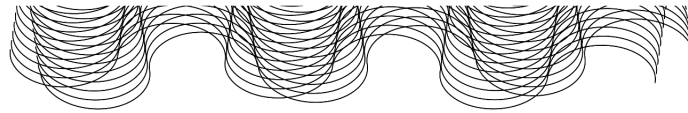


HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Three pages)

November 15, 2023

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**HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL TO HONOR
PRESERVATION PROFESSIONAL AND ADVOCATE
MICHAEL DEVONSHIRE
WITH THE 2023 LANDMARKS LION AWARD**

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 6:30 PM

New York, NY – The Historic Districts Council (HDC), citywide advocate for New York’s historic neighborhoods, will present its 34th annual Landmarks Lion Award to Michael Devonshire on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at The View at The Battery (One Battery Place).

The Honorary Chairs of the gala are architect and preservationist Francoise Astorg Bollack; Franny Eberhart, President of the Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts; Margaret Halsey Gardiner, Executive Director of the Merchant’s House

Museum; and Lloyd Zuckerberg, board member of Old Westbury Gardens and the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

Since 1990, the Landmarks Lion Award has honored those who have shown exceptional devotion in protecting New York City's historic buildings and neighborhoods.

Michael Devonshire's long and illustrious career has spanned many significant roles, most notably as a New York City Landmarks Preservation Commissioner for more than a decade (2010-2023). Michael played an indispensable role at the Commission as a strong advocate for the City's landmarks and historic buildings, leading the way with his incredible technical expertise on building construction and materials that was often referenced and called upon by fellow commissioners. Michael is known for his unwavering commitment to the preservation ethic and his role as an independent thinker during his time on the Commission.

Michael is also being recognized for his other stellar work in the preservation field, including his longtime role as Director of Conservation at Jan Hird Pokorny Associates. With Michael's leadership, the firm undertook award-winning restoration work on such renowned landmarks as the Battery Maritime Building, Schermerhorn Row, Merchant's House Museum, and the Hunterfly Road Houses at Weeksville Heritage Center, contributing greatly to New York's built environment. In addition, he has served on the New York State Board for Historic Preservation, U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, among many others, as well as teaching for decades at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Francoise Astorg Bollack, HDC Board Member and Honorary Co-Chair, says:

“Michael's tenure at the Landmarks Preservation Commission was stellar but more importantly he was a preservationist – long ago – when it was a lonely endeavor and an act of courage. His long-term commitment to preservation has stood the test of time.”

Frampton Tolbert, HDC Executive Director, says:

“Everyone at HDC is thrilled to be able to honor Michael Devonshire as someone who exemplifies being a true preservation warrior—a passionate advocate supporting the preservation of countless buildings, a restoration expert through his leadership at Jan Hird Pokorny Associates, and a dedicated public servant through his decade as a Landmarks Preservation Commissioner, all in the service of our irreplaceable historic communities.

To learn more or purchase tickets, please visit

<https://hdc.org/events/2023-landmarks-lion-award-michael-devonshire/> or call (212) 614-9107.

About the Historic Districts Council:

The Historic Districts Council (HDC) is the advocate for all of New York City’s historic neighborhoods. Our mission is to ensure the preservation of significant historic neighborhoods, buildings and public spaces in New York City, uphold the integrity of New York City’s Landmarks Law, and further the preservation ethic.

We work directly with people who care deeply about our city’s historic neighborhoods and buildings, and we represent a constituency of over 500 local community organizations. HDC truly is the voice of preservation in New York City.

For further information, please visit www.hdc.org.