

HDC's Preservation School | spring 2018: Instructor Bios



Simeon Bankoff

Simeon Bankoff has been the Executive Director of the Historic Districts Council since 2000. Under his leadership, HDC has become one of New York's most prominent voices for historic preservation with a focus on grassroots community-based preservation efforts. HDC has been at the forefront of numerous preservation campaigns, working with community groups throughout all five boroughs to protect the historic character of their neighborhoods through landmark designation and rezoning. Mr. Bankoff has worked closely with dozens of neighborhood-based volunteer groups on strategy, advocacy methods and organization-building, which have resulted in numerous successful preservation campaigns.



Kerri Culhane

As an independent architectural historian and planner, Kerri Culhane's professional practice focuses on the history and future of Manhattan's Lower East Side, including Two Bridges, Chinatown and the Bowery. Her research has brought to light Chinese American architect Poy Gum Lee's contributions to mid-century Chinatown; examined the impact of changing housing policies on immigrant communities; and advanced the implementation of climate adaptation strategies in historic waterfront neighborhoods. Kerri has served on the Historic Districts Council's Board since 2011.



Gregory Dietrich

A graduate of Columbia University's Historic Preservation and Real Estate Development programs, Gregory Dietrich has been working in the field of Historic Preservation for over 18 years. Between 1999 and 2000 he directed the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's Historic Preservation Grant Program, and between 2004 and 2009 he managed the New York office of a New Jersey-based cultural resource management firm. Since 2009 he has been the sole proprietor of Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting, which provides services that include historic architectural investigations, preservation policy analyses, historic tax credit and grant applications, National Register Nominations, and cultural resource studies to satisfy regulatory permitting requirements. (www.gdpreservationconsulting.com)



Claudette Brady

Claudette Brady began her career as a Project Manager for Citi Corp. Ms. Brady joined the Bedford Stuyvesant Society for Historic Preservation and became the driving force behind the landmarking of the Expanded Stuyvesant Heights Historic District (designated in 2013) and the Bedford Historic District (designated in 2015). She is also a member of Brooklyn Community Board 3 and has served on the Historic Districts Council's Board of Advisers since 2012.



Gib Veconi

Gib Veconi founded the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council, a non-profit advocacy organization, which in 2009 led the designation of approximately 850 buildings in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, as a NYC Historic District. He was a negotiator of a 2014 settlement with the State of New York and the developers of the Atlantic Yards project that resulted in a 10-year acceleration of the delivery of the site's 2,250 units of affordable housing. In partnership with urbanist studio Buscada and Brooklyn Public Library, Gib recently produced "Intersection | Prospect Heights," an interactive public art work that recounts the story of twelve years of gentrification in one Brooklyn neighborhood through images and voices of community members. As a member of Brooklyn Community Board

8, he is helping to lead an effort to rezone a six-block area of western Crown Heights to attract jobs and create affordable housing.