

Justice for 441 Willoughby grew out of the community campaign to advocate for the designation of 441 Willoughby Avenue, also known as the Jacob Dangler Mansion, in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. The corner building was built in 1897-98 by prominent architect Theobald Engelhardt in the Chateauesque style and was later sold to the Grand Order Chapter of the Eastern Star, a masonic organization made up primarily of African American women. The site was a community anchor and point of community pride for more than a century. Due to advocacy from the community, local elected officials, and preservationists across the city, the Landmarks Preservation Commission calendared the building in June 2022 and held a public hearing in July. Despite the almost universal support for designation, a developer was able to activate permits and demolish the building that same month, leaving an irreplaceable void in the neighborhood. The community continues to fight for the site, to hold the developer accountable, and to demand that the LPC designate the blocks immediately surrounding the site as an historic district. The coalition remains an inspiration to the preservation community for their continued vigilance.

Manhattan Community Board Five Land Use Committee receives this award for their ongoing efforts in reviewing, advising, and making recommendations around significant land use issues in Community District 5. Encompassing the proposed Penn Station Redevelopment Area, the Committee and the full Board have strongly opposed the Governor's plan to demolish several square blocks and destroy more than two dozen historic structures. The Committee has also spent many hours reviewing and commenting on other major issues, such as the landmark designation of 1710 Broadway and the renewal of the Madison Square Garden permit. The Committee now plans to move forward with creating a board-led plan for an alternative and community-led vision of the area, including identifying additional historic resources in need of protection.

Eric K. Washington is a historian and author, recognized as an expert on the history of Manhattanville, Trinity Church Cemetery and Harlem. HDC honors him this year with a Grassroots Preservation Award for his leadership in championing the preservation of

the (Former) Colored School No. 4, a remaining legacy to the Black experience in New York City. Constructed in 1849-50, the schoolhouse was relegated for the exclusive use of African American students and teachers in 1860, and served as a segregated school until 1894. It is also associated with several prominent African American figures in New York City history, including the eponymous subject of Eric's award-winning biography, *Boss of the Grips: The Life of James H. Williams and the Red Caps of Grand Central Terminal*. Eric tirelessly worked to research and raise awareness about this site, a hidden gem in plain sight that was threatened with erasure. From writing the request for evaluation (RFE), to lobbying elected officials and preservationists, he brought the building's history to a wider audience and convinced the Landmarks Preservation Commission to calendar the building for consideration in February 2023 and hold a designation hearing in April. The building was officially designated on May 23rd, 2023, with Mayor Eric Adams promising \$6 million dollars to rehabilitate the building.

The Village Sun is an online newspaper covering Greenwich Village, the East Village, the Lower East Side, Union Square, Soho, Hudson Square, Chelsea, Gramercy, Stuyvesant Town, Chinatown and beyond. Created by Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Lincoln Anderson in 2019, to be an independent voice, focused on authentic, relevant and interesting local coverage, the paper has promoted the preservation ethic through ongoing features on issues related to historic buildings and neighborhoods, planning, infrastructure, and land use. Recent coverage includes articles on the demolition of landmarked buildings, calls for reform of the LPC, the installation of 5G Towers, and the lawsuit around 250 Water Street in the South Street Seaport Historic District.

Council Member Christopher Marte, represents Manhattan's 1st Council District, which includes Battery Park City, Civic Center, Chinatown, Financial District, Little Italy, the Lower East Side, NoHo, SoHo, South Street Seaport, South Village, TriBeCa & Washington Square. Council Member Marte was first elected to City Council in 2021. He was born and raised on the Lower East Side, where his father owned a bodega and his mother worked in a garment factory before becoming a home attendant. When he wasn't stacking cans, he attended local public schools and after-school programs.

Eventually, his father's store had to close because of rent hikes, and Christopher started to see the community he loved get torn apart by luxury development and corrupt politicians. Christopher co-founded two community gardens in NYCHA and volunteered at the Bowery Mission in order to give back to the community that raised him. As a Council Member, he has been a valuable ally to preservationists in ensuring that the Landmarks Preservation Commission remains strong, independent and true to its mission. Christopher has strongly advocated for designation in his district, most notably in the push to landmark parts of the Lower East Side, his support of the Seaport Coalition in their lawsuit over 250 Water Street, the preservation of the Elizabeth Street Garden, and the designation of the 60 Wall Street POPS. He has also been a champion of coalition building to stop predatory developers from destroying the unique character of District 1's communities.