



# HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

## THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

### Become a Grassroots Preservation Awards co-sponsor!

Each year, the Historic Districts Council celebrates New York's brightest community preservationists with our Annual Grassroots Preservation Awards. The [2021 Grassroots Preservation Awards](#) will take place on Zoom the last three weeks of May. Although we ache to see all our friends and meet new ones in the churchyard of St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, this format will allow us to spend time with our honorees to hear their stories and learn more about them. The celebrations have been split up in various ways including virtual walking tours and presentations in order to give proper attention to our honorees.

[Please consider becoming an event Co-Sponsor](#) in recognition of efforts to preserve New York City's fantastic neighborhoods. In addition to **granting admission to each of the presentations**, your sponsorship will help fund the Historic Districts Council's citywide advocacy efforts and hands-on work with local preservation campaigns. Continue reading below for dates and information on the awardees. We hope that you will join us!

To have your organization's name listed on the program, please respond by Friday, April 30. Please contact Michelle Arbulu at (516) 595-9352 or [marbulu@hdc.org](mailto:marbulu@hdc.org) with any questions or for further information.

Thank you for all of your support; we look forward to seeing you in May!

Sincerely,

Simeon Bankoff  
Executive Director

<https://act.myngp.com/Forms/-7156435104803058688>

Schedule of Grassroots events:

**Wednesday, May 12, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

*Green-Wood Cemetery and East 25th Street Historic District Initiative*

### **Green-Wood Cemetery**

With the challenges 2020 presented to New Yorkers, Green-Wood's landscape became more important than ever as a safe space for visitors to take a walk, commune with nature, and get away from it all—while social distancing. As a benefit to the local community, Green-Wood expanded its hours and made the unprecedented decision to open and staff all four of its entrances to the public until 7pm, seven days a week. Richard J. Moylan, President, Lisa W. Alpert, Vice President of Development and Programming and Gabrielle Gatto, Coordinator of Public Programs will provide a tour of Green-Wood, discuss the changes made to the National Historic Landmark and how the decision to be more accessible affected the community.

### **East 25th Street Historic District Initiative**

From churches to Neo-Renaissance rowhouses, past Six to Celebrate neighborhood the East 25th Street Historic District Initiative is working to celebrate and preserve the structures in their unique community and to oppose the threats of demolition and overdevelopment. Neighborhood leader Julia Charles will give a virtual tour of East 25th Street while discussing how she and her neighbors were able to gain Landmark designation for their beloved block.

**Thursday, May 13, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

*Untapped New York and Save the Walentyna & Aleksander Janta-Polczynski House Coalition*

**Friend From the Media** (honoring members of the Fourth Estate who contribute to the public understanding of preservation)

### **Untapped New York**

Untapped New York is an online magazine and experience company that unearths New York City's secrets and hidden gems. Founded in 2009, Untapped New York is powered by a team of passionate New Yorkers, always exploring the city. Justin Rivers, Untapped New York's Chief Experience Officer will explain the proposed Empire Station Complex and give a tour of the buildings that are under threat of demolition as a result of the proposed complex.

### **Walentyna & Aleksander Janta-Polczynski House Coalition**

The Walentyna & Aleksander Janta-Polczynski House Coalition is comprised of several groups and that came together for the common goal of Landmarking the Walentyna & Aleksander Janta-Polczynski house and highlighting the brave and honorable work of Walentyna & Aleksander Janta-Polczynski. The organizations are former Six to Celebrate and Grassroots Award winner Elmhurst History and Cemeteries Preservation Society who will be represented by Marialena Giampino; the Polish National Congress represented by Klara Wisniewska; the Polish Falcons of America represented by April Miller; and Inside Elmhurst represented by Alfonso Quiroz. The groups will discuss how Walentyna was pivotal in

revealing Nazi atrocities to the world and how Walentyna and Aleksander's home in Elmhurst, Queens became a safe haven for Polish émigré elite in the United States.

**Wednesday, May 19, 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

*Upper Riverside Residents Alliance*

**Upper Riverside Residents Alliance**

Peter Green will discuss The Upper Riverside Residents Alliance's campaign to Landmark 857 Riverside Drive. He will provide a history of the endangered two-story wood-frame house at Riverside and West 159th Street, and explain why the house is believed to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad.

**Wednesday, May 26, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

*Judy Stanton and Councilmember Daniel Dromm*

**Mickey Murphy Lifetime Achievement Award** (honoring longtime record of achievement in historic preservation)

**Judy Stanton**

Judy Stanton will give a presentation on her 30+ years to being a steward of the Brooklyn Heights Historic Districts. She will talk about several of the advocacy campaigns she worked on throughout her career. As the former Executive Director of the Brooklyn Heights Association and member of Brooklyn's CB2 Land Use Committee she has faced many preservation battles and has come out the other side victorious.

**Friend in High Places** (honoring preservation supporters in elected office)

**Councilmember Daniel Dromm**

Councilmember Daniel Dromm has been a progressive leader in Queens for 20+ years. Dromm was elected to the New York City Council in 2009 and represents District 25 (Jackson Heights & Elmhurst). He serves as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. CM Dromm will talk about why he has been an avid supporter of preservation in his district including voicing his support for the Landmarking of the Walentyna & Aleksander Janta-Polczynski House.

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