Preserving the City We Love
Dear Friend of the Conservancy:

2020 challenged us all. Who could have imagined a year of such loss and disruption? Yet preservation proved its worth. And we renewed our determination to preserve this remarkable City and help its recovery.

Our historic buildings and neighborhoods anchored us, protected our identity, and reminded us that we have come through difficult times before. Our loan and grant programs were in high demand, providing local jobs and infusing money into the economy.

After the pandemic shuttered our office in March we worked from home, adapting personally and professionally. We were very fortunate. The Conservancy Trustees were committed to our staff and programs. And old and new donors showed their dedication to our efforts.

Much of our work is hands-on. Our staff normally visits applicants for loans and grants and then monitors projects we support. Consequently, we learned to Zoom. Our staff knows most of the architects, engineers, and contractors who specialize in preservation. So we were comfortable with the information we were getting. Many projects were on hold initially. But we wound up with 14 loan projects totaling $2.8 million.

We’ve never been able to predict calls for our Emergency Grants. You can’t schedule emergencies. But the calls for help from non-profits started in March and kept coming. We fixed porches, assessed damaged ceilings, fixed leaky roofs, and gave out 10 grants totaling $133,995.

Land use and zoning issues that threatened historic districts didn’t stop either. From SoHo/NoHo to the Upper East Side, to Governors Island, to the South Street Seaport—proposals for out-of-scale development moved forward.

Old attacks that historic districts were “coating the City in amber” resurfaced—ignoring the fact that historic districts take up less than 5% of the buildable land, and that the City’s Landmarks Preservation Commission routinely approves new buildings in these areas.

Our virtual Living Landmarks Celebration was a great success, drawing a wide audience. In addition to a roster of distinguished New Yorkers, we honored “Landmark Heroes” who serve on the frontlines during the pandemic. They were amazing New Yorkers who drove subways, ran community feeding programs in their precincts, handed out masks to the public, and treated COVID-19 patients. New York had a lot of heroes this year. New Yorkers showed their mettle in many ways.

Viewership of our “Tourist In Your Own Town” videos soared 91% and drew an international audience from 32 different countries. Everyone loves New York.

We also watched New York change during the months of lockdown. Stores and restaurants shuttered in every neighborhood. Broadway stayed dark. Commercial office buildings stayed empty. Many New Yorkers moved out.

But we are proudly The New York Landmarks Conservancy. We’re staying put. And we work every day to fight for the City we love. We are so grateful you are fighting alongside us.

Peg Breen, President
**Reality and Recovery: Historic Preservation in the City of New York**

The economic impact study was released to the public on September 10. The report highlights the benefits of preservation to New York City, finding that many small businesses and emerging tech companies have been located within historic districts. The mix of historic building types and sizes supports the diverse mix of businesses that will be critical to the City’s recovery.

**These are the key findings of the report:**

- Historic districts cover less than 5% of the lots and lot area in New York City.
- 5% of New York’s population and 8.4% of jobs are within historic districts.
- Historic districts are the location of choice for a wide range of businesses.
- Jobs in the rapidly growing high-tech sector and the arts and entertainment industries are particularly drawn to historic districts.
- Historic districts are among the densest neighborhoods in all five boroughs and only 1% of low-density neighborhoods are within historic districts.
- Businesses owned by women and minorities are disproportionately located in historic districts.
- By any real estate measure—vacancy rate, rents, selling prices—buildings in historic districts are preferred assets among both landlords and tenants.
- Younger workers are more likely to have jobs in historic districts.
- Older and historic buildings are much more efficient users of energy than more recent structures.

Historic districts continue to face a barrage of attacks, that they are not dense enough, diverse enough, or affordable enough. The report showed that historic districts cover a very small percentage of the City, in terms of lot numbers or lot area. They cannot be responsible for high residential costs everywhere. Most historic districts are relatively high-density, and only a very small percentage of low-density neighborhoods are within historic districts. When the LPC started designating historic districts, many were majority white, but in the past 20 years, more than a third of all newly designated districts had majority/minority populations.

In conjunction with the report’s release, there was a virtual public program in September featuring author Donovan Rypkema and respondents from the business community.
consists of 56 houses on one block in Flatbush, Brooklyn. These handsome row houses are a great example of the architecture and history of Brooklyn in the early 20th century. Expansion of the transit system encouraged building and transformed areas such as East 25th Street from semi-rural to a dense urban community by 1912. The low-scale houses are notable for their brick bow fronts and robust classical details recall the character of the Brons a century ago. Some feature distinctive Flemish parapets which might have been familiar to the German-American community of that era. This ensemble creates a strong sense of place that merits designation.

The Harriet and James Truesdell House in downtown Brooklyn represents New York City’s abolitionist history. It was the residence of abolitionists Harriet and Thomas Truesdell. Despite alterations and additions, this mid-19th century Greek Revival building maintains its original height, scale, configuration, materials, and many decorative details. It has clear connections to the pre-Civil War era when the Truesdells first occupied it.

There has been some question about whether the house at 227 Buffalo Street was part of the Underground Railroad. By the inherently secretive nature of this activity, physical evidence would be hard to document; however, the association with the Truesdells made the strong case for designation. In fact, the scarcity of extant sites connected with abolitionist history makes designations such as this one all the more compelling.

The Landmarks Law calls on the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to safeguard places that represent New York City’s cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history for multiple reasons, including the fostering of civic pride, and promoting the education of New Yorkers. Designation of the Truesdell House fulfills that mandate.

An intact Art Deco facade distinguishes Public School 48 at 165-02 108th Avenue in southeast Queens. The 1936 building is still in use as P75Q at Public School 48, The Robert E. Peary School. The streamlined structure, with its industrial influences, replaced a wooden schoolhouse, signaling the rapid urbanization of this area. The neighborhood landmark is an important designation for a Jamaica, Queens community that is underserved with landmark protections.

The monumental Angel Guardian Home has long been a local landmark to the Dyker Heights community. George Streeton, best known as an architect of Catholic churches, designed this orphanage for the Sisters of Mercy in 1899. It features a robust facade with aspects of the Beaux-Arts and Renaissance Revival styles. Rising several stories in a predominantly residential, low-rise neighborhood, 6301 12th Avenue is an institutional building with a commanding presence. While it is currently vacant, the surrounding site is being developed and this landmark will soon have a new use.

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The Conservancy worked with local advocates to push back against an enormous expansion of Lenox Hill Hospital, which is adjacent to the Upper East Side Historic District. The earliest version of the plan called for two large towers on Park and Lexington Avenues, at a height and scale far beyond what zoning allows. Lenox Hill claimed that it needed the expansion to improve health services. Following community pushback, the plan was revised with one bulkier Lexington Avenue tower that would overshadow the Historic District. It would still set a precedent for spot zoning and a new wave of towers. In addition to the zoning issues, advocates questioned whether this neighborhood, which has many hospitals, was the best place for an expansion, when the pandemic highlighted the need for more hospitals in many communities. The Conservancy is working with local preservation and civic groups to find a way for Lenox Hill to update the hospital without drastically changing the community.

The City released a plan to upzone SoHo and NoHo. The stated goal was to create affordable housing, but the Conservancy and many civic groups fear that instead, it would create mostly market-rate luxury condos, and damage the historic districts. These neighborhoods, with their unique clusters of cast-iron buildings, are known across the world, attracting residents, workers, and tourists. The initial intent of the rezoning was to reconcile the area’s zoning designation, which only allows manufacturing, with its current uses. However, the plan to double allowable development in much of the Historic Districts would increase development pressure and threaten the historic character. It would be the first major upzoning in a historic district, and if successful, could lead to many more.

The Conservancy was a member of a SoHo/NoHo advisory group, which Borough President Gale Brewer and Council member Margaret Chin convened in 2019 to craft guidelines for the rezoning. The group recognized the value of the Historic Districts, and prioritized their protection. It also called for creative solutions to increase affordable housing. Like many members of that group, we spoke against the plan at a public hearing and will continue to do so in 2021.
We Spoke Out On These Issues

The Public Policy Committee and Conservancy staff reviewed numerous applications, which formed testimony at the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the City Council.

Supported a plan to restore the Cort Theatre and construct a new annex. Thomas Lamb designed the Theater, which is an individual and interior landmark. This proposal would restore the French neo-Classical facade, including the windows, doors, and marquee. Work at the rich interior will improve fixtures and finishes such as murals and plaster ornament, and bring back the rose and gold color scheme. It will also revive the glory of the proscenium with its unique art glass detailing. The new annex is set to provide services and amenities which are considered standard to contemporary theater audiences.

Supported an application for a new apartment building on the grounds of landmark Saint James Episcopal Church and Parish, 2500 Jerome Avenue, Bronx. The development, which is fully affordable housing, will provide funding to restore and maintain this landmark.

Opposed a proposal for a new housing complex on the grounds of the Hebron Seventh Day Adventist School (929 Sterling Place), one of the few institutional buildings in the Crown Heights North Historic District. The new construction’s overwhelming height and massing, and discordant design would detract from the District.

Supported restoration of 315 Broadway, an individual landmark, and construction of a new building at the rear of the site. The proposal called for improvements to the landmark’s grand but deteriorated facade and ground-floor storefronts.

Supported reuse of 16 East 16th Street in the Ladies’ Mile Historic District, including a large, minimally-visible addition to facilitate converting the vacant building to hotel use. The architects made an argument to construct a rooftop addition with a gable front. The massing follows an unrealized Roberton design, but the street-facing facade would be a contemporary lacy metal mesh. We supported the concept of the gable addition, but not the cladding, which would be very visible and detract from the landmark.

Supported reuse of the former First Church of Christ, Scientist as the new home for the Children’s Museum of Manhattan. Carrère and Hastings designed this Beaux-Arts landmark at 361 Central Park West, which has been vacant for several years. The testimony supported many aspects of the renovation, but opposed installation of large, highly visible, contemporary-style rooftop addition.

Supported many aspects of a plan for alterations at Rockefeller Center’s Sunken Plaza and Channel Gardens, but strongly disagreed with the proposal to use LED-embedded glass, which could then be lit for art installations or advertising at new elevators.

Supported the proposal for a new residential tower at 130 St. Felix Street in the Brooklyn Academy of Music Historic District. The tower would be adjacent to and use development rights from the Brooklyn Music School. The School would continue using its building and will have space on the ground floor of the new tower. The upper floors will be a mix of market-rate and affordable housing condominiums.

Offered a mixed position on a restoration and new construction proposal at the corner of 14th Street and Ninth Avenue in the Gansevoort Market Historic District. Work at the houses would restore much of the original Greek Revival style, rectifying years of piecemeal alterations, but we called for less glazing at the storefronts. We raised concerns that a new commercial building in the courtyard would overwhelm the historic rows and suggested that a lower height would be more appropriate.

Providing Preservation Services

“I know I speak for my Board as well as the staff in sharing our gratitude to the New York Landmarks Conservancy for this Emergency Grant that will allow us to take immediate care of water damage that has jeopardized our National and City landmark.”

– Regina Bain – Executive Director, Louis Armstrong House Museum

photo: The Louis Armstrong House Museum, formally known as 34-56 107th Street, in Corona, Queens designated a New York City Landmark in 1988.
PRESERVATION SERVICES - The Conservancy’s Preservation Services Department provides countless hours of one-on-one advice and technical assistance to building owners throughout the City. From site visits to referrals, we offer practical recommendations that address a wide variety of questions and issues. We also help owners navigate the City’s landmarks regulatory process.

Project Highlights

Louis Armstrong House Museum, Corona, Queens
The former home of Louis Armstrong and his wife Lucille is a museum owned and operated by Queens College. The College also owns the Armstrong archives, consisting of hundreds of audio tapes and thousands of letters and objects. The house is a time capsule circa 1940-1960.

The Conservancy was invited by Queens College to take a look at the house and advise them on conservation challenges including active roof leaks. The worst leak is coming from a second-floor terrace but there are other areas of water infiltration as well. We recommended that the first order of business is an existing structures report prepared by one of the local architecture firms that specialize in historic buildings. We recommended several.

Olmsted House, 4515 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island
The emergency stabilization work funded by the Conservancy was completed in late April.

The last work item was repointing of the rubble masonry foundation walls of the house. This work was delayed several weeks awaiting the Landmarks Preservation commission’s final approval of the mortar formula to be used. The repointing along with a temporary shed roof above the old areaways and waterproofing in the cellar will result in a drier house, which will aid in its continuing preservation.

After the stabilization work was completed, a huge walnut tree fell during Hurricane Isaias and grazed the front facade of the house. It missed hitting the house by inches but it fell on the newly built plywood protective shed put there to protect the building’s foundation. The tree caused some damage to the shed. A grant of $2,100 paid for the repairs.

Judge Jacob Tysen House, 355 Fillmore Street, Staten Island
The Conservancy gave a $22,000 Emergency Preservation Grant to Historic Richmond Town for the urgent stabilization and partial dismantling of the collapsing double-height porch at the Tysen House. Two of the tall wooden columns supporting the porch were dislodged by a windstorm and fell onto the front facade. The emergency shoring work was done in mid-April.

College Point Little League, Fireman’s Hall, Queens
The Conservancy awarded a $12,000 grant to the Little League of College Point to help pay for a new roof on their 1906 headquarters, which is listed on the National Register. After several false starts, the work was completed in May and the historic building is now watertight.

Casa Belvedere, 79 Howard Avenue, Staten Island
A $20,000 Emergency Grant was given to the Italian Cultural Foundation to help pay for emergency structural stabilization work at Casa Belvedere, an individually designated landmark that was built in 1906 as a private mansion. It is a mix of Italianate and American Arts and Crafts styles.

Noble Maritime Collection, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island
A $15,000 Emergency grant has been awarded to the Noble Maritime Collection, a museum that is housed in one of the historic buildings at Sailor’s Snug Harbor. The grant is to help pay for emergency stabilization and physical analysis of a murals ceiling, which partially collapsed, in one of the museum’s galleries.

Lower East Side Preservation Initiative (LESPI), Manhattan
A $3,000 grant went to pay for architectural renderings that will help illustrate to city and state officials how two WPA-era park buildings in the East River Park, both designed by Aymar Embury II, could be relocated in the proposed newly designed park.

2020 Emergency Grants totaled $133,995 to 10 organizations.
Project Reviews

The Conservancy was a consulting party on the following projects:

Governors Island Development Proposal
The Trust for Governors Island has begun a Unified Land Use Review Process (ULURP) to rezone a portion of the non-landmarked south side of the island to allow for the development of a multi-use complex envisioned by the Trust to include commercial, retail, hotel, and educational space as well as a “Center for Climate Solutions.” The new zoning, if approved by the City Planning Commission, would allow 4.3 million square feet of new building bulk on two parcels of land set aside for this purpose. The sites are just south of the historic district and are surrounded by a newly built park.

East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, Manhattan. Section 106 Review
In response to Superstorm Sandy, which made landfall on October 29, 2012, the City plans to build a coastal flood protection system along a portion of the east side of Manhattan from Montgomery Street to East 25th Street. The system, funded by HUD, would be located largely within City parkland and streets and would include a combination of flood walls, levees, floodgates, and other infrastructure improvements. The entire East River Park is to be raised eight to nine feet in elevation using landfill. The project impacts a number of historic buildings within the Park including two WPA-era structures, the Track House and the Tennis Center Comfort Station. Both designed by noted architect Aymar Embury II and date to 1935. Both buildings are slated for demolition even though they have been found eligible for the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Office. We are teaming up with local organizations to save and relocate the two structures.

La Guardia Air Train, Queens, Section 106 Review
The Section 106 Consulting Parties discussed the final findings of the Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed light rail system to connect La Guardia Airport with the number 7 subway line at the Mets/Willets Point Station. The work was found to have an adverse impact on several historic resources within the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Mitigation efforts include listing the entire park on the National Register, documentation of all historic structures to HABS standards, and the restoration of the nearby Candela Pavilions from the 1964 World’s Fair.

Project Highlights continued
Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, 3201 Amboy Road, Staten Island
We awarded an $11,000 grant in early November for emergency roof repairs to the cemetery’s administration and archive building. One of the oldest African American cemeteries in the city, Frederick Douglass Memorial Park is situated on 57 landscaped acres in central Staten Island.

Church of the Intercession, Broadway and West 155th Street, Manhattan
The magnificent Church of the Intercession in Washington Heights, designed by Bertram Goodhue, suffered wind damage during Hurricane Isaias. A large section of the copper ridge capping on the roof was peeled away resulting in roof leaks into the sanctuary. A $12,500 grant was given to replace the copper capping in kind.

Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn
Another historic cemetery that suffered wind damage. Large trees toppled several historic memorials including an obelisk. A $3,395 grant went to the rental of a crane that allowed the cemetery maintenance crew to right the fallen memorials.

Frederick Douglass Memorial Park (Staten Island) monument unveiling, May 1961

Frederick Douglass Monument Unveiling - May 1961

Frederick Douglass Monument Unveiling - May 1961

La Guardia Airport, Queens - Air Train rendering

La Guardia Airport, Queens - Air Train rendering

La Guardia Airport, Queens - Air Train rendering
New Yorkers are fortunate to be surrounded by diverse examples of architecture dating from the 18th to the 20th century. Owners of these historic buildings need access to objective, technical expertise to be able to care for them. Nationally recognized for its expertise, the Conservancy’s Preservation Services program provides exactly that to owners of residential, religious, public, and commercial buildings.

Through the Preservation Hotline, the Conservancy fields questions about building repair, project management, and contractor referrals. For issues that cannot be resolved over the phone, the staff makes site visits and meets with owners, architects, and contractors. In some cases, we provide conditions reports, historical research, maintenance plans, or feasibility studies.

You can contact the Preservation Hotline with your questions at 212.995.5260 or by email at info@nylandmarks.org.

Conservancy staff also serve as project advisors, offering assistance with requests for proposals, budgets, grant applications, nominations for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, certification of rehabilitations for federal investment tax credits, and local and state design review approvals.

Special Projects

National Register of Historic Places Nominations
The Conservancy saw the successful completion of three new listings to the National Register of Historic Places in 2020.

The 1891 Conrad Voelcker House (today the Voelker Orth Museum, Victorian Garden and Bird Sanctuary) in Flushing, Queens was added to the National Register in June. The Museum’s director, Deborah Silverfine wrote: “I must say again how very grateful I and all of us at the Museum are for the guidance and support the Conservancy has provided to date.

The Union Church of Bay Ridge (Arthur Bates Jennings, 1897; Albert Edward Parfitt, 1924) was listed in August.

In December, the Frederick Law Olmsted Farmhouse (today the Olmsted-Bell House) in Eltingville, Staten Island was listed after a very lengthy process that began back in 1979. As part of the Conservancy’s successful efforts to stabilize this historic house that was once part of Olmsted’s Tosomeck Farm, the nomination was completed and the property was added to the National Register with a national level of significance.

Preserving Sacred Sites

“Our Board is thrilled about accomplishing something significant for our church, Mother AME Zion. We were energized by the Conservancy’s reception to our inquiry and their referrals, input, and funding, have been greatly appreciated. We are super excited to begin the much needed work and are grateful for the Conservancy’s role in making this possible.”

- Velva Edwards - Board Member, Mother AME Zion Church

photo: Distribution of hand sanitizer kits at Mother AME Zion Church in Harlem. The church provided pandemic services, serving as a COVID-19 testing site.
Sacred Sites Open House

The 10th Annual Sacred Sites Open House, like many events this pandemic year, was virtual. The theme, Celebrating All Faiths: A Decade of Sacred Sites Open House, was brought to life in a virtual tour featuring 12 sites of different faith traditions from around New York City and state, from New York City’s oldest mosque, established in the 1930s by Eastern European Tatars in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, to the mid-century Modern synagogue by Max Abramovitz, the 1964-1967 Temple Beth Zion of Buffalo.

Other events included a panel discussion with Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant clergy about the challenges of virtual worship and other pandemic programming; Instagram and Facebook posts highlighting over 100 historic sacred sites statewide; and two virtual tours hosted by community partners the Queens Historical Society and Preservation Association of the Southern Tier.

One advantage of the virtual format was enabling downstate participants to learn about upstate sites, and vice versa, as we heard from participants and featured sites:

“I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the Virtual Tour. This is a good idea because it allows the audience to view properties that might ordinarily not be close enough to visit under usual circumstances.” —The late Betty Winsch, Staten Island

Just wanted to thank you for including the Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church in this virtual tour. We were so pleased to be invited to participate. Certainly, the best part of the virtual tour was being able to see the many beautiful places of worship that you featured which very likely, I would never see otherwise. When traveling to Europe, cathedrals and other sacred sites are on the top of my list of must-see places, but not necessarily so in touring our own country. It will make a difference in future travel itineraries.” —Gayle Burgess, Rensselaerville

Others simply appreciated the distraction after months of lockdown: Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity. It brightened up my day.” —Iris Brahms, Brooklyn

Hands-on Help for Congregations

The Conservancy matches historic building owners, including sacred sites, with consultants and contractors suited to their projects and budgets. After connecting Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church with custom wood window fabricator Right Path Windows and Restoration and Sunlites Stained Glass Studio, pandemic restrictions threatened the project completion: the in-kind replacement of a 36’ tall tracery window at this 1873-1874 Victorian Gothic church in Brooklyn’s Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood.

All construction was halted in March, but by April, projects were restarting, with limited numbers of masked and distanced workers on site. In the meantime, the congregation was devastated by the pandemic, losing 10 members. Despite these losses, the congregation continued offering worship, Bible Study, and wellness programs via digital platforms. The church’s vibrant Pre-K program was suspended until the fall. In-person worship with limited numbers resumed in October, with Zoom programs continuing, and holiday meal outreach programs shifted to “Grab and Go.”

Conservancy staff visited the site via bicycle in April and May, conducting masked meetings with both companies, and helping the church negotiate what was needed to complete the project: change orders to adequately address window ventilation, scaffolding charges for several months that the project was idle, and the patching and painting of plaster after scaffolding removal. Another unanticipated cost was masonry repairs to brick window jambs prior to reinstallation of the window. The Conservancy referred the church to Excellent Contracting, who were able to quickly repoint the jambs without delaying window re-installation.

Over the course of the project, with enthusiastic fundraising by the pastor and congregation, and two visits by trustees to the Sunlites Stained Glass Studio to review stained glass conditions and approve additional restoration, the scope and budget had grown from an initial $200,000, to replace the wood window assembly and restore only a few of the original stenciled stained glass panels, to a $300,000 project, with all stained glass fully restored and reinstalled. The Conservancy provided two initial grants totaling $33,500 to help launch the window project, then was able to provide two additional grants totaling $15,100 in 2020, to fund change orders and ensure successful project completion.

The transformation is remarkable. Neighbors stop to admire the new window. “This restoration work is important far beyond the physical results,” says Pastor Codner-Walker. “It’s a message of hope to the community. It tells people that even if we have little or no means we are unwilling to allow our voices to fade and to allow meaningful worship, culture, and generational memories to fade or die.”

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Sacred Sites Grants

The Conservancy awards matching grants to congregations to plan or implement the restoration of historic religious properties. Although the pandemic delayed some projects, the Sacred Sites program pledged 42 grants totaling $618,600 to 37 religious institutions throughout New York State, leveraging over $9.4 million in repair and restoration projects.

To be eligible for our grant programs properties must be located in New York State, owned by a religious institution, actively used for worship, and listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places or designated pursuant to a local landmarks ordinance. Eligible properties include churches, synagogues, meetinghouses, mosques, and temples.

2020 Grantees include: (listed by County, then City or Borough)

Albany
Church of God and Saints of Christ, Albany $3,500 — Prioritized Scope of Work

Columbia
Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls $3,500 — Architectural & Engineering Services

Glens Falls United Methodist Church, Livingston $10,000 — Roof Repair

Delaware
First Congregational Church, Walton $30,000 — Masonry Restoration at Bell Tower

Ghana
First Presbyterian Church of LeRoy $10,000 — Protective Glazing

Greene
United Methodist Church, Livingston $3,500 — Front Step & Door Repair, Weatherization of Sanctuary

Herkimer
United Presbyterian Church of Sackets Harbor $5,000 — Flat Roof Replacement

Jefferson
United Presbyterian Church of Sackets Harbor $5,000 — Flat Roof Replacement

Kings (Brooklyn)
Laflair Avenue Presbyterian Church $5,000 — Construction Documents & Structural Repair Oversight

Nassau
Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church $3,500 — Wood Window Paint Analysis, Masonry Jamb Stabilization

Onondaga
First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent $10,000 — Slate Roof Restoration Construction Documents & Repair Management

Orleans
First Presbyterian Church, Holley $5,000 — Roof Repair

Richmond (Staten Island)
St. Alban’s Episcopal Church $7,000 — Exterior Carpentry & Stained Glass Window Repair

Suffolk
Old First Presbyterian Church, Huntington $15,000 — Replacement of Rotted Foundation Sill

Saratoga
First Presbyterian Church of Forest Home, Ithaca $7,500 — Front Step & Door Repair, Weatherization of Sanctuary Windows

Washington
First Baptist Church, Hartford $2,000 — Update Conditions Assessment

Sacred Sites program has given 1,559 grants to 828 congregations. Since its launch in 1986, the Sacred Sites program has given 1,559 grants to 828 congregations.
HISTORIC PROPERTIES FUND - Established in 1982, the New York City Historic Properties Fund is the Conservancy's main financing vehicle for restoration work throughout New York City. With over $9 million in assets, it is one of the largest revolving loan funds for historic preservation in the nation. Since its inception, the Fund has invested over $31,055,236 in 270 projects.

The beginning of 2020 saw the Historic Properties Fund finishing up restoration projects that had begun the previous year, such as window installation at 543 Manhattan Avenue in Harlem and 831 Carroll Street in Park Slope. With the arrival of spring weather, new projects like the facade restoration at 313 Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights began. Unfortunately, a number of Fund projects were soon halted as New York City went into lockdown in March.

Eventually, the pause on non-essential construction was lifted in late spring, and the Fund’s projects in construction continued in accordance with COVID-19 protocol. Restoration work made considerable progress at ongoing projects in Bedford-Stuyvesant, NoHo, and Mt. Morris Park. While the Fund had to adapt to the pandemic like everyone else, it quickly achieved a “new normal” way of operating. Fund staff worked mostly from home. Site visits were all socially distanced and masked. Zoom allowed community outreach meetings, architect interviews, and board meetings to approve new loans. Contractors attended walk-throughs individually, rather than in groups. Contract signings took place on stoops instead of in conference rooms. Loan closing documents were mailed back and forth for signature, allowing the Fund to close six new loans in 2020. In fact, the Fund reached a milestone in that it exceeded the $30,000,000 mark of funds committed to projects.

Highlights of 2020 Include:

Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York
Upper West Side, Manhattan

The congregation that occupies the prominent late Gothic Revival church building at 160 Central Park West embarked on a large, $1.2 million roof replacement project. The old asphalt shingle roof was replaced with new slate shingles that match the building’s original roof. In addition to a $350,000 loan from the Fund, the sizable project was paid for from a number of sources, including a $40,000 grant from the Conservancy’s Sacred Sites fund, a $500,000 grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, and a capital campaign that included outreach to neighboring property owners.

The beautiful slate roof will protect the building for many decades to come due to the durability of this traditional building material. The firm of Thomas A. Fenniman Architect served as the project architect and Riconda Maintenance, Inc. was the contractor.

Funding Historic Properties

“The Fourth Universalist Society is incredibly grateful for the support of the Landmarks Conservancy. As we navigated the urgent restoration of our aging church building, they guided us through every step. From connecting us to expert consultants to granting us vital financial assistance to simply being available for questions, their help was invaluable. There is no doubt we owe the continued existence of our spiritual home to them.”

- Rev. Schuyler Vogel - Senior Minister, Fourth Universalist Society

Since 1982, the Fund has committed over $31 million in loans and grants for restoration work on 270 projects throughout New York City.
35-46 79th Street, Jackson Heights, Queens

The Fund’s largest loan to date of $500,000 financed roof and facade restoration at a 10-unit cooperative apartment building in the Jackson Heights Historic District. After seeing the success of a very similar Fund project at the building next door, the shareholders of this cooperative organization decided to pursue the restoration of their own building. The building received a new roof and reconstructed parapet walls, the rooftop stair bulkhead and skylight was repaired, fire escapes were refurbished, cracked bricks and lintels were replaced, masonry was repointed, and deteriorated terra cotta ornament was exactly recreated using cast stone. Easton Architects was the project architect and Titan Restoration was the contractor.

The Fund will remain busy in 2021; a number of new loans were approved in 2020 will get underway, and several projects that were started in 2020 will be completed.

Wood window restoration – 258 Hancock Street, Brooklyn.

Honoring Excellence

“In the old time, you arrived at Pennsylvania Station at the train platform. You went up the stairs to heaven. Make that Manhattan. And we shall have it again. Praise all.”

– The late U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan speaking of the project that would come to bear his name, intoned at a 2002 press conference.
MOSES AWARDS - The Lucy G. Moses Preservation Awards are the New York Landmarks Conservancy’s highest honors for outstanding preservation. The Moses Awards recognize individuals, organizations, architects, craftspeople and building owners for their extraordinary contributions to preserving our City.

Andrew Dolkart received the Preservation Leadership Award for his decades of teaching, researching and writing about preservation. Dolkart’s influence on landmark designations is widespread and unparalleled. Scores of New Yorkers rely on his books of architectural history, his guidebooks, and reports written for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Generations of preservation professionals have benefited from his long tenure as a professor and director (2008-2016) of Columbia University’s Historic Preservation Program. Dolkart has worked for or with every major preservation organization in the City and the LPC. Now he is on the vanguard of preservation advocacy, as co-founder of the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project, which has expanded the understanding of buildings connected to LGBT history.

Frederick Bland received the Public Leadership in Preservation Award for his role in elevating preservation through public service. Bland has been a commissioner of the Landmarks Preservation Commission since 2008, serving as Vice Chairman since 2017. As Interim Chair during 2018, he played a critical role in ensuring that the public had a voice when the LPC undertook sweeping changes to Rules that govern most permit application reviews. Bland serves on the boards of many civic organizations that promote preservation as part of their mission. He joined Beyer Blinder Belle, the country’s premier preservation architecture firm, in 1972, and in 1978 became the first partner to join the founders.

The Preservation Organization Award went to Save Harlem Now! for its success in protecting and preserving Harlem’s irreplaceable built heritage. The group has achieved significant victories, including the first historic district designation in Harlem in over 20 years. The remarkable architecture and cultural history of Harlem are known around the world, yet for many years there was no single preservation advocacy group that could speak for this community. Save Harlem Now! also worked toward the restoration of the Harlem Fire Watchtower in Mount Morris Park, which received a Lucy Moses Award last year. Longtime Harlem residents and advocates founded Save Harlem Now! in 2015 to coalesce the voices fighting for preservation, and focus advocacy efforts.
Celebrating Living Landmarks

“I think it’s absolutely critical that people recognize how architecture has evolved over time and that good architecture should be preserved.”

~ Peter W. May - 2020 Living Landmarks Honoree

Living Landmarks Celebration

On October 29th, we held our first virtual Living Landmarks Celebration and saluted New Yorkers who give back so much to the City we love while acknowledging New York’s enduring spirit. We honored arts and education patron Joyce B. Cowin, attorney and public official Gordon J. Davis, attorney, corporate executive, and arts patron Ronnie F. Heyman, corporate and nonprofit leaders Leni F. and Peter W. May, and real estate pioneer and international preservationist Elizabeth F. Stribling. Our very own longtime Board Member and former Chairman Stephen S. Lash served as Master of Ceremonies. Barbara Taylor-Bradford, Lawrence C. Leeds, and Marica and Jan Vilcek served as Honorary Co-Chairs. All are “Living Landmarks” alumni.

The proceeds from our Living Landmarks Celebration ensure that our programs will continue to help the City’s recovery. Our thanks to everyone who joined us nationally and internationally.
Honoring “Landmark Heroes”

We had a special salute to “Landmark Heroes” who represented the thousands of New Yorkers who worked on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic: School Safety Agent Max Acosta, 107th Precinct NYPD Detective Tanya Duhaney, MTA Train Operator Talika Green, and Richmond University Medical Center Chief of Cardiology Dr. Francesco Rotatori.

It’s Up to You ... New York, New York

The virtual Living Landmarks Celebration presentation was viewed by over 1,460 Conservancy supporters in 33 countries around the world and closed with a rousing rendition of “New York, New York” sung by amateur and professional singers from throughout the five boroughs. You can view the event by visiting our website gala page at nylandmarks.org/event/2020-living-landmarks-celebration - or scan the QR code below.

Over 1,460 Conservancy supporters in 33 countries around the world viewed our virtual celebration.

top: “New York, New York” sung by amateur and professional singers from throughout the five boroughs. Scan QR code to watch.

middle: Painters pose after installing an oversized presentation of the iconic “I Love NY” logo for the reopening of the Museum of Modern Art. The logo designed by Milton Glaser was first promoted in the 60s by 2013 Living Landmark Mary Wells Lawerence with her firm Wells Rich Greene. It has long been used for helping resurrect the City’s image with song, slogan and ethos. Photo by Cindy Ord/Getty.
TOURS AND OTHER EVENTS

Professional Circle Talks

We typically provide our Professional Circle members a variety of networking, promotional, and educational activities through talks, tours, and workshops. Members are an active group of real estate, design, development, and construction professionals, preservationists, property owners, and businesses interested in the art, architecture, and history of New York.

In the age of COVID-19, we had to retool our offerings which consisted of Zoom calls on a range of topics including: “The State of Preservation Work Since the Pause”; “Going Back to Work: Changes in the Office and on Construction Sites”; “Moving into Phase 3: Adapting to Changes in the Office and on Construction Sites”; and “Here Comes 2021: What’s the Forecast?”

Since 2014, we’ve partnered with the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen of The City of New York in presenting Landmark Lectures, a four-part series of interesting and informative visual presentations by experts in their respective fields. We managed one such talk in-person in February before switching to a Zoom format for the remaining three lectures.

We also continued our collaboration with the Municipal Art Society in presenting their “MASter Class,” a four-part series on “Researching the History of Buildings in New York City.”

Other Landmarks Conservancy Events

We also hosted a Zoom talk with author and preservationist Roberta Brandes Graz on her latest book, “It’s A Helluva Town” and a virtual tour with author William J. Hennessey about his book, “Walking Broadway: Thirteen Miles of Architecture and History.” The tour was organized by his publisher, Monacelli.

With the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the New York State Historic Preservation Office, we presented “Financial Benefits for Historic Properties,” a virtual information session on the economic advantages for work on New York City and New York State listed historic properties.

Tourist Video Series

We launched Tourist In Your Own Town in the fall of 2011. It invites New Yorkers and visitors alike to explore the City’s extraordinary array of historic structures in two to three-minute videos on YouTube, our website, and on social media. In 2020, the pandemic made filming the videos impractical, but we did reissue a number of them throughout the year to great response. We’ve reached viewers in Canada, Denmark, France, Israel, Peru, the United Kingdom, and throughout the US. One of them sent this message: “I am a proud American living in Israel who is addicted to New York. I so enjoy this video series.”

We were delighted to learn that the fourth-grade class at Muscota New School, P.S. 314 in Inwood was assigned our Fraunces Tavern video as part of their Revolutionary War studies. We are proud to be included and hope other videos will be useful to teachers and those responsible for educating our young people about New York’s extraordinary art, architecture, and history.

The entire 61-part series has been seen more than 544,000 viewers. You can watch all of the videos on our website at nylandmarks.org or on YouTube at our youtube.com/nylandmarks channel.

Explore!NYLandmarks™ Walking Tours

The Conservancy opened the 2020 season of walking tours on March 5th with a sold-out walk around the streets of Lower Manhattan, formerly New Amsterdam. The tour included such landmarks as the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, Federal Hall, and the lesser known, though impressive City Bank-Farmers Trust Company Building.

Due to COVID-19, our in-person walking tours were suspended and moved online to Zoom. Our first virtual tour on June 4th took a closer look at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House. Nearly 100 were in attendance—some as far away as Nebraska—which, thanks to the new online format, enabled us to not only safely continue our tour program but also reach a much wider audience.

Other virtual tours were held on July 30th, focusing on the hidden secrets of Bryant Park, and October 1st focusing on the hidden secrets of Rockefeller Center.

“I just wanted to say what a good job the Conservancy is doing to keep people informed and involved over this long year. Your virtual tours and other programs have been well done!” - Lex Lalli
The New York Landmarks Conservancy’s success depends on the annual support of our individual, corporate, and foundation donors. Each year we must raise at least 30 percent of our operating budget from private sources. To maintain our partnership with the following supporters during 2020, if any names have been listed incorrectly or omitted, please accept our apologies and let us know how we may adjust our records.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$100,000–$499,999</td>
<td>Henry &amp; Lucy Moss Fund, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000–$99,999</td>
<td>Anonymous New York Community Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000–$49,999</td>
<td>Morrow &amp; Alma Schuenn Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000–$9,999</td>
<td>New York State Council on the Arts</td>
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Foundations, Corporations, Public Agencies, and Other Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000–$99,999</td>
<td>ABS Partners Real Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000–$49,999</td>
<td>Bally Foundation</td>
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## Financial Statements

### Statement of Activities

**Year Ended December 31, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support and Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 2,444,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events, net of direct benefit to donors</td>
<td>742,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>25,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment return used for operations</td>
<td>1,037,388</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program services income</td>
<td>26,290</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 4,256,037</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$ 2,875,287</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>612,627</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>293,687</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 3,781,804</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-operating Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-operating investment returns</td>
<td>608,714</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,082,950</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets, Beginning</td>
<td>$ 15,802,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets, Ending</td>
<td>$ 16,885,866</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Financial Position

**December 31, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program-related loans receivable</td>
<td>58,109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from NYCHP Fund, Inc.</td>
<td>109,249</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash held for other agencies</td>
<td>11,691,857</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>65,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Investments</td>
<td>$ 2,392,068</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 18,063,341</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$ 70,130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants payable</td>
<td>622,908</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paycheck Protection Program Loan</td>
<td>291,607</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred rent</td>
<td>26,290</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amounts held for other agencies</td>
<td>106,952</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,117,475</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>$ 1,100,519</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board Designated</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Without Donor Restrictions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 12,020,444</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Donor Restrictions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$ 16,885,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td>$ 18,063,341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A copy of the complete audited financial statements for 2020 may be obtained upon written request from The New York Landmarks Conservancy, One Whitehall Street, New York, NY 10004.

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**Board and Advisory Council as of April 2021**

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  - Assistant Director, Development
- **Rick Briner**
  - Senior Creative Manager
- **Alissa Catalano**
  - Associate Director, Special Events and Membership
- **Christina Crickhow**
  - Development Associate
- **Ann-Isabel Friedman**
  - Director, Sacred Sites
- **Andrea Goldwyn**
  - Director, Public Policy
- **Colleen Heemeyer**
  - Deputy Director, Grants & Preservation Services
- **Alex Herrera**
  - Director, Preservation Services
- **Robert Irving**
  - Director, Finance
- **Scott Lepper**
  - Director, Development
- **James J. Mahoney**
  - Project and Accounting Manager, New York City Historic Properties Fund
- **Kera Reid**
  - Manager, Office
- **Glen K. Umberger**
  - Manager, Special Projects
- **Blair E. Walsh**
  - Project and Outreach Manager, New York City Historic Properties Fund
- **Mark A. Weber**
  - Director, New York City Historic Properties Fund

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Photo on page 2 of Peg Breen by James Salzano.