

Aligning Preservation Goals

In an ideal situation, the preservation objectives of the public should harmonize with the missions of federal, state, and city agencies, as well as related organizations in conservation and housing. This alignment creates a unified strategy to protect and uphold our vital historic and cultural treasures. However, is it realistic for all parties to adopt a shared framework and process, where the key difference lies primarily in resource accessibility?

MODERATOR



The Honorable Gale A. Brewer
Council Member, 6th Council District
Chair, Committee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Gale A. Brewer represents the 6th Council District and chairs the Committee on Oversight and Investigations. The committee has a far-reaching mandate to examine the municipal administration, its policies, and delivery of city services. Under her leadership, the committee held oversight hearings on costs of the migrant crisis, responses to climate emergencies, proliferation of unlicensed cannabis shops, operational challenges in family court, maintaining the municipal workforce, and many others. Council Member Brewer is a member of the Budget Negotiation Team as well as the Committees on Finance, Higher Education, Immigration, Consumer and Worker Protection, Governmental Operations, and Rules, Pensions, and Elections. She recently passed bills to prevent lithium-ion battery fires, expand the city's tree canopy, and protect hourly workers.

PANELISTS



Olivia Brazee
Coordinator, Technical Services Unit
NY State Historic Preservation Office

Olivia Brazee is Senior Historic Site Restoration Coordinator at the Division for Historic Preservation of the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (State Historic Preservation Office), where she supervises the Technical Services Unit and administers the Barn Tax Credit program. In her free time she serves as President of the Board of TAP, Inc., a community design center, and as a member of the Troy, NY Historic Review Commission. Olivia holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art History and Latin American Studies from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Columbia University, and worked at the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission prior to coming to SHPO.



Peg Green
President
The New York Landmarks Conservancy

Peg Green is President of The New York Landmarks Conservancy. Over its 51 years, the Conservancy has provided over \$60 million in loans and grants to preservation projects throughout New York. She has contributed to \$1 billion in total restoration costs. The State Department has awarded her the Presidential Rank Award for her work. She is also a past President of the Preservation Resource Association. She has been a keynote speaker at an international preservation conference in Havana, Cuba. She is on the boards of Save Ellis Island, Inc., Preservation Action, and the Cary Institute and recently finished three years as a board member of the International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina. Before joining the Conservancy, she worked in public relations and at City Hall.



Dr. Malcolm A. Punter
President & CEO of Harlem
Cooperations for Community Improvement

Dr. Malcolm A. Punter earned his Ph.D. and was awarded the Doctorate in Education (E.D.), holds a Master of Science Law (JSM) degree, a M.B.A. in Management & Operations, and a B.S. in Behavioral Sciences. As President & CEO of Harlem Cooperations for Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI), he provides day-to-day oversight for all aspects of HCCI and manages the financial and operational sustainability of over \$150 million in real estate assets comprised of mixed-use and commercial buildings and a variety of social service programs. He also drives the affordable housing initiatives of HCCI which currently has several new construction projects in production including 131 units of worker housing, and 250 cooperative homeownership units. Prior to joining HCCI, Dr. Punter worked in the affordable housing industry on other Central Harlem real estate development projects sponsored by NYC HPI, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. and LISC, the current partner of HCCI in housing development. Dr. Punter created and managed his own family real estate investment with holdings in NY, PA and CT. He teaches courses at universities such as the College of New Rochelle, the City College of New York, and New York Theological Seminary. Dr. Punter served as an Adjunct Professor of Social Science and business management at the College of New Rochelle from 2007 - 2019.



Valerie White
Senior Executive Director
Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC) New York

Valerie White Senior Executive Director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation, LISC NY, is responsible for leading the expansion strategy to promote LISC's statewide efforts to create an economic and community development ecosystem that addresses deep systemic inequities. Through the usage of capital investment, policy and legislative advocacy, and programmatic initiative design and delivery, she elevates LISC's role as a key voice among legislative, government, private sector, philanthropic, and nonprofit community partner stakeholders across New York. Valerie also oversees the LISC NYC and LISC WNY local offices. Valerie has more than 30 years of experience across private, public, and non-profit sectors. Before joining LISC NYC in April 2020, Valerie was Executive Vice President at Empire State Development (ESD), as well as Executive Director of the New York State Division of Minority and Women's Business Development. Previously, she was Vice President at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation and managing director at Standard & Poor's Global Ratings (S&P). In addition to her extensive professional experience, Valerie also serves as an advisory board member for the Fordham Urban Law Center and a director of the Fordham Law Alumni Association.

Current Campaigns, Challenges, and Perspectives on Preservation

This session highlights significant successes and challenges within the preservation community, offering valuable insights for future campaigns. We'll examine the durability of city rezonings, assess the relationship of preservation and new housing construction, and explore how major infrastructure projects impact our neighborhoods. Additionally, we will discuss whether substantial successes led to specific projects have a lasting positive impact on preservation efforts and communities in the long term.

MODERATOR



Barry Weinberg
Community Board 9, Vice Chair

Barry Weinberg is a West Harlem resident and community leader residing in Hamilton Heights. A member of Manhattan Community Board 9 since 2013, he has been a member of the Housing, Zoning, and Land Use Committee for over a decade. He currently serves as co-chair of CB9 and leads CB9's efforts to rescue Montrosque Heights, protect HDPC Co-ops, and compel HPD to allow conversion of the remaining TIL buildings into HDPC Co-ops owned by the current tenants.

PANELISTS



Debby Hirshman
Executive Director
Center at West Park

Debby Hirshman began her tenure as Executive Director of the Center at West Park in May 2023. Debby has throughout her career been a vision and values driven Entrepreneurial CEO as was evidenced from 1990-2003 being the founding CEO of the JCC in Manhattan. She took it from a concept with 8 volunteers to the 137,000 sq ft, \$95,000,000 building on the corner of 76th and Amsterdam. She has a proven track record as both a CEO and consultant in organizational & strategic planning, master planning, business and real estate development as well as extraordinary success and expertise in multi-million-dollar capital and annual fundraising, while maximizing human and economic resources and ensuring a diversified portfolio of revenue sources. She is a relationship builder known for building strong and long-lasting staff, conceptualizing, and actualizing a vision and road map with board, staff, community, and strategic alliances, collaborative partnerships and strong neighborhood involvement resulting in greater opportunities, resources and achievement of goals.



Shawn L. Rickenbacker
Associate Professor & Director
J. Max Bond Center for Urban Issues
City College

Shawn L. Rickenbacker is Associate Professor and Director of the J. Max Bond Center for Urban Issues, City College of New York where he leads a multi-disciplinary team of design researchers, professionals, industry leaders and community members who are dedicated to identifying, understanding, and solving some of the most complex challenges of urbanization. Previously he was former Chair of Architecture at Tulane University, Gensler Distinguished Professor at Cornell University and Lead Researcher at Parsons Lath, a Motorola Solutions funded research lab at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design. Rickenbacker is a published and award-winning designer, entrepreneur and educator, in the design, technology and real estate fields. As an experienced creative and technologist, he continues to work at the convergence of urban data and physical space, leveraging their power to inform policy and design.



Samuel Turvey
Chairperson, ReThinkNYC &
Co-Coordinator Empire State Coalition

Samuel Turvey has been Chairperson of ReThinkNYC, a not-for-profit organization since 2020. ReThinkNYC is an organization dedicated to applying innovative thinking to the future of the Greater New York region. ReThinkNYC focuses integrally on transportation infrastructure, land use, governance and socio-economic issues. Sam is also Co-Coordinator of the Empire State Coalition, a group of over 15 civic and neighborhood organizations and think tanks engaged in issues related to Penn Station. He is an attorney and longtime community activist and board member in the not-for-profit community. Sam served as Urban Studies at Tufts University and also graduated from Fordham Law School where he served as an Associate Editor of the Urban Law Journal. Sam has consulted at one point or another from Morris, Essex, Westchester and Fairfield Counties. He is a native of Staten Island and has lived and worked in each of New York City's five boroughs.



Liz Waykus
Executive Director
Documotus US

Liz Waykus is the Executive Director of Documotus US, the nation's advocate for the preservation of Modern architecture, land use, and design. In her ten plus years at Documotus US, Ms. Waykus is responsible for the development of new programming including the annual Documotus US National Symposium and the Modernism in America Awards. Ms. Waykus manages Documotus US advocacy efforts throughout a vast network of allied organizations and thousands of individuals. She spearheaded successful efforts to designate the UN Plaza Hotel and Ambassador Grill and the AT&T Building as New York City Landmarks. She is known for her work to save the Marcel Breuer designed Coler House and 60 West Street's privately owned public space. She is co-chair of Manhattan Community Board 9's Housing Land-Use and Zoning Committee and has called West Harlem home for two decades. Ms. Waykus received her Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Penn Institute.