

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

232 East 11th Street New York NY 10003
tel (212) 614-9107 fax (212) 614-9127 email hdc@hdc.org

August 2012

Dear Neighborhood Partner,

The Historic Districts Council is happy to announce a call for applications for the 2013 **Six to Celebrate**.

The purpose of this program is to provide strategic resources to neighborhood groups at a critical moment so that they can reach their preservation goals. The program will help community activists learn to use tools such as documentation, research, zoning, landmarking, publicity, and public outreach to advance local preservation campaigns. The selected groups will receive HDC's hands-on help strategizing and implementing all aspects of their efforts over the course of the 2013 calendar year.

This year's Six to Celebrate – Bay Ridge, Far Rockaway Beachside Bungalows, Morningside Heights, Port Morris Gantries, Van Cortlandt Village and Victorian Flatbush – have been working hard with HDC on their respective community goals. Each hosted at least one sold-out walking tour of their neighborhood between May and September, and took part in HDC events like our annual conference and grassroots awards. Each group also meets extensively with HDC staff and Board members to discuss their projects, which include surveying, partnering and working with elected officials and city agencies, gaining community support and involvement through outreach activities, fundraising and event planning.



Morningside Heights tour, July 14



"The Bungalows of Rockaway" film screening

There have been many highlights and accomplishments of this year's program. HDC hosted a screening of the popular documentary film "The Bungalows of Rockaway," to which over 150 people attended. The screening was followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with the filmmakers, neighborhood advocates, and local business owners. Progress has been made toward recognizing the bungalows on the state and national levels, as a consultant for the Beachside Bungalow Preservation Association has recently composed a nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places and submitted it to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for review.



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Van Cortlandt Village and the Port Morris Gantries in The Bronx are also on their way to consideration for the State and National Registers. To further its goal of creating a new and engaging public space on the waterfront, the Friends of Brook Park organized a visit to the Gantries site with their City Councilmember and the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. The site was also the subject of a design charette with local residents, South Bronx Unite! and Columbia University's 5 Borough Studio.



Port Morris Gantries

Over the program's two years, HDC has guided the submission of proposals to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, including individual landmarks on the Bowery and historic districts in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inwood, Jackson Heights, and Victorian Flatbush. HDC is pleased to report that as a result of efforts over the course of the 2011 Six to Celebrate program, a number of new individual landmarks were designated on the Bowery and a very positive public hearing was held at the LPC for the proposed Stuyvesant Heights Historic District Extension.

Enclosed is a nomination form. You can also find the form on our website www.hdc.org or, if you would like, we will mail you more (just call 212-614-9107 or send an email to nwilliams@hdc.org). Deadline for nominations is November 2, 2012, and the "Six to Celebrate" will be announced in early 2013.

Finally, don't worry - we're not going away. HDC will continue to assist all our neighborhood partners in their efforts. This is just another way that we can help.

We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Simeon Bankoff
Executive Director