

HDC's Preservation School | fall 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.



Sean Khorsandi

Sean Khorsandi is the Executive Director of LANDMARK WEST! a 33-year old award-winning non-profit that speaks for the Upper West Side's architectural and cultural landmarks from 59th to 110th Streets. Current advocacy issues address out-of-scale as-of-right development and the policies that permit them. Twice an architect by training, Khorsandi joined the faculty of the New York Institute of Technology in 2013 where he teaches Introductory, Survey and Seminar courses in the history and theory of Architecture. Mr. Khorsandi joined HDC's Board of Advisors earlier this year.



Daniel Allen

Daniel Allen, AIA, is a principal of CTA Architects P.C. (CTA) and is the firm's historic preservation specialist. Mr. Allen began his career in preservation over thirty years ago as a craftsman in the manufacture of architectural terra cotta and cast stone. This early interest led to work for exterior wall consultants and restoration architects. Mr. Allen received a Masters of Science in Historic Preservation from Columbia University while actively working in the field. He also gained important experience as an architectural conservator for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England) in Boston before returning to rejoin CTA. Mr. Allen is the President of the Board of Directors of the Historic Districts Council, and a member of the Association for Preservation Technology, the Board of Directors of the New York Preservation Archive Project and the American Institute of Architects. He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Mr. Allen brings a long record of sensitive restoration and adaptive reuse to many important projects.



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.