



Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corp. awarded a Preserve New York Grant

This grant will fund a Cultural Resource Survey of El Barrio/Southern East Harlem

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ALBANY, NY, 07/26/21 — Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation (Ascendant) is one of this year's [Preserve New York](#) (PNY) grantees. Their **grant of \$12,000** will fund a Cultural Resource Survey of Southern East Harlem. The Preservation League of NYS and their program partners at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) are thrilled to help fund this important work.

The El Barrio/Southern East Harlem survey area is a diverse mixed-use enclave within the larger Harlem community of Northern Manhattan. In addition to a variety of vernacular residential buildings dating from the late-1800s through the early-1900s, the area features several large-scale mid-20th century residential complexes including multiple public housing campuses. The survey area boasts many outstanding civic, institutional, and religious structures of various architectural styles. Within the proposed study area are multiple individually designated landmarks, including Public School 109, 28th Police Precinct & Fire Engine Co. #53 Houses, St. Cecilia's Church Complex, Public School 72/Julia de Burgos Cultural Center, and the Museum of the City of New York. The area developed over many decades as a predominantly working-class neighborhood, and it has been home to a succession of immigrant groups. The new survey will focus specific attention on the history of El Barrio's Puerto Rican community and its impact on the (re)development of the neighborhood.

Ascendant, and its partners in the Landmark East Harlem (LEH) alliance, successfully worked to list the East Harlem Historic District on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 2019. Ascendant and LEH secured a determination of eligibility for the proposed East-Central Harlem Historic District in 2020, and they are working on a nomination to list that historic district in 2021. Ascendant and LEH, along with other local stakeholders, will use their new \$12,000 Preserve New York grant to hire Marissa Marvelli to conduct the El Barrio/Southern East Harlem Cultural Resource Survey. The survey will help to identify potential individual State and National Register listings and the boundaries of potential new historic districts.

"We are so excited to get started on our next cultural resource survey of East Harlem," said **Chris Cirillo, Executive Director/President of Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation and Member of Landmark East Harlem**. "We value our ongoing partnership with the Preservation League

of New York State and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation. Through this work, we have been able to recognize, preserve, and celebrate the history and culture of East Harlem/El Barrio.”

At its 2021 meeting, an independent grant panel selected **32 applicants in 25 counties to receive support totaling \$297,995**. Each grant supports important arts and cultural initiatives, as well as economic development related to our state’s arts and cultural heritage. Many of these grants will lead to historic district designation or expansion, telling the stories of communities throughout the state and allowing property owners to take advantage of the New York State and Federal Historic Tax Credits. This is even more valuable now, with the NYS Commercial Historic Tax Credit recently expanded for small projects, granting property owners a 30% credit. With the announcement of the 2021 awards, support provided by Preserve New York since its launch in 1993 totals more than \$3.3 million to 489 projects statewide.

The Preserve New York program is a regrant partnership between the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League, made possible with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation has generously provided additional funds to support nonprofit projects in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Since 1993, Preserve New York has been providing funds to municipalities and nonprofit organizations that need technical, professional assistance to guide a variety of preservation projects. The historic structure reports, building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys funded through this program lead to positive outcomes across New York’s 62 counties.

2021 PNY Grant Recipients:

Albany County: Village of Voorheesville/Town of New Scotland - \$10,000; City of Cohoes - \$16,500 | **Broome County:** Tri-Cities Opera Company, Inc. - \$6,000 | **Chautauqua County:** City of Jamestown - \$10,000 | **Chemung County:** Elmira College - \$10,000 | **Chenango County:** Earlville Opera House Inc. - \$8,000 | **Dutchess County:** Van Wyck Council on the Arts and Culture, Inc., dba Howland Cultural Center - \$10,000; Wassaic Project - \$8,160 | **Erie County:** University Heights Collaborative, Inc. - \$9,120; Western New York Minority Media Professionals, Inc. - \$10,000 | **Franklin County:** Malone Revitalization Foundation, Inc. - \$9,150 | **Greene County:** Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society - \$10,000 | **Monroe County:** Highland Park Conservancy - \$15,000; Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society - \$8,000 | **Montgomery County:** Village of Fort Plain - \$9,150 | **Nassau County:** Science Museum of Long Island - \$10,000 | **New York County:** Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation - \$12,000 | **Ontario County:** Town of Canandaigua - \$15,000 | **Orange County:** Chester Historical Society - \$5,200 | **Orleans County:** Medina Railroad Museum - \$8,000 | **Otsego County:** Otsego 2000 - \$12,500 | **Putnam County:** Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition - \$9,600; Town of Carmel - \$6,200 | **Rensselaer County:** City of Troy - \$9,100 | **Saratoga County:** Village of Round Lake - \$8,000 | **Steuben County:** Steuben County Historical Society - \$10,000 | **Suffolk County:** Town of East Hampton - \$5,600; Rocky Point Historical Society - \$6,685 | **Tompkins County:** Friends of Stewart Park - \$6,640 | **Ulster County:** Jewish Federation of Ulster County - \$9,440; Woodstock Guild of Craftsmen, Inc. - \$5,750 | **Warren County:** Hyde Collection - \$9,500

“We are proud to continue our partnership with the Preservation League of New York State to support projects that foster community, and celebrate our State’s rich history” said **Mara Manus, NYSCA**

Executive Director. “NYSCA remains dedicated to preserving New York State’s cultural footprint and we look forward to seeing these vital preservation projects realized. Congratulations to all!”

“Navigating the difficulties and hardships of the past year has been a challenge for nonprofits and municipalities across the state,” said **Erin Tobin, Vice President for Policy and Preservation and the Preservation League.** “The League is grateful to our program partners at NYSCA and the Gardiner Foundation for continuing to support Preserve New York, which will grant much-needed dollars to so many worthwhile preservation projects this year.”

About the Preservation League of New York State

Since its founding in 1974, the Preservation League has built a reputation for action and effectiveness. Our goal has been to preserve our historic buildings, districts, and landscapes and to build a better New York, one community at a time. The Preservation League of New York State invests in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. We lead advocacy, economic development, and education programs across the state.

Connect with us at preservenys.org, facebook.com/preservenys, twitter.com/preservenys, and instagram.com/preservenys.

About Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation

Ascendant Neighborhood Development (AND) builds homes, engages community members, and partners with allies to raise up neighborhoods that provide stability and access to opportunity for all. Since its founding in 1988, AND has supported the stabilization and growth of East and Central Harlem communities, advocated for preservation of affordable housing, and helped thousands of New Yorkers live with dignity and respect. Learn more: <https://ascendant.nyc/>

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