



FROM: Preservation League of New York State
44 Central Avenue
Albany NY 12206-3002
www.preservenys.org

CONTACTS: Colleen M. Ryan, Director of Communications
518.462.5658, ext. 17
Erin Tobin
Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs, Eastern New York
518-462-5658 x12

For Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
Andrew Berman, 212-475-9585, aberman@gvshp.org

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PRESERVATION LEAGUE AWARDS PRESERVE NEW YORK GRANT
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation Secures \$13,000
Two Additional Projects Push NYC Grant Funding Tally to \$45,000

ALBANY, NY – 11/19/08 – The Preservation League of New York State will present a **\$13,000 grant to the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation on Thursday, November 20 at 11:00 a.m.** at the **St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery, 131 East 10th Street**. The grant will be used to support the completion of an intensive-level survey of the East Village, which will build upon basic research begun by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

While the architecture of the East Village reflects its social and cultural diversity, the area lacks a comprehensive history of its development. Since the 1990s, as the East Village has become a desirable neighborhood for young professionals, many historic buildings have been threatened with demolition as developers plan large-scale new construction.

New York City is planning to re-zone this neighborhood to institute height limits for new construction. The report, which will be completed by preservation consultant Andrew Dolkart, will complement that process.

The Preserve New York Grant Program is a partnership program of the Preservation League and the New York State Council on the Arts. "Preserve New York has a strong track record of bolstering local preservation efforts and delivering a strong return on investment," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "In its 16-year history, Preserve New York has provided over \$1.3 million to 217 projects across the state, leveraging over \$20 million in additional project support and over \$500,000 in donated labor, services and materials."

Founded in 1980, the not-for-profit Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation was formed to preserve the architectural heritage and cultural history of Greenwich Village, but has since expanded its mission to include the Gansevoort Market, South Village and East Village neighborhoods. According to Executive Director Andrew Berman, “The East Village faces enormous development pressure, and its twin threats of demolition and out-of-scale new construction not in keeping with the neighborhood’s historic character. This grant provides an opportunity for us to comprehensively survey the vast historic resources of the East Village to better understand and protect them.”

“At its August, 2008 meeting, the Preserve New York grant program panel selected 16 projects in 14 counties around the state to share \$141,400 in funding,” said Erin Tobin, the League’s Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs in eastern New York. “As always, the competition for these funds was intense. The Preservation League is delighted to help advance the historic preservation efforts of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation with this grant.”

The League also announced two additional New York City efforts that will receive funding through the Preserve New York grant program:

Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project

Kings County

Grant of \$12,000 for a National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Wallabout Historic District. Threatened by encroaching development and tear-down threats, historic district recognition would protect the diverse historic residential buildings of the Wallabout, whose styles range from Greek Revival to Italianate and Romanesque Revival.

New York Landmarks Conservancy

New York County

Grant of \$20,000 to complete National Register nominations for ten architecturally significant synagogues in Brooklyn. Congregations in New York City often struggle with the cost of building maintenance, especially when faced with substantial demographic changes and levels of observance. Information gathered from this survey will also be used for lectures and tours highlighting Brooklyn’s religious heritage and will help qualify these congregations for rehabilitation grants.

(more)

According to Anne Van Ingen, Director of the Architecture, Planning and Design Program and Capital Projects for the New York State Council on the Arts, “We have seen the tangible benefits of the strategic grants made by the Preserve New York Grant Program, and are especially gratified that state funds made available through Preserve New York leverage private investment, help save historic neighborhoods and downtowns, and celebrate New York’s incomparable architectural legacy.”

Organizations and municipalities receiving grant awards in 2008 are: BROOME COUNTY: Preservation Association of the Southern Tier; ERIE COUNTY: City of Buffalo; Preservation Buffalo Niagara; FULTON COUNTY: Northville/Northampton Historic Landmark Commission, Northampton; KINGS COUNTY: Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project, Brooklyn; HERKIMER COUNTY: Preserve Our Past, Little Falls; LIVINGSTON COUNTY: Village of Avon; MONROE COUNTY: Landmark Society of Western New York, Rochester; NASSAU COUNTY: Sea Cliff Landmarks Preservation Commission; NEW YORK COUNTY: Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation; New York Landmarks Conservancy; ONTARIO COUNTY: City of Geneva; OTSEGO COUNTY: Village of Milford; RENSSELAER COUNTY, Pittstown Historical Society; ULSTER COUNTY: Huguenot Historical Society; WAYNE COUNTY: Village of Palmyra.

For more information on the Preserve New York Grant Program, please call 518-462-5658 or visit the League’s website at www.preservenys.org.