

FY 2021 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan - Landmarks Preservation Commission

Meeting Date 9/18/2019

AGENDA ITEM 1 : General Agency Funding Discussion:

LPC provided detailed responses in its September 2018 Budget Consultation responses (FY2020) concerning:

- (1) LPC's priorities and operational goals;
- (2) Proposed service goals and operational funding for the current and next fiscal year;
- (3) Programs to be added/dropped/changed for the current and next fiscal year; and
- (4) Benchmarks and key performance indicators of success for new and existing programs.

-- Please provide an update on these 2018 responses solely to the extent that the answers have changed or need to be supplemented.

-- Please provide updated Personnel, OTPS and any other funding totals for FY 2020 and anticipated FY 2021.

Question 1 from FY 2020:

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to provide Community Boards with important information to assist in drafting their statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. As you know, Community Board Members are volunteers who may not be familiar with the budget process and how agencies' programs are funded. At the same time, Community Board members are very knowledgeable about local service needs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have three sections:

I. Agencies begin the consultation with a presentation of their goals, funding decision process, and highlights of their funding needs.

II. Then, the agenda continues with Community Boards asking about specific program funding.

III. Lastly, the agendas include Boards' requests on district-specific budget questions. We request that the agency respond in writing, but have any further discussions on these items with the Community Boards outside of the consultation.

For the first section, please present on the four topics below for 10-15 minutes at the beginning of our Consultation. Also, please provide written responses or even a PowerPoint presentation that we can use to fully and accurately educate our Board Members.

1. What are your priorities and operational goals for FY20 and projected priorities and operational goals for FY21?
2. What are the current proposed FY20 and FY21 service and operational goals and proposed funding?
3. Which programs is the agency adding, dropping, or changing for FY20 and projected for FY21?
4. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

LPC's priorities and operational goals for FY20 and FY21:

LPC will continue to focus on equitable and inclusive service delivery through education and outreach efforts in

communities across all five boroughs. These efforts include community meetings to inform diverse stakeholders including residents, property owners, business owners and community boards about the landmark designation process and its regulatory impact, and working with applicants from all backgrounds to provide technical advice and expedite applications for improvements and alterations to landmark properties.

FY20 and FY21 service and operational goals and funding:

Service and Operational Goals for FY20 and F21

1a - Identify and designate as landmarks, eligible individual buildings, interiors, scenic landmarks and historic districts.

1b - Facilitate appropriate work on landmark buildings through technical assistance and timely issuance of permits.

1c - Increase compliance with landmark regulations

1d - Evaluate potential impacts to archaeological resources in a timely manner

FY2020 Adopted Budget

Personnel Services: \$6,180,396

Other Than Personal Services: \$854,845

Agency Total: \$7,035,241

FY2021 Estimated Budget

Personnel Services: \$6,194,496

Other Than Personal Services: \$665,058

Agency Total: \$6,859,554

No programs are expected to be added, dropped, or changed for FY20 and projected for FY21.

Benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success:

LPC focuses on equitable and inclusive service delivery through education and outreach efforts in communities across all five boroughs. These efforts feature community meetings to inform diverse stakeholders including residents, property owners, business owners and community boards about the landmark designation process and its regulatory impact. The Commission is continuing to develop more multi-lingual accessibility to serve those same audiences. The agency works with applicants from all backgrounds to provide technical advice and expedite applications for improvements and alterations to landmark properties.

1a - Identify and designate as landmarks, eligible individual buildings, interiors, scenic landmarks and historic districts.

Targets:

- Designate 20 individual landmarks and historic districts each year.

1b - Facilitate appropriate work on landmark buildings through technical assistance and timely issuance of permits.

Targets:

- Issue 85% of Certificates of No Effect (CNE) within 10 business days each year.
- Issue 100% of Expedited Certificates of No Effect (XCNE) within 2 business days each year.

1c - Evaluate potential impacts to archaeological resources in a timely manner.

Target:

Review 85% of all archaeology applications within 10 business days each year.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

Update and amplify is goal of this hearing.

CB7, CB11, CB7, CB2, CB3, CB3, CB1, CB5, CB4. LPC: Gardea Caphart, Kisa Kersavage, Dir of Community Affairs.

LPC Overview, changes. Budget is mostly for staff. 37300 properties in city, 149 Historic districts, etc.

FY20: 7 million. 88% allocated to personel services. 84 employees total. CDBG funding, majority goes to personnel.

CNE/COEs - Better able to track applications better due to upgrades. LPC expects more consistent numbers of

CNE/COEs meeting MMR goals. Backlog was in research. 24 designations in FY 2019. MMR target is 20. Targets

around historic districts. Chair sets targets. No special targets for historic districts.

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 2 : Staffing

LPC provided detailed responses in its September 2018 Budget Consultation responses (FY 2020) concerning Staffing.

1. Please provide an update using the same template as LPC’s September 2018 Budget Consultation Responses (FY 2020) with any updated staffing totals.

2. Please advise whether the current levels of Staffing are adequate to meet LPC’s operational goals in terms of accomplishment of its mission and timeliness of responses to applicants and other constituents.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

LPC has 84 authorized staff, which includes 76 full time and 8 part time staff. There are currently 2 vacancies in the Preservation and Research Departments that we are in the process of filling.

Breakdown by Departments:

- Executive: the agency has 18 executive staff (17 full-time and 1 part-time) who oversee day- to-day operations and work on the community district landmarks issues, including designation and regulatory policy, the street sign and district marker program, outreach and training programs for properties owners in buildings and districts under consideration, as well as for property owners in districts that are already designated, and educational materials on the website, including technical fact sheets, property searches for designation and permit information, and walking tours and interactive maps.

- Research: Total headcount is 15 (13 full-time and 2 part-time). This department is responsible for identifying and proposing items for designation. LPC designates new individual landmarks and historic districts in the context of the agency’s priorities and citywide equity agenda. We currently have 1 part time vacancy, which is for a Landmark Preservationist who is currently on child care leave.

- Preservation: Total headcount is 39 (38 full-time and 1 part-time). This department is responsible for reviewing permit applications from property owners, issuing permits for certain kinds of work to landmarked buildings and sites, and preparing applications for review by the full Commission. We currently have 1 vacancy for Landmark Preservationist. The department processed over 14,000 applications last fiscal year.

- Enforcement: Total headcount is 6 (5 full-time and 1 part-time). This department investigates reports of alleged violations, and helps owners correct them.

- Archeology & Environmental Review: Total headcount is 5 (3 full-time and 2 part-time). These departments are responsible for assessing architectural and archeological resources in areas where there are projects undergoing the environmental review process. They work closely with the Research Department to ensure our reviews are coordinated.

- HPGP: 1 part time staff. The LPC’s Grant Program provides façade restoration grants to non-profit organizations and income-eligible owners of landmark buildings.

Our current staffing levels are adequate to meet our operational goals and accomplish our mission efficiently in accordance with the agency's priorities. Since 2013 LPC has seen a 33% net increase in total staff.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

Budget is mostly for staff. 37300 properties in city, 149 Historic districts, etc.

FY20: 7 million. 88% allocated to personnel services. 84 employees total. CDBG funding, majority goes to personnel.

LGBT project, 6 historic districts designated. Park Terrace West, 5 in BK. Preservation largest department.

Outreach is a focus under Chair Carrol. New educational materials. FY 2019 saw 38 outreach events. Updating new guides, including storefront design in historic districts, and guidelines for archeological sites?. Goal is more accessibility to the commission by the public.

\$290000 decrease due to one-time funding for HQ move and update to guide. No exact date to renovations being complete.

Grant program updates? For religious institutions, it depends on the use (not worship space).

LPC has sufficient staff to meet all operational goals. Application guide will make a big difference in increasing efficiency. 15% applications don't meet goal, but that is not due to staff capacity.

Archaeological and environmental review: Archaeology review completion numbers going up. Environmental review also increasing.

Enforcement: LPC wants to avoid raising money through finds. Lots of staff time spent helping applicants to avoid pitfalls.

Intentional neglect to a landmark. LPC deputy counsel is an expert. Tries to work with landowners to understand issues, avoid demolition by neglect.

Carrying capacity within agency: No internal analysis done, but designation doesn't correlate with number of permits.

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 3 : Funding for Completing RFE's

1. Please provide a summary of the LPC's goals for responding to an RFE, distinguishing if appropriate between RFEs for individual landmarks, historic districts, and scenic landmarks.
2. Is the current level of funding adequate to meet those goals?
3. What if any additional resources other than funding would be useful or welcome in reaching those goals?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

- Requests for Evaluation (RFEs) are requests by members of the public to the Commission to evaluate potential eligibility for designation, but they are not applications.
- The Commission identifies properties that may be eligible for future landmark consideration through our own internal surveys and from requests from the public.
- When we get an RFE, we review it to see if the property meets the minimum standards under the Landmarks Law, and in many cases, the determination is that it may pending more research. At that point, the property becomes part of our internal study materials and timing of any further research depends on agency priorities.
- There are many factors that determine whether the Commission will formally consider a property, including merit/architectural, historic or cultural significance, the importance of the resource in the context of similar and/or already designated resources, how it aligns with agency policies such as designating landmarks in all five boroughs, the level of threat, and the level of stakeholder support.

- LPC designates new individual landmarks and historic districts in the context of the agency's priorities and citywide equity agenda. LPC's Research Department, which is comprised of 15 fully funded staff, has a detailed work plan to accomplish significant designation work within this Fiscal Year in accordance with the agency's priorities.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

No issues meeting RFE targets.

Research department considers RFE. Rezoning is looked at to evaluate impact on archeological. Saying something "landmark eligible", is to try to maximize number of places beign looked at.

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 4 : Website

LPC's website and data services have created significant new capacity, including an updated web portal with detailed information concerning applications, and a monthly email of pending applications by Community District made available to Community Boards.

1. Please provide an update of any further enhancements or new features of LPC's website and data services.
2. Please advise whether additional funding is needed or would be useful in maintaining or enhancing LPC's online and digital data services.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

LPC has been actively pursuing more transparency, in part by using digital technology and our website to provide timely information on the Commission's work. We continue to work on enhancements to our "Discover New York City Landmarks," web map, both in terms of content and usability. It currently contains detailed building-by-building information on the 37,300 buildings and sites that we have designated. We believe that this readily available information is invaluable to our applicants, property owners, community groups, residents, and members of the public.

In May 2018 LPC launched Permit Application Finder, a new interactive web map that will for the first time allow the public to see geographically where LPC permits have been filed and issued and what that work entails. The Commission has also enhanced its online Permit Application Search, which now gives the public the ability to search by community district and work type. These new search tools are part of the agency's strategic plan to provide greater transparency and public access to the Commission's work.

This year, LPC has also made more information available on NYC's Open Data Portal. The LPC Individual Landmark and Historic District Building Database, with building-by-building data on more than 37,300 buildings, is updated shortly after each designation. LPC's Permit Application Information, a data set with information pertaining to permit applications for work to landmark sites submitted to and processed by LPC, is updated weekly.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

The website has been terrific.

LPC thinks it has adequate funding, now just trying to upgrade filters to their search for the public and also as analysis.

Otherwise LPC is focusing on brainstorming.

CB1 is impressed with website.

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 5 : Recommended Priorities for CB Support

1. What budget priorities would LPC recommend that the Community Boards support or request as part of our FY 2021 Budget Priorities Statements?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

We believe that our budget well accommodates our strategic goals and what we aim to accomplish yearly.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

We feel that we have the budget we need.

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 6 : District Specific Questions

1. [CB7] Has LPC estimated the cost to upgrade the sound system and/or HVAC system in the Public Hearing Room? (At present one must choose between temperature control in warmer months and being able to hear the testimony/discussion.)

AGENCY RESPONSE:

LPC now has new window air conditioner units in the public hearing room that are a lot quieter than the ones we had before. We also hired an audio technician to tune up our audio equipment and improve sound quality.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

The new HVAC is quieter. Can look at upgrading audio equipment as needed.

CB4 still doesn't understand where LPC issues lie if it's not staffing issues. Need some more detail to give CBs some inkling of where to put funds.

Summer applications made more difficult by lack of CBs meeting. Better communication there will be helpful. LPC now has community board coordinator. Knowing when CBs meet would be helpful. CBs agree.

NOTES: