harrison

GPBA President,
Trustee of Gramercy Park

Thomas F. Pike

GPBA Archivist,
Trustee of Gramercy Park

LETTER
FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



In preparing for tonight's program, I've been exploring the Historic Districts Council's (HDC) archives for keepsakes and remembrances to best illustrate our history. Aside from feeling the full weight of the very true admonitions of librarians and archivists to keep better records and filing systems, what has struck me most is how much of HDC's history is truly communal.

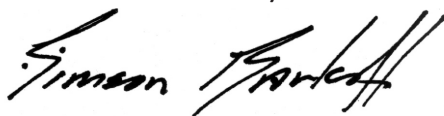
From its founding, the Historic Districts Council has always functioned as a gathering of individuals, in all senses a council. Many of the people who formed HDC were leaders in their own neighborhoods – they still are – and they would bring the voice of their community to other members in order to share information, solicit advice or request assistance. Especially in its early days, HDC worked more as a nexus point than an actor. If the organization was a place, it would be a speakers' corner, an area where public speaking, discussion and debate were not only allowed but encouraged. Some of HDC's earliest achievements were born in such discussions; when group members spoke (and argued) with other members, notions and campaigns began to take shape. The effort to preserve the Ladies' Mile could trace itself back to that forum and the campaign to protect Tribeca was nurtured there.

Slowly HDC became a stage for such efforts and along the way, gained its own voice and pursued its own initiatives. Even so, that voice was not a singular voice; it was choral, coming from a multitude of singers. Each individual campaign is the work of many hands, often working together or in sequence over several years. Everything HDC produces is a collaborative product, shaped by a group, unified by a respect for the history we've inherited. And even as HDC continues to evolve and develop our own agenda, the first thing in our consideration remains the support and enhancement of our constituent parts – the neighborhood activists who founded us.

Another thing I've discovered in working on this program is that history is not written by the victors, it's written by the editors. I wish that we were able to personally call out and thank all the former and current staff, Directors, Advisers and Friends who have enabled the Historic Districts Council to reach the 50 year mark and who are propelling us into the future. A comprehensive accounting and timeline is beyond the scope of tonight's program, but know that we are the sum total of all the efforts and people it took to bring us here. Our gratitude and debt to them shall never be forgotten.

Thank you all for joining us for this celebration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Simeon Bankoff". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Simeon" written in a cursive script and the last name "Bankoff" written in a more bold, slightly slanted cursive script.

Simeon Bankoff

GREENWICH
VILLAGE SOCIETY
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

VILLAGE PRESERVATION

Village Preservation
congratulates the
Historic Districts Council
on 50 years of preserving NYC

*Green-Wood
congratulates*

THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

*for its commitment
to New York City's
historic and cultural
neighborhoods.*



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GREEN-WOOD

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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Thank you for supporting the Historic Districts Council. Your contribution helps us to protect New York's historic neighborhoods and communities.

Since 1970, we have worked to protect thousands of landmarked buildings and 150 officially designated historic districts across New York City, but there is much more work to be done--and we need your help.

We ask that you consider making a gift to HDC to ensure our programs continue to thrive. Better yet, a recurring gift will help guarantee that the New York of tomorrow includes a stable, healthy and vibrant Historic Districts Council.

Please visit hdc.org/donate or call Helen Freeman at (212) 614-9107 to make a difference today. Future New Yorkers will thank you--and so will we.



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

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