

VILLAGE PRESERVATION

GREENWICH
VILLAGE SOCIETY
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION



2022 2023 Annual Report



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Cover photo credit: Bob Estremera (back cover, bottom)

Preserving Our Past, ENGAGING OUR FUTURE

Founded in 1980, Village Preservation works to document, celebrate, and preserve the special architectural and cultural heritage of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo.

Village Preservation has successfully advocated for the landmark designation of more than 1,250 buildings in our neighborhoods, and has helped secure zoning protections for nearly 100 blocks. Each day we monitor more than 6,500 building lots in our neighborhood for demolition,

alteration, or new construction permits, to notify the public and respond if necessary.

Shown here at our plaque unveiling in April 2022, Julius' Bar was finally named a landmark in November thanks to our decade-long campaign.

A Note from THE PRESIDENT

As you will read in this report, Village Preservation has seldom had more challenges in pursuing our mission of preserving the special architectural and cultural heritage of our neighborhoods. It's been a year of victories, but also of some disappointments and battles left unfinished. It's been a year in which we reached more people than ever, in person and virtually, with our programs, resources, and advocacy. Our work has never been more necessary nor more under fire from our opponents.

Some preservation accomplishments of which we are particularly proud include helping squash legislation that would have allowed Albany and the Mayor to permit supersized developments in any residential neighborhood in New York City; securing landmark status for Julius' Bar in the West Village after a 10-year campaign; helping defeat an attempt by NYU to overturn zoning protections designed to place reasonable limits on their expansion; securing an important role for preservation organizations in the oversight of plans to site intrusive 5G towers throughout our neighborhoods; calling the City to account for lax oversight leading to a spate of destruction and damage to vulnerable landmarked buildings; and launching campaigns to secure land-

Whether it's preserving, celebrating, documenting or educating, you, our members, keep us going.

mark status for endangered buildings like Theatre 80 and the former church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In addition to this important preservation work, we staged our beloved Annual Spring House Tour, for the first time since 2019. We served thousands of students in our children's education program, which is open to all schools regardless of need or ability



to pay, thanks in large part to the generosity of our members. We added significantly to our online resources and archive, which are available to all. And we were thrilled to welcome Archive Committee member Yuki Ohta to our board of trustees in 2023.

We had many occasions to celebrate this year. We named our 100th Business of the Month; we feted six amazing community leaders, nonprofits, and local small businesses at our Annual Village Awards ceremony; and we unveiled plaques honoring Charles Mingus, Allen Ginsburg, and William S. Burroughs.

Whether it's preserving, celebrating, documenting or educating, you, our members, keep us going, and make possible all we accomplish, push back against, and work toward. On behalf of our board of trustees as well as Andrew and his amazing team who make it all happen, I thank you for your generous financial support, and for sharing your love of preserving our neighborhoods through your continued participation in our advocacy.

Trevor Stewart

President

Trevor Stewart

Preservation and ADVOCACY

Our advocacy to protect the special historic character of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo remained at the heart of our work.

One highlight of the past year include leading the effort to stop the lifting of the longtime cap on the maximum allowable size of residential developments in New York City, as set by state regulations. This "cap" has allowed the world's tallest residential building, and apartment buildings as large as 1,500 units or more, to be constructed in our city. In spite of this, the Governor, Mayor, City Council Speaker, Borough President, big real estate, and other powerful groups lobbied to remove this limit — which would

have allowed the city to rezone residential neighborhoods like ours to as great a density as they like, with supersized development. It also would have diverted attention and resources from other worthy efforts to actually impact housing affordability issues in our city, which this plan purported to address. But for the fourth year in a row, we were able to get the State Legislature to reject this wrongheaded proposal, and the zoning protections Village Preservation fought hard to secure throughout our neighborhoods remains strong and intact.

Another victory came when a judge threw out an NYU lawsuit that we'd staunchly opposed. The university was seeking to invalidate a provision we'd fought hard

to secure in the SoHo/NoHo/Chinatown rezoning, which prohibited the university from expanding in the area. In their court filings, NYU specifically highlighted Village Preservation's leading role in securing these protections for the area, in order to argue against their legal validity, thinking it would serve their case. However, in May, a State Supreme Court judge rejected their argument and threw their case out.

After a 10-year effort, we also got the building housing Julius' Bar at Waverly Place and 10th Street landmarked. Julius' was the site of a critical 1966 pre-Stonewall protest known as the "Sip In," which sought to undo the pervasive and discriminatory anti-



Village Preservation worked hard over the past year to prevent the longtime cap on the size of residential developments in New York City from being lifted.







From left: 14 Gay Street prior to demolition, the damaged 10 Fifth Avenue, and 131 Charles Street.

LGBTQ+ laws and regulations of the time. This designation added one more to the list of over 1,250 buildings Village Preservation has been able to get landmarked in our neighborhoods over the past several decades.

We were also able to help stop several ungainly and out-of-scale 32-ft.-tall 5G towers from being installed in the West Village, and pushed back hard on the entire process of siting the oversized structures, especially in historic districts. We've been granted "consulting party" status for the historic preservation review for these proposed towers — a process that was originally to be skipped. This enables us to have further opportunity to help impact where these intrusive eyesores go, and what they look like.

Locally, we were also able to stop a plan to do potentially dangerous excavation under, and make damaging alterations to, one of our neighborhood's most historic and iconic landmarks — the 1834 federal house at 131 Charles Street, and its backhouse, the home of photographer Diane Arbus at the height of her career. We got the Landmarks Preservation Commission to reject that plan and send it back to the drawing board.

While we saved 131 Charles Street from a similar fate, 14 Gay Street had to be demolished after a new owner's unpermitted work fatally undermined the structure, and five adjoining properties he owned on Christopher and Gay Streets were left in a state of desperate disrepair. We're fighting hard to ensure the owner and all responsible parties are held accountable, 14 Gay Street

is rebuilt exactly as it was, and the other five landmarked buildings are repaired and restored.

A similar tragedy was only very narrowly averted at the landmarked 10 Fifth Avenue, when that 1848 former house suffered dangerous cracking and swaying as a result of pile driving two doors north at the construction site at 14 Fifth Avenue. There the city had allowed, over our strenuous objections, a landmarked but altered pair of former early 19thcentury houses to be demolished, and a 220-ft.-tall tower to be built in their place. The city-approved work for that structure nearly destroyed No. 10, and led to dozens of tenants being evacuated from their homes, to which they still haven't been allowed to return. We're fighting to ensure they all get back to a repaired and restored building, and no work resumes at 14 Fifth until the cause of the damage is identified, responsible parties are held accountable, and a work plan that guarantees the safety of nearby structures is formulated.



We continued our efforts for a South of Union Square Historic District.



Village Preservation co-organized a City Hall press conference condemning the city's faulty oversight of vulnerable landmarked properties.

We made sure the city felt the heat for these and other unacceptable instances of historic buildings being destroyed on their watch, taking our cause to the streets and to the steps of City Hall. Responding to the criticism, the city released a vaguely worded "vulnerable buildings" plan in April that was long on lofty language and short on specifics and commitments. We are continuing to push the City to implement much-needed reforms we and others have called for, to address the growing problem of the destruction of our historic landmarks.

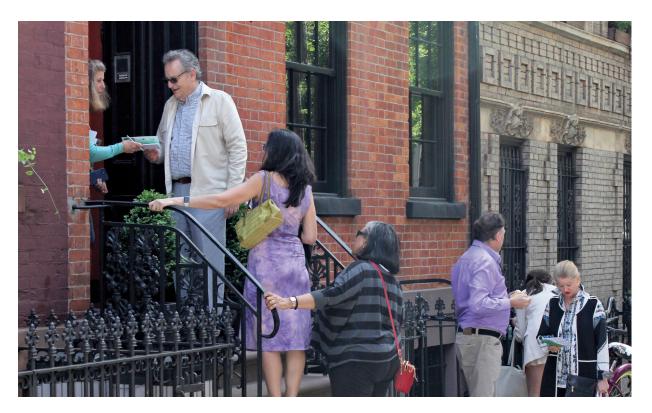
Another unresolved campaign this year was saving Theatre 80, one of the East Village's and New York's great fonts of culture, and its historic home at 78-80 St. Marks Place — a pair of 1845 houses that are among the East Village's oldest. While the city refused to intervene to prevent the buildings being sold at auction, we have launched a campaign to get the buildings landmarked, to help ensure their preservation and to hopefully save the theater there as well.

We also launched a campaign to landmark the endangered former Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 229 West 14th Street, the first church established for a Spanish-speaking congregation in the New York archdiocese. We also continued our campaign, along with doctors, staff, and patients, to landmark the endangered New York Eye and Ear Infirmary at 13th Street

and Second Avenue, which has been the site of incredible innovations in service to people with disabilities for over two centuries.

These were all part of an ever-increasing focus of Village Preservation's work: to tell the stories and preserve sites connected to our neighborhood's incredibly rich cultural, social, and civil rights history. Other sites we fought to recognize and preserve included 50 West 13th Street, the home of one of the 19th century's leading African American voting rights crusaders and abolitionists, as well as the beloved 13th Street Repertory Theater; 10 West 14th Street, home of the NYC Woman Suffrage League, which battled for decades to extend the franchise; and 80 Fifth Avenue, headquarters in the 1970s and '80s of the first national gay rights organization in the United States, and in the '30s and '40s to a radical mutual benefit organization that made huge strides advancing the rights of workers, ending Jim Crow and other forms of discrimination, and extending health care and access to birth control for all New Yorkers.

Beyond these specific sites, our ongoing effort to secure a South of Union Square Historic District, in which several of these buildings are located, reflects our focus on celebrating and preserving our neighborhood's rich civil rights, social justice, artistic, and literary history.



Annual Benefit: HOUSE TOUR

On May 7, 2023, Village Preservation held its first annual benefit house tour since 2019. On the beautiful spring day, we offered exclusive access to a half-dozen diverse Village homes, ranging from the grand to the charmingly diminutive, the impeccably preserved to the dramatically reimagined, featuring amazing art collections, beautiful gardens, hidden horse walks, and airy terraces. The day culminated in a reception at the incredible 632 Hudson Street, at which several hundred of our most generous benefit supporters celebrated the glorious day and the return of this beloved tradition.

This year's house tour raised more than \$200,000 to support the organization's work. Making this bountiful and elaborate event possible requires the participation of more than 120 volunteers, the hard work of our tireless Benefit Committee members, and of course the gracious generosity of our

homeowners. See page 20 for a complete list of our 2023 benefit supporters.







This year's member-only events included a special gathering at the Salmagundi Club and a walking tour with *Fifth Avenue* author William Hennessey.

MEMBERSHIP

Individual membership contributions remain the single largest source of support for Village Preservation. With about 2,000 dues-paying members over the course of the year across Greenwich Village, the East Village, NoHo, and beyond, Village Preservation is fortunate to have a broad and growing base of support and participation.

While our neighborhoods remain the largest source of our membership, about one-third of our members live outside their boundaries, in other parts of Man-

hattan, New York City, the country, and even the world. This past year we gained nearly 400 new members, most of whom come to us through participation in our advocacy campaigns or programs, our continuing education

An exclusive for sustaining members and higher this year was a tour of the Whitney Museum's Edward Hopper exhibit. classes, utilization of our website or online resources, research requests, and social media.

Members-only programs this last year included a holiday gathering at the Salmagundi Club and an exclusive walking tour of lower Fifth Avenue with Fifth Avenue: From Washington Square to Marcus Garvey Park author William Hennessey. Members also receive advance notice of our public programs, allowing them to reserve spots at limited-capacity events.



Congratulations! VILLAGE AWARDS 2023



Teresa Concepcion of the Red Door Place

Dashwood Books

Each year, we honor just some of the remarkable people, places, and institutions that make such important contributions to the special qualities of our neighborhoods. As always, we thanked them as part of our Annual Meeting and Village Awards ceremony, which was held again this year at Cooper Union's historic Great Hall.

Several hundred of our members, guests, and

members of the public joined us for the joyous event on June 13. The awards presentation was emceed by performance artist Penny Arcade, catering was done by Veselka, Bon Yagi, and Two Boots, and performances were by Yara Arts, Martin St. Lawrence of the Manhattan Monster Bar, and Dave Kikoski, Lugues Curtis, Frank Lacy, and Scott Robinson with their Charles Mingus tribute.



Mingus tribute

8



Village Preservation members voting

This year's awardees, chosen by our Awards Committee from scores of nominations from the public, were:

Regina Kellerman Award:

La Mama Experimental Theatre Club Renovation and Restoration of 74A East 4th Street

For undertaking a painstaking and spectacular renovation of its landmarked 150-year-old home and theater.

Dashwood Books, 33 Bond Street

For its 18 years as an indispensable center for the photographic arts, and for ensuring NoHo's continuing role as a font of culture and creativity.

Essex Card Shop, 47 Avenue A

For the extraordinary perseverance, ingenuity, and dedication shown in providing its neighbors with just about everything they could possibly need.

The Manhattan Monster Bar, 80 Grove Street

For its commitment to welcoming, entertaining, supporting, and bringing all of us together, and for serving the LGBTQ+ community for more than four decades.

The Red Door Place, 201 West 13th Street

For selflessly and generously providing thousands in need with food, care, welcome, and respect without question.

Yara Arts Group

For 33 years of giving voice and light to often overlooked cultures, from Ukraine to the Far East and beyond.



Manhattan Monster Bar



Yara Arts Group





La Mama Experimental Theatre Club Renovation and Restoration of 74A East 4th Street



Essex Card Shop



PROGRAMS

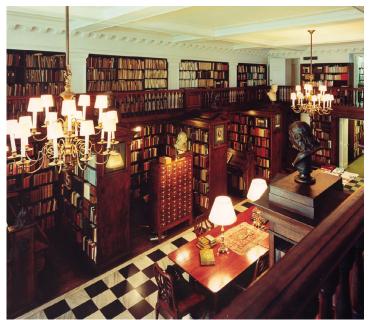
In Our Communities

Our ongoing public programming — lectures, book talks, walking tours, panel discussions, expert discussions, interactive performances, and more - remained vital and varied. This past year we conducted over 80 programs with nearly 12,000 participants, including both online and in-person programming. Nearly all were free and open to the public, and covered a broad range of topics. Some of the themes we explored this year included the rock history of the East Village; the intersection of housing policy and historic preservation; the history of reproductive rights advocacy in our neighborhoods; public art (above and below ground); Black history from New Amsterdam to Hip Hop; and women artists and agitators. We also held a series of forums with candidates for the newly redistricted City Council districts in our neighborhoods, offering critical insights into incumbents' and challengers' positions and records on preservation and development issues.

We also unveiled two new plaques marking sites of historic significance in our neighborhoods — the home of jazz innovator Charles Mingus on Great Jones Street in NoHo, and of Allen Ginsburg, William S. Burroughs, and the Beats on East 7th Street in the East Village. Both unveilings drew scores of fans and admirers of these transformative figures and their work. Both also featured collaborators and friends of the artists we commemorated, with readings and performances of their works, as well as personal recollections of their lives.

This past year we also formed a Public Programs
Committee, consisting of leaders in the arts, culture,
education, and small business, as well as Village
Preservation trustees and staff. The committee was
constituted to help support and contribute to the
formulation and execution of our public programs,
with the goal of achieving the broadest reach with
the most engaging programming possible, to nurture

and build appreciation for the incredibly rich architectural and cultural history of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo, and to support preservation of historic buildings, culture, and small businesses.





This year's tours explored the Grolier Club (I.), key scenes for rock history in the East Village, and many other sites.





Village Preservation programs from this past year included (clockwise from top) new plaques honoring Allen Ginsburg and William S. Burroughs as well as Charles Mingus, two forums for City Council candidates, book talks, and a tour and tasting of our branded beer with the East Village's Bronx Brewery.







Online Resources AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

This past year saw tremendous growth in our online resources and in their use by and engagement with the public. Our website saw just shy of a million and a half pageviews, our blog *Off the Grid* over 800,000 pageviews, and our YouTube page had over 18,000 views. Additionally, nearly 12,000 people participated in our online advocacy campaigns, sending almost a quarter-million letters and tweets to decision-makers about issues of concern.

We both expanded and redesigned existing content about our neighborhoods' history, and created new tools, resources, and collections. We redesigned and relaunched our extremely popular Civil Rights

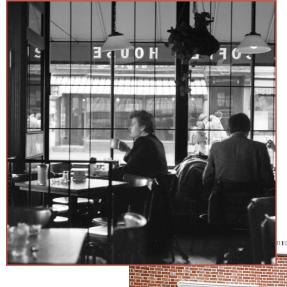
and Social Justice Map, as

well as adding new entries and sites. We added new content to other long-standing tools like our Greenwich Village Historic District Map + Tours, our East Village Building Blocks website, and our South of Union Square Map + Tours. And we created a new map and tour focusing on women artists and history makers in the South of Union Square neighborhood. We also crowdsourced a list of the 25 most impactful women of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo as part of our Women's History Month celebration.

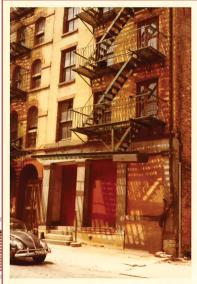
Over the year we added about 250 new posts to our blog *Off The Grid*, about everything from

overlooked artists to





Our Historic Image Archive now includes (clockwise from bottom) two collections by Susan De Vries, work by Riccardo Spina, and contributions from Evelyn Haynes.





political activists. Our historic image archive was expanded with four new donated collections covering immigrant life in Greenwich Village, the changing and disappearing historic architecture of

Lower Manhattan, and the South Street Seaport before its renovation and restoration.

We also added three incisive new oral histories: with progressive education pioneer and West Village Nursery School co-founder Shirley Wright; with the East Village's 4th Street Photo Gallery and Minority Photographers founder Alex Harsley; and with Malaysian/Trinidadian-American feminist artist and longtime Westbeth resident Christina Maile.



New oral histories were recorded with (from left) Shirley Wright, Alex Harsley, and Christina Maile.









Public EDUCATION

This past year our Children's Education program served 2,401 students, in 94 classrooms at 20 schools, in every borough except Staten Island. We served three Summer Rising public school summer camp programs, one independent school, and 16 New York City public schools. Eighty-five percent of those served received the program for free, based upon need.

Our new African American History: Greenwich Village and Beyond curriculum program continues to be very popular with participating schools and programs, while our Immigration in the South Village and Greenwich Village: Past and Present curricula remained staples of our program.

This past year also saw our Continuing Education program, for real estate professionals and the general public, return in both the spring and fall. The program offers some of the most seasoned experts in New York land use law and architectural history offering classes designed to expand understanding of how our built environment has evolved and is regulated, and its significance to the field of building design.

Finally, outreach to the public about the multitude of small businesses in our neighborhood, the unique services they offer, and how they can support them, continued to be a primary focus of the organization. Our Business of the Month program expanded to include neighborhood mainstays like Record Runner; Ipswich Watch, Clock, & Jewelry Repair; West 14 Apothecary; SOS Chefs; McNulty's Tea and Coffee; Paradis To Go; Le Fanion; and Gaia Italian Cafe, among others. We also celebrated the milestone of naming our 100th Business of the Month in February, releasing a video celebrating the occasion and interviewing many of the recipients about their shops and experiences. We expanded our Small Business/ Big History map and program to include a dozen additional shops, many in the South of Union Square area, partnering with those local businesses to promote their stores and neighborhood history. And we continued to grow our "Welcome to the Neighborhood" program, publicizing and promoting new independent small businesses in the neighborhood to help support their success, including ones on Horatio and Sullivan Streets, on Eighth Avenue and Avenue A, and elsewhere in the East Village.







Three of this past year's Businesses of the Month: Record Runner, Lori McLean, and Gaia Italian Cafe.

FISCAL YEAR 2022

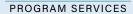
INCOME

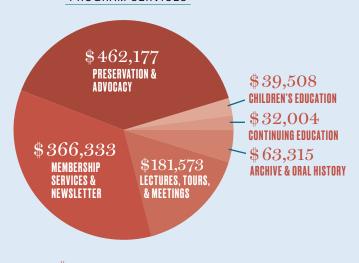
MEMBERSHIP & INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT	\$953,882
BENEFITS & EVENTS	\$196,457
GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$174,800
EARNED & OTHER REVENUE	\$93.396

SUPPORT AND PROGRAM REVENUE

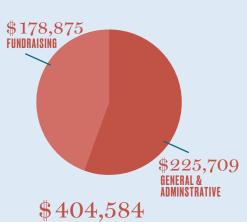
\$1,418,535

EXPENSES





SUPPORTING SERVICES



\$1,144,910

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,549,494

Village Preservation consistently exceeds Better Business Bureau guidelines for charities for the portion of our income which goes towards program activities. We also consistently fall well below BBB guidelines for charities for the maximum percentage of income that should be spent on fundraising activities.

COMMITTEES2022-23

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Chair: Judith Stonehill Trustees: Mary Ann Arisman, John Lamb, Yukie Ohta, Trevor Stewart

Non-Trustees: Susan De Vries, Jay Shockley, Vicki Weiner, Carole Teller, Anthony Wood

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Leslie Mason

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Trevor Stewart

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Non-Trustees: Shirley Wright,

Susan DeVries

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Mary Ann Arisman, Jessica
Davis, John Lamb, Arthur Levin,
Allan Sperling, Judith Stonehill,
Adrienne Ward, Tony Zunino

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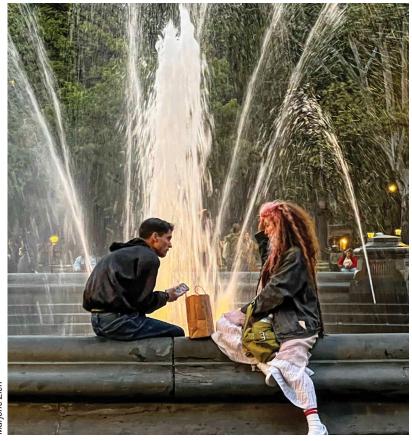
Chair: Adrienne Ward Trustees: Mary Ann Arisman, John Lamb, Marilyn Sobel, Allan Sperling, Trevor Stewart, Linda Yowell

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Marioria Zian

Jessica Davis

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Non-Trustees: Cassie Glover, Richard Grossman, Jill Hanekamp, Marguerite Martin, Jeremiah Shea, Francine Smilen

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Anita Isola, Jeanne Krier, John
Lamb, Katherine Schoonover,
Trevor Stewart, Judith Stonehill
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Jonathan Geballe, Jessica Dean
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Yukie Ohta

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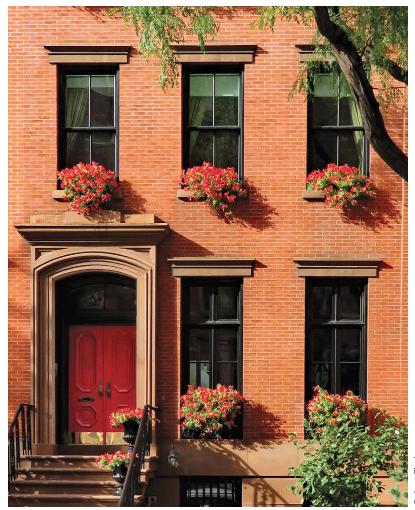
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Christopher Morales, Monica
Rittersporn, Lauren Rose,

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Jonathan Russo, Martica Sawin
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Vellonakis, Vicki Weiner,
Anthony C. Wood

As of August 2023



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MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT 2022-23

GRANTS 2022-23

Village Preservation gratefully acknowledges grants in support of our work from the Achelis & Bodman Foundation, Anonymous, Craig Newmark Philanthropies, the Kaplen Brothers Fund, the Lynne Waxman Foundation, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and NYC Council Members Erik Bottcher and Christopher Marte, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Rodgers Family Foundation.

LANDMARK

Anonymous | Adam Cohen & Elizabeth Eaton | Dalio Family Foundation | Cheryl Grandfield | Adam Guettel | Padma Lakshmi | Myra Malkin | David & Jennifer Millstone | Colin Moran | Craig & Eileen Newmark | Leslie & Bob Rylee | Trevor & Margaret Stewart

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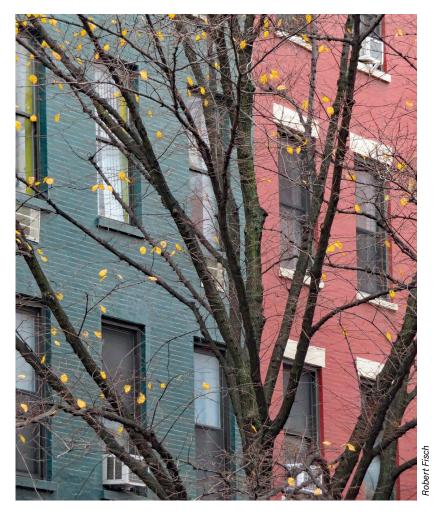
William Abrams & Julie Salamon Mary Ann & Frank Arisman Michael & Elizabeth Ashworth Kathy Fein Bierman & Rick Bierman | Kyung Choi Bordes & Peter Bordes, Jr. | George Cronin | Laura Demarco & Neil Allen Jessica Iclisoy | Thomas Keyes & Keith Fox | John Lamb & David Stutzman | Nancy Langsan & Daniel Bernstein | Arthur A. Levin | Rob Mason | Nick Mazzone | Friends of Sandra Mole | Michael Nierenberg | Heidi Nitze | Thomas O'Keefe & Neelu Shruti | Carole & Ben Pesner | Scott & Lauren Pinkus | Jay Rosenberg | Marilyn Sobel & Ben Cohen | David Stenn | Patricia Vance | Sue & David

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