
HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

The logo features a central text element flanked by two horizontal lines. Above the top line and below the bottom line are decorative, symmetrical, wavy line patterns that resemble stylized clouds or architectural details.

THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

Who We Are:

The Historic Districts Council is the only citywide organization devoted to advocating for New York's historically, architecturally, and culturally significant buildings and neighborhoods.



We support preservation efforts in all five boroughs and work with over 500 neighborhood groups to preserve places that matter to them.

What is Six to Celebrate?

Six to Celebrate is a dynamic program of the Historic Districts Council, and New York's only targeted citywide list of preservation priorities.

The purpose of the program is to provide **strategic resources** to neighborhood groups at a critical moment to reach their preservation goals. The six selected groups receive HDC's **hands-on help** on all aspects of their efforts over the course of the year and continued support in the years to come. The program helps community activists learn to use tools such as **documentation, research, zoning, landmarking, publicity, and public outreach** to advance local preservation campaigns.

Six to Celebrate: Sunnyside/Woodside

In 2025, Sunnyside Shines BID became a Six to Celebrate Partner.

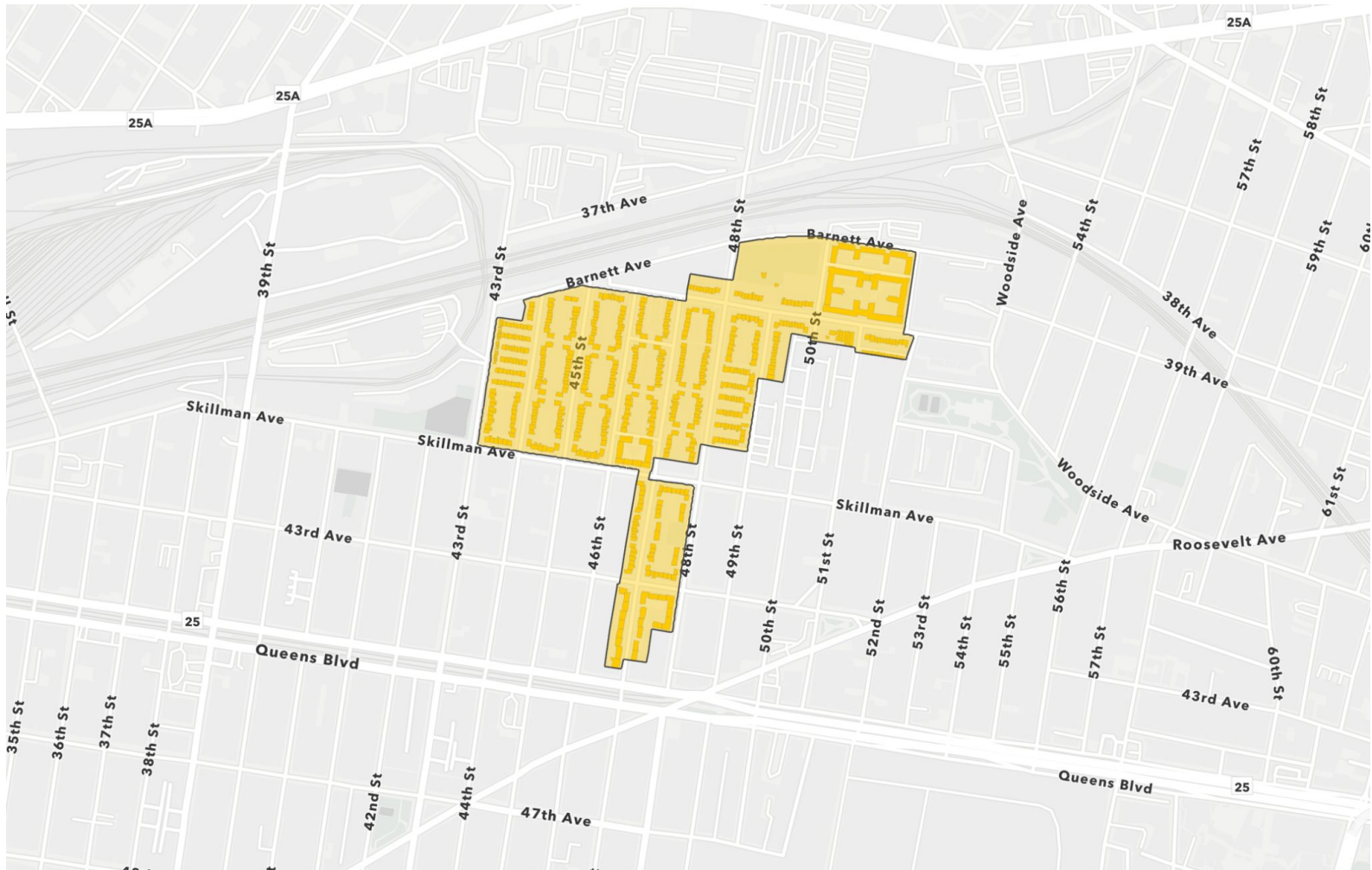
The goal for the project was to:

- Identify and advocate for Sunnyside's historic resources
- Education and Outreach about the merits of designation



So far, we have:

- Organized a successful online lecture about historic affordable housing in Queens by Queens Borough Historian Jason D. Antos.
- Created a survey to gain community input on historic buildings/areas in Sunnyside/Woodside worthy of preservation.
- Submitted a Request for Evaluation to the LPC for the Bliss Theater in April 2024.
- Supported Woodside on The Move with their advocacy efforts to get St. Paul's Episcopal Church landmarked by the LPC, including drafting an RFE in July 2025.



There is only one Historic District in Sunnyside/Woodside and no Individual Landmarks.

Results of the Survey

HDC received over 25 suggestions on the survey from community members. We categorized them to the following: **Entertainment, Social & Cultural Organizations; Religious Institutions; Planning Housing; Apartments; Infrastructure & Transportation; and Commerce.**

More than half of the respondents are **Sunnyside residents**, and most nominations concern **individual buildings or structures representative of a particular architectural type, period, or construction method**. The most popular responses have been **The Bliss Theatre and Sunnyside Gardens**.

Sites to prioritize for preservation in Sunnyside/Woodside

Proposed For Individual Landmark Status:

- Celtic Park Apartments (48-10 43rd St, Sunnyside)
- Former Latham Litho Company (52-25 Barnett Avenue)
- Bulova Watchmaking Company (40-24 62nd Street)

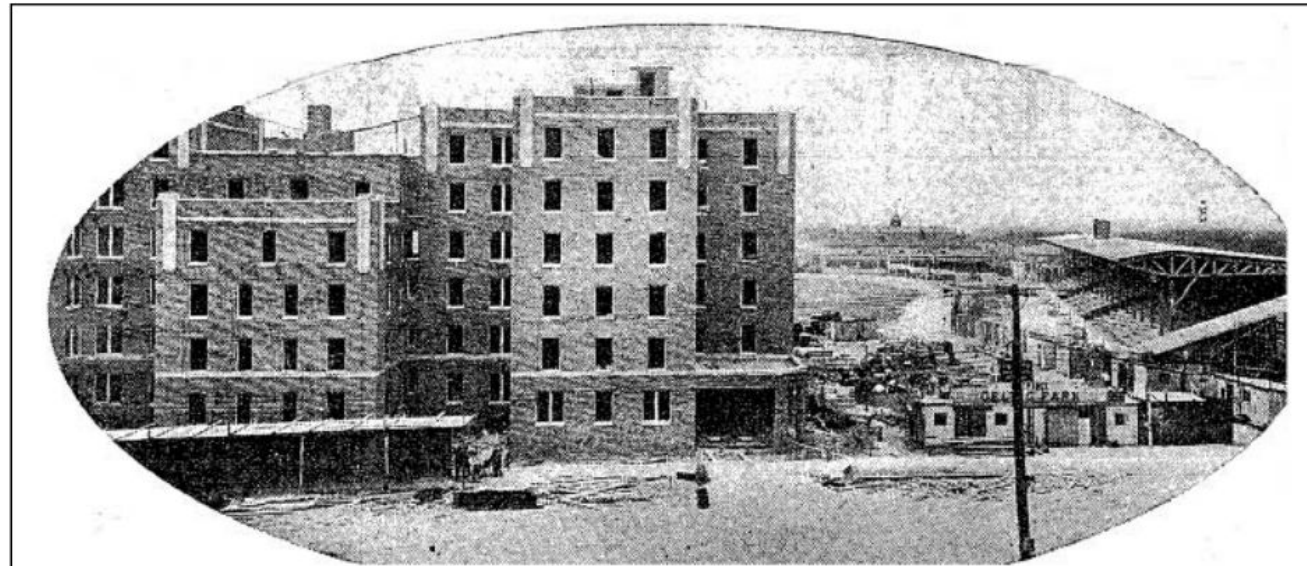
Other Suggestions Include:

- Metropolitan Houses/Cosmopolitan Houses (47-01 49th St)
- Boulevard Gardens Complex (51-42 30th Ave.)
- Matthew Flats (48th and 49th Streets along Skillman and 43rd Avenues)
- Little Manila (Roosevelt Ave. and 70th Street)

Celtic Park Apartments (48-10 43rd St, Sunnyside)

- A housing cooperative built in the 1930s on an old athletic ground.
- Designed by Ernest Flagg as well as the firm of Springsteen & Goldhammer, it was intended for the working class.
- Includes two courts, on the avenue for landscape planning, and a storefront on the corner of the building, which still exist.





Latham Litho Company (52-25 Barnett Avenue)

- Built in 1923 in Tudor Style by McDonnell & Pearl for the Latham Lithograph Company.
- The company once produced about 40% of billboards in America
- Over 70 printmaking. firms relocated to Queens in the 1920's.
- It was also used as a manufacturing plant for surgical instruments.



Bulova School of Watchmaking (40-24 62nd Street)

- Founded in 1945 by Arde Bulova (son of Joseph Bulova) as a tuition-free school to rehabilitate disabled World War II veterans.
- Built in 1948. Designed in Georgian style by the firm of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn.



Next Steps

Submission of Request for Evaluation (RFE)s to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Particular focus on Housing Projects as a historic precedent site as the city government focuses on creating new housing.

LPC to determine if the sites merit designation.

Important Note: LPC's "May Merit" does not automatically mean a designation. The sites will be added to the survey, and may not be calendered soon.

You can submit additional sites to HDC for RFEs or you can create your own Request for Evaluation. [Tips to Write an RFE here.](#)

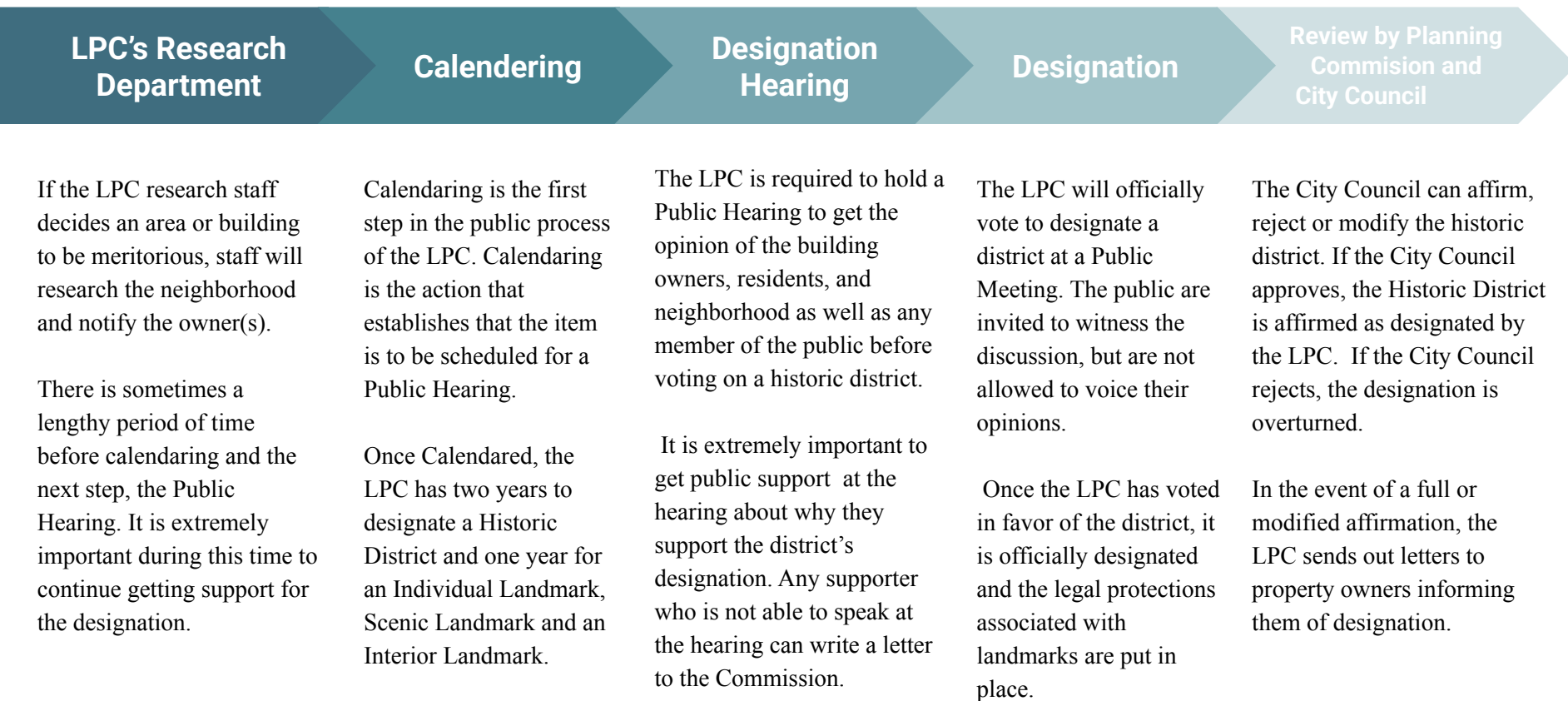
What is a Landmark?

A New York City Landmark is an individual building, district, interior, or scenic area which is more than 30 years old, and which has been deemed an important part of the City's heritage.

A landmark enjoys legal protection based on its special historical, cultural, or aesthetic value to the City of New York, state or nation.

When a site is landmarked, The Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) must approve in advance any alteration, reconstruction, demolition, or new construction affecting the designated site.

Process for Landmark Designation



Landmark Designation Does Not...

- Control Use
- Prevent New Construction
- Increase Rent
- Discourage Affordable Housing
- Require Restoration
- Maintain Specific Businesses



The National Register

The National Register of Historic Places is run by the U.S. government and managed by the National Park Service with assistance from State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO). Listings on the Register are largely honorific.

Sites on the National Register possess significance to state, national or local history.

When the state has decided these properties have the potential to be National Register-listed, pending additional research is required. However, the preliminary classification can make these properties eligible for grants.

The Difference

Local Designation

- Overseen by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC)
- Regulates maintenance/alteration
- Does not provide Tax Credits

State/National Designation

- Overseen by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Does not regulate maintenance/alteration (unless part of a federal project)
- Can provide Tax Credits

A Historic Site can be both locally and state designated. If a property has both, local regulations take precedence and must be followed for any exterior modifications.

**We invite you to join our mission to
preserve New York City's historic
resources by supporting HDC with the
creation of RFEs for your community.**





THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

For more information, please email mfatima@hdc.org or call
212-614-9107 x406

321 West 29th Street New York NY 10003

Phone: 212-614-9107 Email: hdc@hdc.org

Website: hdc.org