

# Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

**PANYC**

## **NEWSLETTER**

Number 100, March 2001

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**NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: 21 MARCH 2001**

Hunter College North, the intersection of East 68th and Lexington, Manhattan; Room 710  
Turn right out of elevator, go through doors, turn left and go to end of hall. the room is on the right  
Executive Board: 6:00 P.M.  
General Membership: 6:30 P.M.

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Minutes of the PANYC General Membership meeting: 24 January 2001.

President Geismar called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** The minutes of the previous General Membership meeting were accepted without corrections. Stone encouraged paying dues at this meeting. Timely payment of dues is more important now that the new by-laws require dues status be current for members to have voting rights.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Freeman reported a balance of \$1909.21 in the PANYC treasury.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Geismar wrote a letter to Parks Commissioner Stern about City Hall Park which is in the newsletter. Geismar received no reply to date and saw Stern at a social function. She expressed PANYC's concerns about City Hall Park to him. Stern said there were no funds to complete the archaeological work and none would be available for the remainder of this administration. Cantwell suggested PANYC tap the public program attendees to write letters. It was also suggested that the press be contacted to generate support. Fitts asked if there is evidence of deteriorating artifacts. Geismar will ask Sutphin for a copy of the scope of work and agreements and reports to see what the responsibilities of those involved actually are.

Geismar said both she and Dallal have continued to hear from Ed Platt who is still concerned about Staten Island archaeological resources. He said Clay Pit Pond Park is expanding and Platt wants to ensure an archaeological survey is conducted of the new park land. Pickman will investigate the actual situation and will report back to Geismar should a letter be necessary.

The developer of 250 Water Street has completed a Phase 1A study done by Greenhouse Consultants. Phase 1B work will be underway soon.

**ACTION:** Spritzer reported no action.

**AWARDS:** Cantwell has not yet received any nominations, but expects them soon. She encouraged members to nominate people for both the student award and the non-archaeologist award.

**ELECTION:** Stone reported not many nominations had been received and urged more nominations.

**EVENTS:** Stone announced additions to the Event Committee report in the newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Stone presented the membership application of Robert Levit. Members present voted in favor of accepting his application and informed him at the meeting.

**MET. CHAPTER NYSAA:** Lattanzi said Bellow spoke at the last meeting. No speaker had yet been

identified for the March meeting. The May meeting of the Met. Chapter will be held in conjunction with the ASNJ. It will be held at Sandy Hook. The annual meeting of NYSAA will be in Sparrowbush on April 26-28, 2001.

**NEWSLETTER:** Geismar said the new by-laws will be published in the next newsletter.

**NYAC:** Harris reported the winter cyber meeting of the NYAC board was taking place tomorrow. Elections of a new board would be held in the spring.

**PUBLIC PROGRAM:** Fitts was told by the Museum of the City of New York that the Daily News was interested in doing an article prior to the Public Program. Stone will send Fitts the mailing labels and the committee will do the mailing. The committee members are Fitts, Freeman, Rakos, and Spritzer.

**REPOSITORY:** Geismar asked for help on repository issues from Kelso of Jamestown while they were at the SHA annual meeting. Harris said grants may be available to not-for-profit groups to explore what is needed once a specific repository location has been identified. This is a 3 year process. Cantwell suggested partnering with Senator Clinton, MCNY or NYHS in a proposal for Governor's Island. Geismar will set up a committee meeting. Members of the committee are: Geismar (chair), Cantwell, Dallal, Fitts, Wall, Rothschild, and McGowan.

**URBAN STANDARDS:** Stone reported the committee received some comments and is still open to receiving others. They anticipate meeting before the next PANYC meeting.

**WEB SITE:** We are still waiting to see if Columbia can host the PANYC web site.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Cantwell on behalf of Rothschild asked the membership reconsider cooperating with David Anderson's project to compare membership lists of local and national organizations. After much discussion, a vote was taken to respond to such inquiries on a case by case basis. This vote passed. Another vote was taken to send Anderson a list of our members names, but not their address or phone numbers. This vote also passed. Stone will email Anderson to find out if he is still collecting this information and then if so to send him our membership names.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Matthews reported Robert Patterson was trying to get archaeological work done on private property in Fort Greene at 430 Waverly. Chris is looking into the situation and will report back.

Cantwell suggested reactivating the Research and Planning Committee. She sees a need for a more active professional interest in New York City. The membership agreed. A discussion ensued regarding the development of possible topics for a professional symposium. All members reading these minutes are asked to provide any suggestions to the committee. Committee members are: Cantwell, Harris, Klein, Rothchild, Rubinson, Schuldenrein, and Stone. A discussion is planned for the next membership meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 P.M.  
Respectfully submitted by L. Stone, PANYC Secretary.



**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

February 27, 2001

Daily News  
450 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001

Att: Edward Kosner, Editor-in-Chief

Dear Sir:

Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC), a 21-year-old organization of local archaeologists dedicated to New York City archaeology, was greatly distressed by the recent "*\$21 Million Money Pit*" article (Daily News, Monday, February 5, 2001). Not only is it demoralizing and disheartening to see an extraordinary archaeological resource such as the African Burial Ground paralyzed by politics, but also to have the world believe that archaeology is an astonishing expense. Neither is typical. Unfortunately, to the detriment of the resource and the profession, it is the sensational exception that attracts attention.

So much has been learned about New York City's past through low profile and relatively low cost archaeological explorations. And, even though beset by the problems documented in the article, the African Burial Ground has yielded unprecedented information. We trust that more will be forthcoming in the near future.

Sincerely,



Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.  
PANYC President

40 East 83 Street  
New York, NY 10028  
212 734-6512

**BY-LAWS  
OF  
PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.  
(PANYC)**

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**BY-LAWS  
OF  
PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.  
(PANYC).**

**ARTICLE I  
INTRODUCTION**

Section 1. Name. The name of the corporation (the "Corporation") shall be Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. ("PANYC").

Section 2. Purposes. The purposes of PANYC are to 1) protect and preserve the archaeological and historical resources of New York City, 2) educate and advise agencies and the general public on matters relating to the archaeology of New York City, and 3) promote cooperation and communication among professional archaeologists in New York City for the foregoing purposes.

**ARTICLE II  
MEMBERS**

Section 1. Existing Members. All persons who were members of the unincorporated association known as Professional Archaeologists of New York City shall be Members of PANYC ("Members").

Section 2. Eligibility for Membership. Membership in PANYC is open to any person who subscribes to PANYC's purposes and who meets the following criteria:

- a. Applicants must have been awarded one of the following advanced degrees: an M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., D.Sc., or official A.B.D., from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology, history, classics, or another related discipline with a specialization in archaeology;
- b. Applicants must have at least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and at least four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curation experience. Requirements for both field and laboratory experiences will be considered to have been met by attendance at an archaeological field school which meets the guidelines set by the Register of Professional Archaeologists ("RPA"). Applicants who have not completed an accredited field school can qualify for membership by demonstrating equivalent field and laboratory training under professional supervision.

- c. Applicants must have or demonstrate professional experience in one or more of the following areas of archaeological activity: field research and excavation, research on archaeological collections, archival research, administration of units within public or private agencies oriented toward archaeological research, conduct of cultural resource management studies, or teaching with an emphasis on archaeological topics. Applicants meeting the educational and training criteria and having other professional interest related to archaeology will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- d. Applicants must submit a written statement describing their professional interest in New York City archaeology. By becoming Members, applicants subscribe to the purposes of PANYC as set forth in Article 1, Section 2 and express their commitment to preserve, protect, and document New York City's archaeological resources, as well as to support research and to encourage publication of information recovered from those resources. In addition, by becoming Members, applicants agree not to engage in illegal or unethical conduct involving archaeological matters.
- e. Members may establish additional criteria for subsequent Members in order to further PANYC's purposes and goals.

Section 3. Application Process. Any person wishing to apply for Membership in PANYC should submit a copy of his or her resume or vita with the official application form, any other information describing how he or she meets the eligibility criteria in Section 2, and the statement of purpose described in Section 2, Subsection (d). To become a Member, an applicant must be approved by a majority of Members who are both present and eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7 at either a regularly scheduled Meeting of the Members or a Special Meeting of the Members.

Section 4. Meetings. The Members shall hold at least four membership meetings ("Meeting of the Members") each year for the transaction of business assigned to the Members under these By-laws. Meetings of the Members shall be held at the places, times and dates decided by the Executive Board, provided, however, that one of the Meeting of the Members shall be held during the month of March (the "Annual Meeting") to elect Officers and Members of the Executive Board, as well as to transact business assigned to the Members under these By-laws. The Executive Board may call a Special Meeting of the Members ("Special Meeting of the Members") at any time between regularly scheduled Meetings of the Members. In addition, five Members eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7 may call a Special Meeting of the Members by delivery to the Secretary of demand.

Section 5. Notice of Meetings. The Secretary shall deliver written notice, stating the place, date and time of each Meeting of the Members. Unless otherwise required by New York statute or provided by the Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation (the "Certificate of Incorporation") or these By-laws, notice of any Meeting of the Members shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given by regular mail, by federal express or any other generally recognized overnight delivery service, by fax with confirmation, by hand or by electronic mail not fewer than five nor



more than sixty days before the meeting to each Member at the street, post office or electronic address or fax number on PANYC's records. Notice of a Special Meeting of the Members may be given no less than 48 hours before the time at which the meeting shall be held, and such notice shall indicate the purpose for which the Special Meeting of the Members is called.

Section 6. Organization. The President shall preside at all Meetings of the Members; in the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside; in the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the President's immediate predecessor ("Immediate-Past President") shall preside. The Secretary shall act as Secretary at all meetings of the Members; in the absence of the Secretary, the President shall appoint an acting Secretary.

Section 7. Voting and Action by Members.

- a. At any Meeting of the Members, only those Members who are present in person or by proxy and who have paid the annual dues stipulated by the Executive Board shall be eligible to vote in any matter put up for a vote to the Members. A Member who is in arrears may vote immediately upon paying his or her outstanding membership dues. Upon demand of any Member present and eligible to vote under this Section, any vote upon any question at the meeting shall be by ballot.
- b. Unless otherwise required by New York statute or provided by the Certificate of Incorporation or by these By-laws, any corporate action authorized by a majority of the votes cast at a Meeting of the Members shall be an act of the Members.
- c. Unless otherwise required by New York statute or provided by the Certificate of Incorporation or these By-laws, there shall be no quorum requirements for any meeting of the Members. The Members present, in person or by proxy, at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 8. Newsletter. All Members will receive the PANYC newsletter. Members will stop receiving the newsletter if they are more than one year in arrears.

Section 9. Removal. At any Meeting of the Members or at a Special Meeting of the Members, the Members may remove any Member with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of the Members who are present, in person or by proxy, and who are eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7. Notice of the removal vote as well as the grounds for the vote must be set forth in the notice of the Meeting delivered pursuant to Article II, Section 5 to all Members.

**ARTICLE III**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Section 1. Powers. Subject to any limitations imposed by action of the Members, the Executive Board (the "Board") shall manage PANYC's affairs and property and shall have authority to execute all powers and functions of PANYC, in accordance with the purposes set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation.

Section 2. Number. The number of Board Members ("Board Members") constituting the Entire Board shall be ten. ("Entire Board" means the total number of Board Members entitled to vote if there were no vacancies.) The number may be increased or decreased by amendment of the By-laws, but no decrease shall shorten the term of any incumbent Board Member.

Section 3. Membership on Executive Board by Virtue of Office. The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be Board Members by virtue of their office. The Immediate-Past President shall be a Board Member by virtue of that status.

Section 4. Election of Other Board Members. The five Board Members not serving on the Board by virtue of their current or former positions as Officers ("Elected Board Members") pursuant to the previous paragraph shall be elected according to the procedures described in Article V.

Section 5. Initial Directors. The Initial Directors shall be the persons named in the Certificate of Incorporation and they shall serve until the first Annual Meeting. At the Organizational Meeting of the Executive Board, the Initial Directors shall appoint the remaining Board Members. The Board Members so appointed will hold office until PANYC holds its first Annual Meeting.

Section 6. Term of Office. Each Elected Board Member shall hold office for a term of one year. Except in the case of resignation or removal under these By-laws, each Elected Board Member shall hold office until the expiration of his or her term and the election of his or her successor. Elected Board Members may serve an unlimited number of terms. Each Board Member serving on the Board by virtue of office (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Immediate-Past President) shall serve on the Board until he or she is replaced in the office.

Section 7. Place and Time of Board Meetings. The Board shall hold Board Meetings ("Board Meetings") immediately before any Meeting of the Members. Thus, the Board shall hold at least four Board Meetings a year at a time and place chosen by the Board.

Section 8. Special Meetings of the Board. The President, at the direction of the Board, may call a Special Board Meeting ("Special Board Meeting") at any time and shall specify the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Notwithstanding the purpose, any matter of business may be decided at a Special Board Meeting.

Section 9. Notice of Meetings. The Secretary shall deliver written notice to all Board Members stating the place, date and time of any Board Meeting. Unless otherwise required by New York statute or provided by the Certificate of Incorporation or these By-laws, notice of any Board Meeting shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given by regular mail, by federal express or any other generally recognized overnight delivery service, by fax with confirmation, by hand or by electronic mail not fewer than five nor more than sixty days before the meeting to each Board Member at the street, post office or electronic address or fax number on PANYC's records. Notice of Special Board Meetings may be given no less than 48 hours before the time at which the meeting shall be held, and such notice shall indicate the purpose for which the Special Board Meeting is called.

Section 10. Emergency Matters. For any urgent matter that arises, the President may canvass the Board and make a decision based on the approval of the majority of the Board.

Section 11. Quorum and Voting. At all Board Meetings, a majority of the Entire Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Unless otherwise required by New York statute or provided by the Certificate of Incorporation or these By-laws, at any Board Meeting at which a quorum is present, the vote of a majority of the Board Members present shall be the act of the Board.

Section 12. Removal. A vote of a majority of the Board may remove any Board Member for cause at any Board Meeting, including a Special Board Meeting called for that purpose. Alternatively, at a Meeting of the Members or at a Special Meeting of the Members, the Members may remove any Board Member with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of all Members who are present, in person or by proxy, and who are eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7.

Section 13. Resignation. Any Board Member may resign from office at any time by delivering a resignation in writing to the President or the Board, and the acceptance of the resignation, unless required by its terms, shall not be necessary to make the resignation effective.

Section 14. Vacancies and Newly Created Board Memberships. The Board shall appoint a Board Member to fill any newly created Board Memberships and any vacancies on the Board. Except in the case of resignation or removal, Board Members so appointed shall serve until the election of their successors.

#### ARTICLE IV OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES and AGENTS

Section 1. Officers. The Officers of PANYC ("Officers") shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All of the Officers must be eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7. No person may simultaneously hold the offices of both President and Secretary.

Section 2. Election and Term of Office. The Members shall elect the President, Vice-President and Secretary to a one-year term at the Annual Meeting according to the procedures in Article V. The Members shall elect the Treasurer to a two-year term at the Annual Meeting according to the procedures in Article V. Except in the case of resignation or removal under these By-laws, Officers shall continue in office until the expiration of their terms and the election of their successors. Officers may be elected to an unlimited number of terms; however, a President cannot serve consecutive terms in that office.

Section 3. Employees and Contractors. The Board may appoint employees and contractors to serve at the pleasure of the Board and to have the authority, perform the duties and receive the compensation, if any, determined by the Board.

Section 4. Removal. A vote of a majority of the Board may suspend the authority to act of any Officer for cause. In addition, a vote of a majority of the Board may remove any Officer with or without cause who holds that position pursuant to Section 5 of this Article. Alternatively, at a Meeting of the Members or at a Special Meeting of the Members, the Members may remove any Officer with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of all Members who are present, in person or by proxy, and who are eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7.

Section 5. Vacancies. The Board may elect a successor to fill a vacancy in any office, and the person elected shall serve until the next Annual Meeting and the election of his or her successor.

Section 6. President: Powers and Duties. The President shall preside at all Meetings of the Members, shall generally supervise PANYC's affairs and shall keep the Board and the Members fully informed. Together with the Treasurer, the President shall present at the Annual Meeting the report described in Article IV, Section 9. The President shall have any other powers and perform any other duties assigned by the Board.

Section 7. Vice-President: Powers and Duties. The Vice-President shall have the powers and perform the duties assigned by the Board. In addition, the Vice-President shall organize and conduct PANYC's public program. In the absence or inability of the President to act, the Vice-President shall perform all the duties and may exercise any of the powers of the President.

Section 8. Secretary: Powers and Duties. The Secretary shall:

- a. keep the minutes of all Board Meetings and Meetings of the Members;
- b. send a copy of the minutes of the Meetings of the Members to the established PANYC archives;
- c. serve or cause to be served all notices;

- d. maintain the records of the Nominations Committee and supervise the counting of ballots and certify the election to the Board, as discussed in Article V; and,
- e. perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and any other duties assigned by the Board.

Section 9. Treasurer: Powers and Duties. The Treasurer shall keep or supervise the keeping of complete and accurate books and accounts of PANYC and shall deposit all funds of PANYC in the name of PANYC in the banks or other depositories chosen by the Board. When requested by the Board, the Treasurer shall at all reasonable times exhibit the books and accounts to any Board Member, and shall perform any other duties assigned by the Board. At the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer, together with the President, shall present a report showing:

- a. the assets and liabilities of PANYC as of a 12-month fiscal period terminating not more than six months prior to the Annual Meeting;
- b. the principal changes in assets and liabilities during that fiscal period;
- c. the revenues or receipts of PANYC, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, for that fiscal period;
- d. the expenses of PANYC during that fiscal period; and,
- e. the number of Members of PANYC and a statement of the increase or decrease during that fiscal period.

The report shall be verified by the President and Treasurer or by a majority of the Board Members, or certified by a public or certified accountant and filed with the minutes of the Annual Meeting. The report to the Board may consist of a verified or certified copy of any report by PANYC to the Internal Revenue Service or the Attorney General of the State of New York which includes the information specified above.

Section 10. Compensation. The Board shall fix the compensation, if any, of any Officer or employee. In determining compensation, the Board shall consider the compensation offered by comparable organizations for similar positions and shall document the basis for its decisions. If an Officer or employee is a Board Member, he or she may not participate in the discussion or the vote with respect to his or her compensation.

## ARTICLE V ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nomination Procedures for Elected Positions. Prior to the first day of

February each year, the President shall appoint a nominations committee (the "Nominations Committee"). Members of PANYC may forward suggested nominations in writing to the Nominations Committee. All suggested nominations must be received at least one month prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

Any Member who is eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7, receives at least five suggested nominations from the Members, and accepts the candidacy will be included on the ballot. At the discretion of the Nominations Committee, other Members may be placed on the ballot. By accepting the candidacy, the candidate asserts his or her willingness and ability to serve PANYC in accordance with Article II, Section 1 of these By-laws.

Section 2. Voting. The Nominations Committee shall be responsible for the securing of nominations of Officers and Elected Board Members. The Secretary shall prepare and distribute the ballot to Members. At least two weeks prior to the election, the Secretary shall send official ballots by mail to all Members. All nominees' names shall appear on the ballot, which shall be plainly marked with the official return date.

Section 3. Voting Procedures. Each Member eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7 may vote for one candidate for each office and each of the positions on the Executive Board as Elected Board Members by means of secret ballot. Ballots shall be returned to the Secretary prior to the date of the election and shall be counted by the Secretary. The candidate for an office who receives the highest number of votes shall be declared elected to that office. The five nominees for positions as Elected Board Members who receive the highest number of votes shall be declared elected as such. In the event of a tie vote, a run-off election shall be held during the next Meeting of the Members.

## ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees of the Corporation. The President shall appoint all other committees, which may include an advisory committee consisting of Members, and shall define the duties of the committees.

Section 2. Committees of the Board. The Board may establish and appoint an executive and other standing committees. The President shall appoint the chairperson of each committee. Each committee so appointed shall consist of three or more Board Members and, to the extent provided in the resolution establishing it, shall have all the authority of the Board.

Section 3. Special Committees. The Board may appoint special committees consisting of one or more Board Members. These committees shall have only the powers specifically delegated to them by the Board.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**CONTRACTS, CHECKS, BANK ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS**

Section 1. Contracts, Checks and Documents. Unless the Board shall specifically require an additional signature, the Treasurer and the President shall each have the authority to sign alone, in the name of PANYC, all checks and all contracts authorized either generally or specifically by the Board. The President can determine who is authorized to sign other documents on PANYC's behalf. No instrument required to be signed by more than one Officer may be signed by one person in more than one capacity.

Section 2. Bank Accounts and Investments. The Board shall select depositories for the funds of PANYC and may hold PANYC's funds in cash or invest them in whatever real or personal property the Board thinks desirable.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**OFFICE AND BOOKS**

Section 1. Office. PANYC's office shall be at the location set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation or at another location chosen by the Board.

Section 2. Books. There shall be kept at the established PANYC archives, which are at the South Street Seaport Library at the time of the adoption of these By-laws, or at another location chosen by the Board, correct records of the activities and transactions of PANYC, including: a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation; a copy of these By-laws; all minutes of the Meetings of the Members; and all records maintained by or under the supervision of the Treasurer.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Amendments of the By-laws. The By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Members eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7 at any Meeting of the Members, Special Meeting of the Members, or through a vote by mail ballot. The quorum requirement or the proportion of votes necessary for specified actions may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Members eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7 at any Meeting of the Members, Special Meeting or through a vote by mail ballot.

Section 2. Proposal of Amendment. Amendment of the By-laws may be proposed by the Board or by petition of any five Members eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7.

Section 3. Notice. All proposed amendments shall be mailed to PANYC's Members by the Secretary at least 7 days before a Meeting of the Members or a Special Meeting of the Members in which the amendments are to be considered. In the case of a mail ballot, to be counted as votes, ballots must be returned to the Secretary within 30 days of the mailing.

Section 4. Effective Date. The amendment and provisions of the By-laws shall be effective immediately upon their adoption and shall supersede and nullify all conflicting By-law provisions and all amendments and provisions not mentioned herein.

## ARTICLE X DISSOLUTION

Section 1: Procedures for Dissolution. PANYC may be dissolved for any reason by a two-thirds vote of all Members eligible to vote under Article II, Section 7.

Section 2. Disposal of Assets. Upon the dissolution of PANYC, after paying all of its liabilities, PANYC shall, through its Board, donate all of its assets in equal parts to the New York Archaeological Council and the Metropolitan Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association. In the event that either of these organizations is unable to accept the assets of PANYC, then the assets will go in their entirety to the other organization. In the event that both of these organizations are unable to accept the assets of PANYC, all assets shall be donated to the Society for American Archaeology.



This consent may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

New York City, New York

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Dallal  
INITIAL DIRECTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan H. Geismar  
INITIAL DIRECTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patience Freeman  
INITIAL DIRECTOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Bonasera  
INITIAL DIRECTOR

SPORTS

★ ★ ★ ★

FINAL

New Clinton  
gift uproar

SEE PAGE 3

Hundreds mark  
Diallo anniversary

SEE PAGE 2

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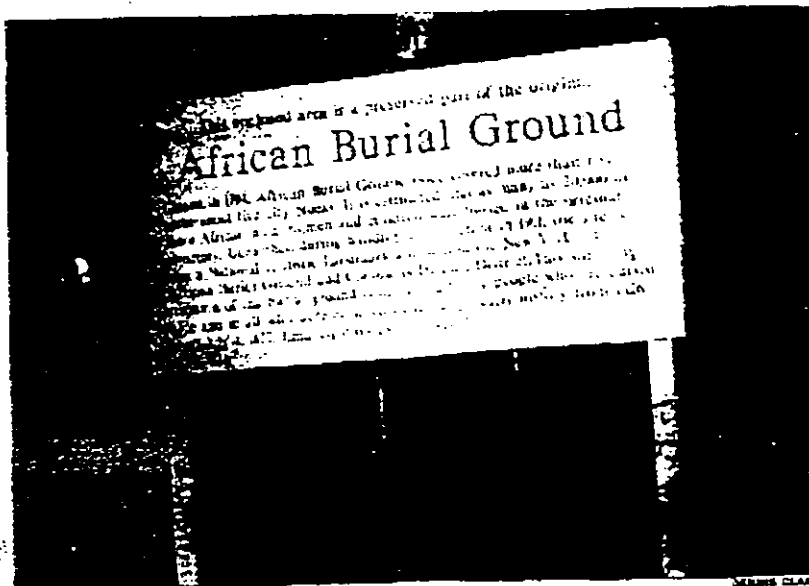
Monday, February 20, 2001

INVESTIGATION

# \$21 MILLION MONEY PIT

**Funding feud  
stalls research  
and memorial  
at downtown  
African Burial  
Ground**

After nearly a decade,  
the only sign of  
a memorial at the site  
is this woudent one (r.).



SEE STORIES ON PAGES 6-8

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Monday, February 05, 2001

# \$21M Plan Mired in Woe

## Researchers, feds wrangle over African Burial Ground

By ROBERT INGRASSIA  
Daily News Staff Writer

**O**n a spring day nearly a decade ago, archeologist Ed Rutsch climbed into a deep hole on a construction site near City Hall. As a backhoe overturned dirt, he spotted a round bone.

"I brushed it off, and I could see part of a face and a couple of teeth," Rutsch recalled. "There was no doubt about what it was."

On land where a federal office tower would later rise, Rutsch had rediscovered a long-forgotten cemetery used by enslaved Africans and free blacks during the 1700s. A team eventually unearthed more than 400 skeletons, half of them the remains of children.

Since that exciting find, the federal government says it has spent \$21 million studying the remains and planning a memorial to a painful, little-known chapter in New York history.

Except for two wooden signs and a chain-link fence enclosing an easily overlooked plot of grass, the government has almost nothing to show for its time and money.

A decade ago, the project held great scientific potential and



Clark for NEWS

After nearly a decade, the only sign of a memorial at the site of downtown African Burial Ground, is this wooden one.

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tremendous cultural value. Today, it is mired in racial mistrust, funding feuds and bickering among federal officials, government consultants and community activists.



Suriani AP

The burial site was discovered when workers began construction of federal office tower near City Hall in lower Manhattan.

By now, the African Burial Ground Project was supposed to feature a completed scientific study, a memorial at the site and a visitors center in the adjacent office tower lobby. But the plans are in shambles and the work still is at least several years from completion.

The General Services Administration, the federal agency in charge of the project, is auditing its lead researcher, trying to figure out where he spent more than \$5 million.

Last month, the agency dismissed a consultant who spent four years planning the memorial, interpretive center and reburial ceremony.

The researcher, Howard University anthropologist Prof. Michael Blakey, and the planning consultant, Peggy King Jorde, blame agency officials for renegeing on promises and allowing the project to get tangled in bureaucracy.

The researcher and the consultant, both black, suggest that the agency never made the project a priority because the people who were buried at the site — like those pressing for a memorial — were black.

"Subliminally or otherwise, there is a reluctance to confront the horror related to this site," said King Jorde, a former aide to Mayor David Dinkins. "Nobody wants to be on the other side of the pointing finger."

Agency officials suggest that consultants are responsible for the mess.

"I don't know how GSA could be dragging its feet when [they]...are the ones heading the project," said Cassandra Henderson, an agency spokeswoman.

Fed up with delays, a black community group is demanding that the government return the remains from a Washington lab for reburial.



US Gen. Svcs. Admin. Woman was among 408 intact skeletons

"We agree there should be research," said Charles Barron, a member of the Committee of Descendants of the Afrikan Ancestral Burial Ground. "But come on, now, it's been nine years." excavated from burial site in the early 1990s.

Federal officials knew the site of its planned office complex at Broadway and Duane St. had been a Colonial-era graveyard. A map from 1755 listed the area as a "Negros Burial Ground."

Archeologists who studied the site before construction told government officials that two centuries of development had probably destroyed most of the remains.

But it turned out the low-lying cemetery had been filled in long ago, leaving the gravesites far enough underground to remain intact.



US Gen. Svcs. Admin.

Anthropologists Mark Mack and Theresa Lesley carefully note findings at the African Burial Ground during work in 1991.

The find presented an unprecedented opportunity to shed light on the lives, and deaths, of American slaves. Historians and archeologists also saw a chance to shatter the popular perception that only the South engaged in slavery.

powerful to blacks as Ellis Island is to descendants of European immigrants.

To some black Americans, the remains offered a direct link to their African ancestry. Black leaders said the site, properly studied and memorialized, could become as

But the research has become a quagmire. The GSA hired Blakey in August 1993 after black leaders demanded that the research be led by a black scientist. Now, that relationship, beset from the very beginning by racial mistrust, has been severed.

After spending \$5.4 million on Blakey's work, the agency cut off the cash early last year. Research stopped, and the bones remain locked in cabinets at a Howard University lab.

Agency officials said Blakey has failed to provide all the scientific reports his contract requires. Blakey said he has reported on the research funded to date, but that he can't finish his work without more money.

The Department of Justice...

The disagreement centers on funding for DNA tests on the skeletal remains. Blakey said the DNA tests would shed light on the origins of the slaves and allow for a database to help blacks trace their roots.



Bedford for NEWS

Consultant Peggy King Jorde spent four years planning memorial for the site, then was fired last month.

The anthropologist accused the agency of renegeing on its funding promise after the initial publicity over the bones died down.

"GSA has tried to wear us out from the very beginning," Blakey said. "I think GSA felt the lights had dimmed enough three years ago to reduce this project."

Agency officials said the DNA tests, which could cost \$5 million, were not part of the original deal. They said the DNA project, which would include tests on modern Africans and American blacks to help trace origins, might be good science but would go beyond what a government construction agency should pay for.

"Everybody thinks, 'It's GSA. You've got deep pockets,'" said Ron Law, the agency's burial ground project manager. "But we don't have authorization. It's not part of our mission. ... The DNA research, as sexy as it is, is quite costly."

Before cutting off Blakey's money, agency officials questioned why he was spending so much on administration and so little on actual research. An audit is underway.



Carioti AP

Anthropologist Michael Blakey (in his office at Howard University in Washington) now refuses to meet with team designing interpretive center for the site.

"What was there to show for the \$5 million that was spent? That was GSA's biggest problem," said Bill Lawson, a former agency official who led the project during 1999. "There wasn't a lot there."

Blakey would not say how much of the research money went into his pocket in salary or fees. He said he earned "less than \$50 per hour" and billed only 50% to 75% of the hours he worked.

"What GSA has demonstrated is that it still wants black people to work for free," Blakey said.

The relationship got so bad in the mid-1990s, Lawson said, that when the agency hired several experts to examine Blakey's work — a review

that found weaknesses in his research — officials sat on the report because they didn't want to antagonize the researcher.

Much of the problem stems from the contract between the agency and Blakey's Cobb Laboratory. The contract, written during a political firestorm by an agency unfamiliar with handling such work, was vague and lacked the usual oversight safeguards.

With the research at a standstill, other parts of the project have languished. The proposed interpretive center can't move forward because Blakey, no longer being paid, has refused to meet with members of a team designing the center.

Plans for the memorial and reburial ceremony also are in disarray. In the coming weeks, the government intends to announce finalists for a memorial design competition, but calls for immediate reburial of the remains complicate the plans.



Davis NEWS

Agency officials said the memorial, including an underground vault for the bones and unearthed artifacts, must be built before reinterment. Burying the remains earlier could require tossing out proposed designs and starting over.

Rain didn't keep people from gathering at African Burial Ground site in 1992 to protest racial insensitivity of government excavators.

Agency officials said the government has spent \$21.2 million on the project. In addition to Blakey's research, much of the money has gone to consultants. King Jorde said she has billed roughly \$70,000 per year for four years.

Another consultant, anthropologist Sherrill Wilson, runs a burial ground education office that spends about \$750,000 per year. Her office, which employs several full-and part-time workers, publishes a newsletter, conducts research and runs seminars for schools and community groups.

Costs will continue to rise. In 1999, the consultants submitted wish lists to the agency for work that would cost an additional \$15 million to \$20 million.

Not all those items will be funded, agency officials said. But even paying for some of them won't be easy. Last year, Congress declined to allocate money for the projects, instead directing the agency to borrow cash or use leftover funds from the office tower construction

Law said he doubts the agency could borrow money for work that won't generate income. He said he's unsure whether any unused construction funds are available.

King Jorde said she believes such talk reflects the agency's lukewarm commitment to the project.

"This project and the issues it's gotten wrapped up [in] show a lack of valuing, a lack of priority," she said.

Lawson called on government officials, consultants and community groups to "put aside their parochial interests.

"Everyone's got to sit down and say, 'What's in the best interests of the community, the culture and the government?'" he said.

**Related Stories**

- [Daily News Investigation: African Burial Ground Chronology \(2/5/01\)](#)
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Daily News 3/6/01 page 17

# African Burial Ground parley

By MICHAEL SAIL  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A black-community group plans to meet with federal officials today to demand the return of more than 400 skeletons unearthed a decade ago from the controversy-plagued African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan.

"How would you feel if your parent died and some government took control over the remains?" asked Charles Barron, a spokesman for the Committee of Descendants of the African Ancestral Burial Ground. "We are going to demand that the bones be returned immediately."

The committee is to meet with officials from the General Services Administration, the federal agency that spent \$21 million studying the remains and planning a memorial to honor the Africans buried at the site.

The meeting comes one day after the Daily News reported in a front-page investigation that the government-funded research and memorial project is in shambles. Despite spending millions, the government has almost nothing to show for a decade of work.

Located near Duane and Reade Sts., near City Hall, the burial ground was a long-forgotten cemetery used by enslaved Africans and free blacks during the 1700s.

The project was to feature a completed scientific study, a memorial at the site and a visitors center in the adjacent office tower lobby. Today, two wooden signs and a chain-link fence enclosing a plot of grass are the only tangible results.

"The GSA launched an audit of Michael Blakey, the project's lead researcher. And last month, it dismissed a consultant who spent four years planning the memorial, interpretive center and reburial ceremony."

The bones remain locked in cabinets at a Howard University lab in Washington.

"Everybody should be outraged," Barron said. "This is an insult to our ancestors' remains."

He said it's very important for the community to re-inter the bones as soon as possible. "People are playing games with a deep spiritual ritual," he said. "This is the second killing of our ancestors."

# Face put on corpse

## Hope computer model can ID teen

By JOHN MARZULLI  
DAILY NEWS POLICE BUREAU CHIEF

The East River gave up her body in May, but nine months later a teenager's identity remains a mystery.

"It's hard to believe no one would be concerned about a girl this young," said Lt. Philip Mahony, commander of the NYPD missing persons squad. "It's heartbreaking."

But now, the badly decomposed corpse has a face — generated on a computer screen from the measurements of her skull, combined with a forensic artist's intuition.

The first 911 caller on May 6 spotted the body floating in the East River near 98th St. A Fire Department boat brought the body ashore at the 60th St. heliport.

It was a ghastly site. The corpse had been in the water for six months to a year. The flesh was virtually gone. There was a clue, though. The clothing was intact, a T-shirt with the logo "Perfect Thyroid" on the back and "skunkjam" on the front. She was wearing black cargo pants, a navy blue bra and blue paisley boxer shorts.

The medical examiner deter-



Composite likeness of teen's body pulled from East River.

mined the victim was female. Based on the development of her teeth, she was between 13 and 16 years old. The cause of death and how she got into the water remain unknown.

Meanwhile, detectives learned that Perfect Thyroid is an upstate-based ski-funk band that plays gigs throughout the northeast and Canada; "skunkjam" is its production company.

It is rare for a dead teen to go

unidentified for long. Her dental records were coded into the National Crime Information Center computer and checked against dozens of possible matches.

Mahony said the girl might be a persistent runaway whose parents did not report her latest disappearance to police.

The skull was packaged and sent to Virginia's National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a non-profit clearinghouse for information on crimes against children. There, a forensic artist set out to make her recognizable.

The skull measurements were taken, and 21 soft-tissue depth indicators of the face were marked. Then, using Adobe Photoshop computer software, forensic artist Steve Loftin gave her eyes, a nose, lips, ears and a hair style.

Judging from her clothing and after reviewing photos of fans at Perfect Thyroid concerts, Loftin decided on a tomboyish look.

"This is not a portrait; you just hope you're capturing some of the characteristics of the person

you're said to build the the De when the ed. U

DAILY NEWS EXCLUSIVE

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### BAD HAIR DAY



The footing is dicey and the huge flakes are almost blinding, and to make things worse, her hair is soaked thanks to an umbrella breakdown on windy Centre St. yesterday. But she hangs in there to get what good she can from what's left of the body.

# State: Wait in tree tra

By PETE DONOHUE  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The state Health Department wants the city to back off from its demand that the family of a Queens teen killed by a falling tree limb help pay for his hospital bills, a department spokesman said yesterday.

The city corporation counsel agreed last year to a \$125,000 settlement of a lawsuit filed by the family of Alex Gallego, 17, whose skull was crushed by a limb that fell from a tree on public school property in Queens in 1997.

But another city agency placed a lien to collect nearly \$12,000 in Medicaid funds spent on the uninsured youth. The city later said it would accept \$8,000.

Medicaid is funded by city, state and federal governments.

"We don't believe the lien was warranted," Health Department spokesman John Signor said. "We're going to send them [city officials] a letter saying we are waiving the state share and recommending the entire amount be waived."

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Alex Gallego

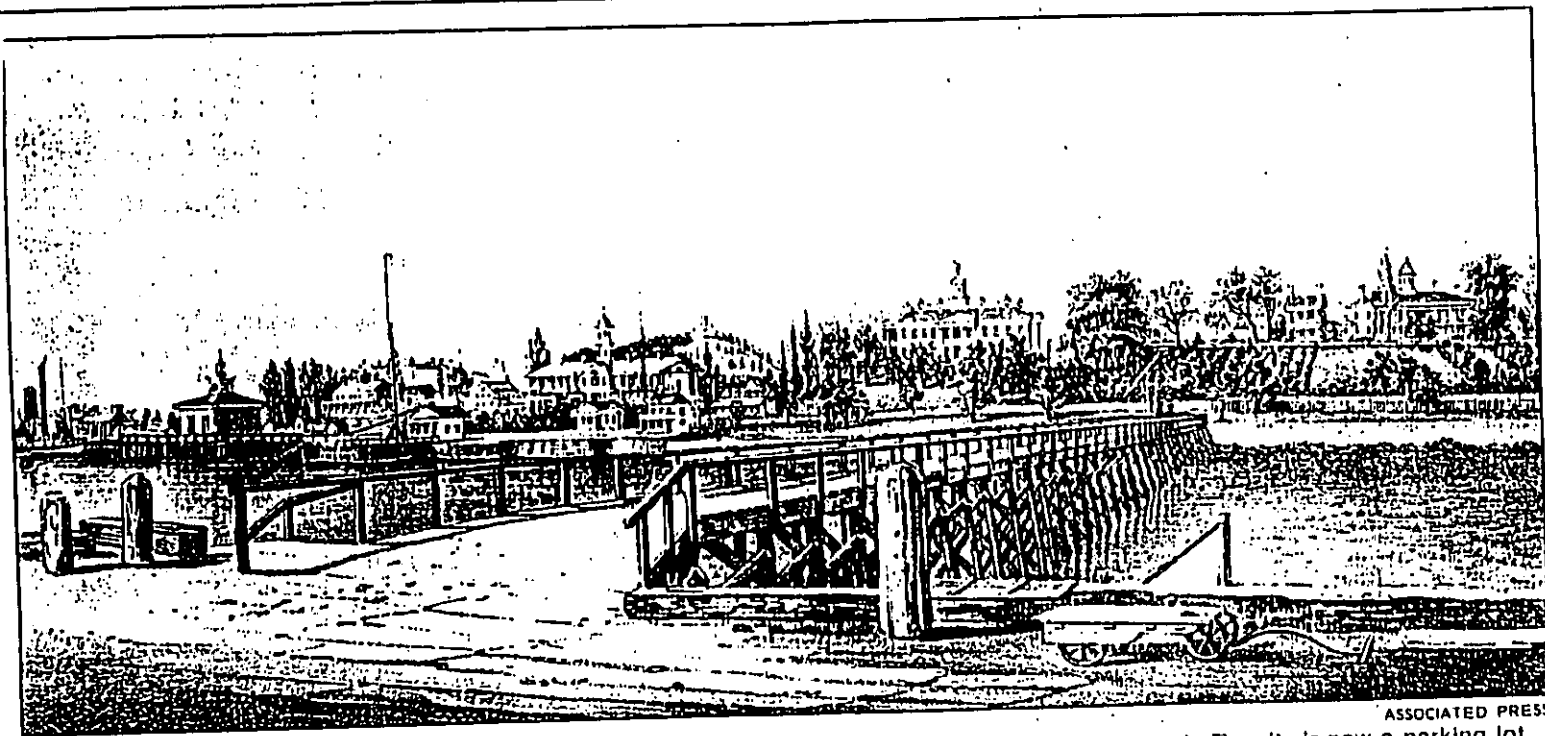
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# Traces of a tragic past

4 THE RECORD

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NEW YORK



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Period drawing of the Immigrant quarantine facility on Staten Island, burned down in 1858 by an angry mob. The site is now a parking lot.

Feb 20, 2001

Story next page

Feb 20, 2001

# Traces of a tragic past

## Immigrants' cemetery could block plan for court complex

By JUDIE GLAVE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A sliver of human bone found at a city-owned parking lot in Staten Island offers new evidence of a 19th century cemetery for quarantined immigrants — and may jeopardize construction of a \$40 million court complex on the site.

Though officials have long suspected the cemetery was there, it wasn't until the 1 1/2-inch-long bone fragment was found during soil testing that they knew for sure. Forensic tests confirmed the fragment was most likely from a female shinbone, more than 100 years old.

"That changed everything," Jack D. Homkow, an environmental manager for the state Dormitory Authority, said in an interview.

"Obviously we're not going to construct anything on a cemetery," said Homkow, whose agency conducts environmental reviews for state projects such as this. He said it's possible the court could still be built on a portion of the four-acre site, leaving the burial ground intact, but his office also is seeking alternative locations for the court complex.

The Staten Island complex would be part of the \$2.3 billion plan to replace aging and overcrowded court facilities in all five city boroughs.

The small piece of bone — no bigger than a pinkie finger — was found Jan. 18 on the northernmost corner of the 578-car lot, near Hyatt Avenue. The discovery launched an investigation that took Homkow far into the past — long before Ellis Island opened its doors in 1892.

Decades earlier, in the area around present-day Staten Island Borough Hall, stood a 30-acre site

known as the Marine Hospital complex. It began operating in 1799 after an outbreak of communicable diseases, including typhoid, cholera, tuberculosis, smallpox, and yellow fever, were traced to immigrants arriving in New York.

Homkow said every ship that came into New York Harbor between 1799 and 1858 — when the facility was burned down by a mob of angry residents — was required to stop at the Staten Island facility.

Once there, each person was examined by a doctor and anyone deemed a public health threat was quarantined. "Many, of course, didn't make it and their bodies were either released to relatives or buried on the site," Homkow said.

Hundreds of thousands of immigrants passed through the quarantine station during its 59 years. Although exact numbers were not known, Homkow said hospital records show that between 1847 and 1851, at the height of the Irish potato famine, 300 people a day were being held on Staten Island. "Some days there were more than 1,000 a day," he said.

By 1845, Homkow said, so many quarantined patients were dying that a second cemetery was started on the spot where the city parking lot now stands.

Records show the dead were buried in unmarked graves three and four deep. If their names were ever recorded, Homkow said those records "have either been lost or no longer exist. The only thing we know for sure is that most of them were Irish or German immigrants."

Immigrants were buried there until 1849 when the facility bought property in a neighboring town for a new burial ground. Homkow said there is no way of knowing how

many people are buried beneath the asphalt parking lot, but he estimates that anywhere from 700 to several thousand immigrants are interred there.

He said the site was important because of its role in both the history of public health and civil disobedience.

"It was burned down by an angry mob and a judge basically said they had a right to do it," Homkow said. Though it looked like a country estate with its stately columned Greek revival buildings, residents knew it for what it was — a place of death.

"They could see right into the hospital, hear the moans of the sick and dying, smell the smells associated with these diseases and they became very upset by it," Homkow said.

Bribes and escapes by sick immigrants were common, and diseases

were being spread to local residents by workers at the facility, said Patricia Salmon, of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, which is preparing a March 1 exhibit on "Epidemics on Staten Island."

On May 6, 1858, angry citizens carried the sick and dying into the streets, then torched the complex. Homkow said a judge sided with the mob, saying the quarantine station

posed a public health threat.

Private houses stood on the site until 1912 when they were razed.

The Dormitory Authority has asked the mayor's office and the Staten Island borough president's office to come up with alternative sites for the new court.

Borough President Guy Molinari said his office is in the preliminary stages of doing that but doesn't expect any recommendations for several weeks.



Immigrants arriving in New York from 1799 to 1858 were checked for diseases, and quarantined on Staten Island if any were found.

S O H O

# Philip Johnson Joins Other Architects in the Cross Hairs

The prominence of an architect is no guarantee that his projects will go unopposed. For example, residents of the West Village have criticized as too modern a pair of residential towers designed by Richard Meier. And in Lower Manhattan several members of Community Board 1 have complained that Frank Gehry's plan for a downtown branch of the Guggenheim Museum near the Wall Street piers is too flashy.

Now, residents of the western edge of SoHo say that an apartment complex designed by Philip Johnson is simply too big, and plan to oppose it.

The trapezoidal brick structure would rise as high as 26 stories on the southeastern corner of Spring and Washington Streets. Next door is the Ear Inn, a time-tattered tavern housed in a landmark early 19th-century town house.

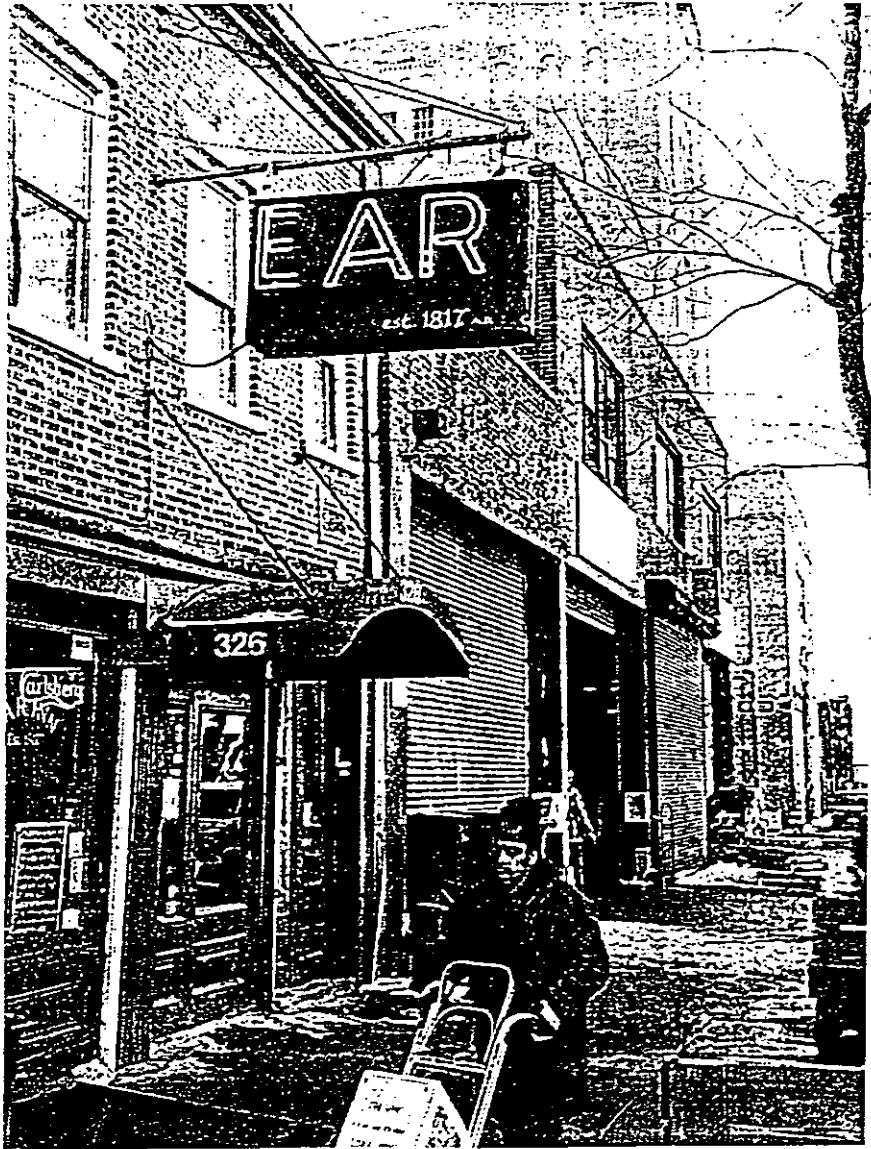
"I personally like the design of the building," said David Reck, a member of Community Board 2, who is also an architect and president of the Friends of Hudson Square, an advocacy group. "But there's nothing in the immediate area that is anywhere near that tall."

Mr. Johnson's tower also appears to face an uphill battle before the Board of Standards and Appeals, to obtain a variance for its residential units — the area is zoned for manufacturing — and for the height of the building.

"We agree with community boards more than 92 percent of the time," said Pasquale Pacifico, executive director of the standards board.

Richard P. Hayman, who owns the Ear Inn, is concerned about the building's height. He worries that construction work could jeopardize the fragile frame town house. He is negotiating with Place Vendome Realty, the project managers and exclusive brokers, for a transfer of the air rights to his inn, and he hopes he can use the talks to minimize any threats to it. "This project will either make or break the building," he said.

Alan Ritchie of Philip Johnson/Alan Ritchie Architects P.C., had no comment except to say, through a spokesman, "The architect and the developer are sympathetic to the concern of the community." **DENNY LEE**



A new neighbor may rise as high as 26 stories next door to the Inn, on Spring Street.

Richard Perry/The New York Times

# Produce Company Loses Latest Round of a Pitched Battle

A long-running dispute between a SoHo community group and a produce distribution business has taken a new turn, with a state judge holding the business in criminal and civil contempt for violating a court-ordered agreement.

The SoHo Alliance, a coalition of gallery owners, restaurateurs and neighborhood residents, brought a nuisance and zoning violation lawsuit against the produce business, World Farm, in March 1997.

It asserted that World Farm employees operated forklifts dangerously on the sidewalks, blocked

crosswalks and fire hydrants with their trucks, allowed trucks to idle loudly before dawn and used the streets and sidewalks to store and unload produce.

In April 1997, World Farm entered a court-ordered agreement to stop these activities. Since then, the parties have been arguing over whether the company has complied with this order.

Judge Sheila Abdus-Salaam found, in mid-January, that the company had violated the order and told it to pay an estimated \$200,000 in legal fees and a \$1,000 fine, as well as other

costs.

Steven Goldman, the company's lawyer, said that Harry Tran, the owner of World Farm, would appeal.

The lawsuit arose in the context of disputes between SoHo loft-dwellers and Chinese-owned fruit and vegetable wholesalers and distributors in the area. Owners of some of the companies have suggested that anti-Chinese bias is behind the complaints, an accusation denied by their opponents.

Carl Rosenstein, a community advocate and gallery owner, said he believed that the produce businesses

were "an industrial usage," violating laws that zone the area for industry and artists' residences.

"If the zoning laws were enforced there wouldn't be a problem," said.

But Mr. Goldman, World Farm lawyer, said, "We have a certificate of occupancy that allows a whole fruit and vegetable company there."

He added: "We plan to take this to the appellate division as far as we have to. My client is under a microscope. And he thinks he runs an abiding business."

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95

more than 30,000 people are injured and four people are killed each year by the weapons.

In the most recent fatality, an 11-year-old South Carolina boy died Jan. 15 when a BB gun peller pierced his heart.

The boy's older brother had accidentally dropped his Daisy air rifle, and it discharged, according to South Carolina law enforcement officials who said the gun was a gift from the boy's stepfather.

More than 30 Web sites offer the guns and ammunition, along with powerful dart blowguns, slingshots, electric guns and throwing

guns. The Web companies that sold the air guns are located in California, Maryland and Texas.

Although they're obviously not nearly as lethal as handguns and rifles that use bullets, air guns are illegal in the city, and possession can lead to arrest, fines and a month in prison, said Police Department spokesman Detective Walter Burns.

Consumer Affairs reported the Web sites and the gun purchases to the U.S. Postal In-

tervention of the agency. Toy guns that resemble real weapons also are illegal in the city, and as part of its undercover probe, the department found 10 merchants that sold the look-alikes.

Such copies have been used in robberies, and three years ago Mayor Giuliani signed a law requiring toy guns to be transparent or a bright color, such as purple or neon green.

Stores that sell the illegal copies face \$1,000 fines. The Consumer Affairs investigation, in conjunction with the Brooklyn district attorney's office, resulted in 31 cases and more than \$24,000 in fines.

## Remains of African slaves to be reburied

By THOMAS HACKETT

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The remains of 408 African-Americans, unearthed a decade ago from a burial ground in lower Manhattan, will be reburied sometime this year — possibly on Aug. 17, the birthday of Marcus Garvey, government officials said yesterday.

The promise of reintering the skeletons did little to mollify a black community group, angry that the government has little to show — despite the time and money spent studying the remains and preparing a memorial site — except a small plot of

lawn surrounded by a chain-link fence.

The Daily News reported last month that bickering among federal officials, research consultants and community activists over funding and goals made a muddle of the planned memorial.

Supporters of the ancestral burial ground, getting an update from General Services Administration official Ronald Law, griped that the lack of progress shows a lack of respect for blacks and demonstrates indifference to black history.

"The whole goal of the GSA is

to sabotage this particular part of the the African-American community," complained one woman.

Michael Blakey, an anthropology professor at Howard University and the lead researcher on the project, rallied the group to "hold [the GSA] accountable to do the things they said they were going to do." Contending that the federal agency has not been forthcoming with funds, he added, "We are that close to finishing everything."

The GSA is auditing Blakey after cutting off his funding early last year. His lab hasn't delivered the scientific report that his

contract requires, officials have said.

Blakey, with the vocal support of the community group, has countered that by withholding funding on DNA studies, the GSA "still wants black people to work for free."

The government has spent \$21.2 million on the project that would honor the lives of New York's slaves in the 1700s with a reconsecrated burial ground and a small interpretive center. The DNA studies have never been in its plans.

"I completely understand [the group's] frustrations," said Law. "These are sensitive issues."

# A Museum That Saves What's Buried Below

By APRIL KORAL

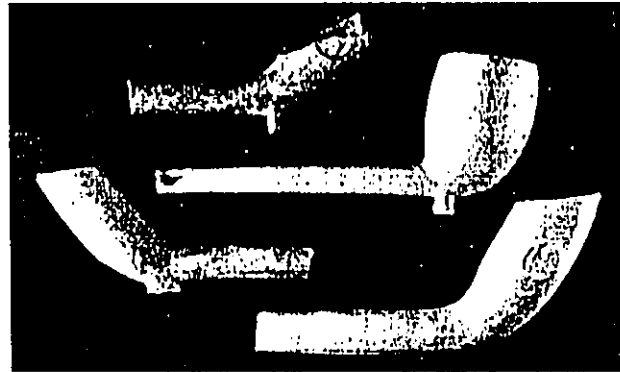
The fragment of a favorite dish, bits of a necklace, a broken comb. After several centuries, how few of the small treasures of everyday life survive. But how this detritus delights archeologists! And how fortunate that New York Unearthed, an urban archeology museum and conservation laboratory on Pearl Street, has given these artifacts a home.

New York Unearthed's tiny museum is a modest undertaking, consisting of 10 cardboard dioramas depicting various periods in the city's history, along with a dozen or so fragments of life excavated from beneath its streets.

Here we discover that long-buried privies—or outhouses—are among the richest sources of artifacts for urban archeologists. After getting an indoor toilet, what better place to throw the garbage? From the privy of a late-19th-century building on Sullivan Street, for example, came a set of false teeth made from vulcanite, a material that made them affordable to more people, and bottles that held morphia sulphate and ethyl alcohol, prescribed for a variety of ailments from teething and colic to constipation and diarrhea.

In a diorama of the city's 19th-century downtown markets (where husbands did the shopping, by the way), archeologists have also learned that New Yorkers could choose their dinner from eight kinds of wild animals and 51 species of birds. And there is proof that the Hudson was really once home to foot-long oysters—the shell of one is on display.

Another diorama shows artifacts from Weeksville, one of the first black



Early 17th-century clay smoking pots, top, and above, fragments of 18th- and 19th-century Delftware tiles.



communities established after New York State abolished slavery in 1827 (it eventually grew into Bedford-Stuyvesant). Archeologists digging in a backyard there found a collection of miniature porcelain dolls, with immobile arms and legs, named "Frozen Charlottes," after the story of a 19th-century girl who froze to death.

Other archeological fragments on display are an 18th-century bone comb with fine teeth for removing lice; a 17th-century fork with a handle carved from bone; and a dish from 1769 made by an enterprising Englishman who put commerce before country. His series of plates enscribed with "Pitt

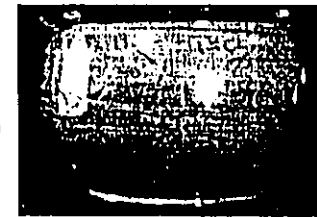
and Liberty" honored William Pitt, who was popular with the Colonists because he opposed the hated Stamp Act.

New York Unearthed is one of the few places in the city that accepts archeological collections. "Not many museums want these broken bits of pottery," explains Diane Dallal, the curator. "They're expensive. They may require conservation, and must be photographed, documented and catalogued."

Dallal recently finished cataloguing a Civil War collection found in a cistern in Greenwich Village. It was "a small collection," she says, only 25,000 artifacts, but had "wonderful



Early nineteenth-century druggist bottles unearthed near Wall Street.



Nineteenth-century chamber pot found at Water and Pearl streets.

hand-painted marble chamber pots and tokens handed out by a dentist that advertised a set of teeth for \$3."

The museum has also put together an exhibit of odds and ends that future generations might find entombed beneath the city: coffee stirrers, plastic spoons, paper clips, a Batman mug, a floppy disk. With letters and books destined to be lost to cyberspace, this may be the stuff that future archeologists will use to understand our lives. Let's hope they can read between the lines.

New York Unearthed, Pearl Street bet. Whitehall and State streets, Open Monday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m.

# Burial scientist blasts *Daily News* report

By L'NZINGA STRICKLAND  
*Special to the AmNews*

In a recent exclusive telephone interview with the *Amsterdam News*, long-time scientific director of the African Burial Ground (ABG) project, Dr. Michael L. Blakey, hotly denied allegations that bordered on "character assassination" against him personally and other members of the ABG staff, which appeared in the Feb. 5 issue of the *New York Daily News*.

The front-page "21M Money Pit" story, sub-titled "Funding feud stalls research and memorial at downtown African Burial Ground," was fed to the public as a "gross distortion" and "misrepresentation" of the real situation, an irate Blakey shot back. Accusing the General Services Administration (GSA) of maneuvering the wording of the *Daily News* expose, along with "irresponsible journalism," Blakey noted that the story never accused him outright of any financial improprieties regarding burial ground funding, but was full of innuendo of a kind that could easily be misunderstood by the reading public.

In 1991, the 18th-century ABG was discovered by employees of the GSA, a government agency hired to build a new federal office building on the site. (The 34-story office tower has

since been built squarely atop the ancient gravesite). With the historic discovery of what has been deemed the largest Black colonial graveyard found in the nation's history, archaeologists and anthropologists were called to the scene to study the situation. With an initial outcry from the Black community against the GSA for desecrating the hallowed resting place, renowned Black anthropologist Blakey and team put in a proposal to "study the remains properly." As a result, bones of 408 skeletons were transported to Cobb Laboratory at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where they remain today. At this point, the GSA has ordered all drawers sealed and all public tours of the remains have been canceled.

The Howard University professor said that contrary to parts of the article that state his spending of GSA funds is now under audit, audits have been a routine part of the ABG project for many years. "The key point," Blakey said, "is that what we have spent in every aspect of this project, including my salary, was negotiated with the GSA up front and built into the contract that GSA agreed with! Second, there have been audits in the past by the Health and Human Services department that GSA has requested, audits by Howard University and audits of this project in 1995

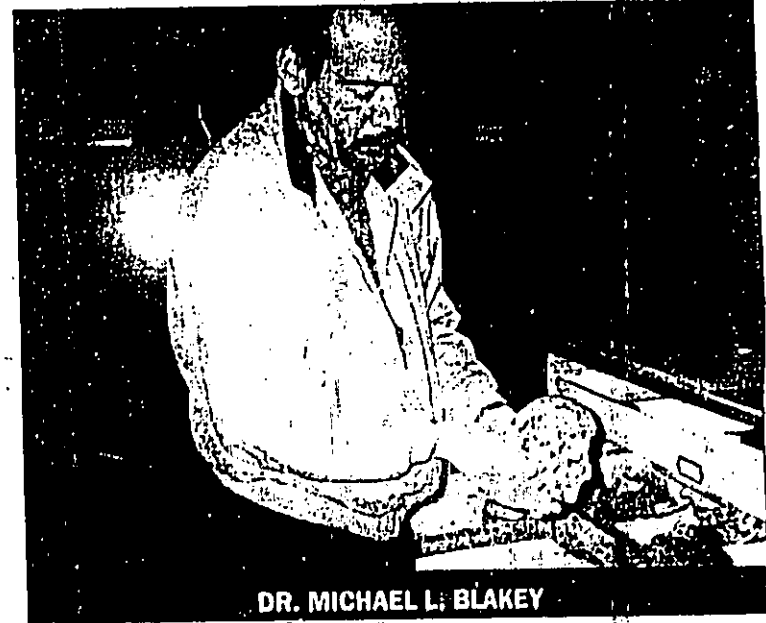
and 1999, which have not led to any questions of mis-spending on my part."

He explained that yearly invoices for reimbursement of funds are sent to GSA and that at the time "we provide all the receipts and documentation as to how we have spent our money," and stated that the GSA has always reviewed their paperwork and duly funded them, through reimbursement, without a hint of disapproval.

"There is no evidence whatsoever of mismanagement of funds," Blakey said. "If you read this article carefully you will find GSA and the *Daily News* provide no such evidence of mismanagement. But to [imply] that they are trying to 'find out' is simply to create innuendo." In a final slap, he said the GSA and the *Daily News* never stepped forth to accuse him of stealing money from the project "because then they would be liable for slander."

Now that the project is virtually completed, Blakey stated the GSA has brought in new Black personnel to place a negative spin on his team's efforts; to possibly draw attention from the fact that the GSA has never funded the project adequately from the beginning, causing serious delays, and constantly reneged on plans originally contracted with the community.

The steamed scientist said



DR. MICHAEL L. BLAKEY

that burial ground representatives and the GSA have mutually amended the original contract at least 25 times. He said he refused to sign a new contract with the governmental department at the end of 1999, because he was "not willing to accept any further no-cost extensions that obligate us to produce for GSA without money." He said he is concerned with other newspaper reports that show the GSA is presently conducting private meetings with a particular Black group who claim to represent the community, and appear to be working hand-in-hand with the GSA with its alleged propaganda

campaign against Blakey and team.

Vilified in the newspaper report, which claimed that the 10-year-old ABG staff did not produce results in their studies, Blakey vehemently rebuffed these charges and said that much-needed studies, like DNA and chemical testing of the bones, have been delayed only because one is contingent upon the other and the GSA has refused to fund the studies, though it legally agreed to do so in past contracts.

As for delays in scientific reports to the GSA, Blakey calls the article's implication a bla-

(Continued on Page 37,

next page)

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## **ABG**

(Continued from Page 33)

tant lie. The tenured professor stated, "The GSA is perfectly aware that, for example, they have 2,000 pages of reports from us on skeletal biology, the health of this burial population and on its history within an African diasporic context. They have very sound information from years of research. These reports are based on a database concerning the skeletal biology alone of approximately 300,000 observa-

As further proof, he cited the gigantic Memorialization built at Foley Square Park under recently fired consultant Peggy King-Jorde and the active Office of Public Education and Interpretation for the African Burial Ground, directed by urban anthropologist Dr. Sherrill D. Wilson for nearly a decade. He also reminded that the plans for the new Interpretive Center to be located at 290 Broadway are already drawn up and approved by the GSA and the IDI Construction Company, already hired and in place as a result of

The outraged scientific director said he feels that a project the size and importance of the African Burial Ground was wrongfully under-funded by the government's administration services from the very start. "The \$21 million, of which \$5 million or so has come to Howard University, is not a huge amount of money," he stated. "Consider that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at about the same time supports providing about \$67 million of city funds for the expansion of the Guggenheim Museum. \$21 million? It should be at least \$31



"Our investigations determined that the present shape of the mound is a result of the collapse of a large circular structure with an interior floor area of approximately 12 meters in diameter," states Wesson.

He also recovered posts and wall debris consistent with wattle-and-daub architecture, and a large central post that would have been one of four supports for the roof, and discovered a large central hearth. Evidence indicates that the interior of the roof was covered with daub and the exterior with earth.

"Although we can never be sure," Wesson adds, "there is a very good possibility that this structure was intentionally burned. I believe this because the floor and central fire pit were cleaned out prior to being burned. This usually only happens when people intentionally burn a structure."

As is typical of most archaeological excavations, Wesson raised as many new questions as he answered. He hopes to return to the Samuel Preserve in the near future to attempt to solve the mysteries surrounding the earthlodge and its builders.

## Remote Sensing at San José de las Huertas

SOUTHWEST—Researchers Nan Rothschild and Heather Atherton, with Columbia University's Barnard College, conducted remote sensing at the walled Spanish Colonial village of San José de las Huertas, near Albuquerque, New Mexico, last summer. They were assisted by a team of graduate students.

This Conservancy preserve, which covers 24 acres, was assembled through the acquisition of three tracts of land between 1986 and 2000. Occupied from 1764 to 1823, San José de las Huertas contains at least 10 undisturbed housemounds.



Kelly Britt, a member of the crew that worked at San José de las Huertas, maps the site.

Rothschild previously produced a surface map of the site's features. Her recent work with Atherton included a geophysical survey using soil resistivity and magnetometer studies to create a sub-surface map of the site's features and structures. She also researched Spanish Colonial documents pertaining to the occupation of the site.

## Getting a Clearer Picture of Bloom Mound Pueblo

SOUTHWEST—Last summer, John Speth led members of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology field school in conducting a testing program at Bloom Mound Pueblo near Roswell, New Mexico. Bloom Mound is located in the Pecos Valley near Henderson Pueblo, another Conservancy preserve.

Bloom Mound was thought to have been a very tiny community, with just one small roomblock of nine

adobe surface rooms and a deep square pitroom, surrounded on the north and east by shallow midden deposits. This structure was totally excavated by a group of amateur archaeologists from Roswell in the 1930s and 1940s, leaving nothing but the midden. None of the items recovered in those early excavations were labeled or cataloged, and most were lost in the 1950s when the basement of the Roswell Art Museum flooded. Speth was surprised to discover that most of what had been thought to be midden was actually architectural, with the community now numbering at least 20 rooms, and perhaps as many as 30 or more.

The goal of last summer's testing was to obtain samples from the midden for radiocarbon dating, and to obtain faunal and floral samples to determine whether Bloom Mound's economy had undergone changes comparable to those at Henderson. Speth's work at Henderson Pueblo between 1994 and 1997 has shown that this 50- to 60-room community underwent a dramatic restructuring of its economy in the 1300s, changing from a system based on a mixture of farming corn and hunting a variety of small and large animals to one based on long-distance communal bison hunting.

Speth suspected that Bloom Mound post-dated Henderson by a few decades and might therefore represent the last stages in this transformation of local farmer-hunters into nomadic bison hunters.

The testing also produced the hoped-for economic data. While the analysis of this material is just beginning, the preliminary results suggest that Bloom Mound's time of occupation probably extends beyond that of Henderson's. The site therefore preserves an invaluable record of the final stages in the emergence of full-time bison hunters in this part of the Southern Plains.

HEATHER ATHERTON

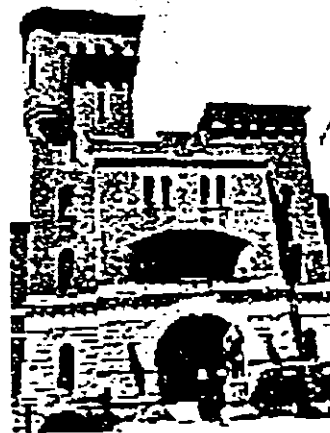
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NY Times 1/28/01

NEW YORK ONLINE



# A Showcase Of Architectural Gems



**LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
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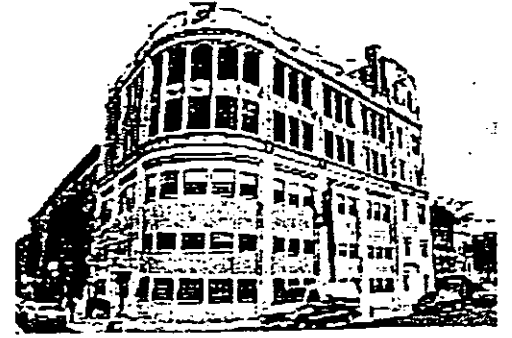
Most everyone knows that the Empire State Building is a city landmark and that Trump Tower is not. But how about the Starrrett-Lehigh Building at 601 West 26th Street or the quaint town house en route to the subway?

The Landmarks Preservation Commission, the agency charged with protecting the city's architectural and historic gems, has just revamped its Web site to help preservation-minded New Yorkers learn more about the 23,000 buildings under its care. The new site is scheduled to go online today.

The previous site, created in 1998, had little information on which buildings were protected or the types of alterations allowed. The site now features maps to all historic districts, a full list of new

designations with crisp photographs, an illustrated restoration guide and a complete set of applications needed to navigate the often-arduous approval process. Pictured here are two notable Brooklyn sites, the 14th Regiment Armory in Park Slope (above) and the Studebaker Building in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens (below).

"With a simple click of a button, people can learn how to get a building landmarked, how to make changes to a historic property, and can be educated about the history of great New York City architecture," said Jennifer J. Raab, chairwoman of the landmarks commission.



**WHAT YOU SEE**  
A user-friendly home page features a calendar of forthcoming hearings and clear links to the rest of the site. "Historic District: Maps" features schematics showing the precise boundaries of protected districts.

"Need a Permit?" allows a property owner to review architectural styles before downloading an application for alterations.

Photographs and narrative summaries of recent designations are found under "Landmarking Process." Designations made before February 1998 are not included on the site, although they are listed in "The Guide to New York City Landmarks," which can be ordered through "Publications."

Applications for altering or designating a property as a landmark must be returned the old-fashioned way. But Ms. Raab said she was hoping to create an electronic process for that.

**LINKS** The site offers only one external link, to the city's official home page, [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov).

**WHAT YOU GET** A redesigned guide that helps property owners and preservationists navigate the city's 77 historic districts and nearly 1,200 individual landmarks.  
**DENNY LEE**

red to obtain the required APY for a Money Market Savings Account: \$500,000 - 5.65% APY; \$0,000 - 5.65% APY; \$25,000 - 5.00% APY; \$5,000 - 4.15% APY; Minimum \$5,000 to open a Money Market Savings Account. APY is as of the publication date and may change after we, rates are not subject to decrease until May 1, 2001. Fees may reduce earnings. one per household and is not valid if you have participated in any First Republic Bank promotion. Minimum \$100 deposit. \$100 bonus will be credited to your account within 180 days. To receive the bonus you must open a Money Market Savings Account with direct deposit. A minimum average monthly balance of \$100 is required to receive the bonus. To avoid the monthly service charge of \$12.

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LITHIC TECHNOLOGY  
AND THE ORIGIN  
OF HUMAN  
LANGUAGE



PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT - March 21 - May 31, 2001

EVENT	SPEAKER	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
Manhattan Block by Block: Adventures in Urban Cartography	John Tauranac	Thurs 3/27	7 PM	American Museum of Natural History, Kaufman Theater	212-769-5200	\$12
Ordinary People's Trash: Profiles of 5 New Yorkers (PANYC Public Program)	symposium	Sun 4/1	1 PM	Museum of the City of New York	free	
Putting Species Back into Human Evolution: Why Should Our Evolution Be Different from Other Animals	Jeffrey Schwartz	Thurs 4/19	7 PM	American Museum of Natural History, Kaufman Theater	212-769-5200	\$12
Leagros Kalos: Designs of Desire on Athenian Vases	Alan Shapiro	Thurs 4/19	6 PM	Institute of Fine Arts, 1 East 78 St.		free
Bibrau's Saga: the First Norse Settlement in Greenland, AD 995	Judith Lindberg	Thurs 4/19	8 PM	Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT	203-661-4654	\$5
Cleanliness, Godliness & the Plumbing District	Steven Jaffe	Thurs 4/19	6 PM	South Street Seaport Museum, Melville Gallery, 213 Water St.	212-748-8600	free
Silver in Ancient Peru	exhibit	thru 4/22		Metropolitan Museum of Art	212-423-3200	admission
Recent Excavations at the Parthian City of Nysa	Antonio Invernizzi	Sat 5/12	11 AM	Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium, Metropolitan Museum of Art		
		Sun 5/13	1 PM			
Sexy Boys in Roman Art	Elizabeth Bartman	Thurs 5/17	8 PM	Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT	203-661-4654	\$5
Adventure at Abydos: Digging the City of Osiris	Stephen Harvey	Thurs 5/24	8 PM	National Arts Club	www.archaeology.org/events	\$12
Vermeer and the Delft School	exhibit	thru 5/27		Metropolitan Museum of Art	212-423-3200	admission
Healing Waters: Utopian Responses to Dirt, Disease, and Disorder, 1890-1940	exhibit	thru 6/30		South Street Seaport Museum, Melville Gallery, 213 Water St.	212-748-8600	admission

If any members have events which they would like listed, please contact Linda Stone by phone or fax at (212)888-3130 or by mail 249 E 48 St. #2B, New York, NY 10017.

If you are interested in joining PANYC or if you would like to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter, please complete the form below and return it to Linda Stone, PANYC Secretary, 249 East 48 Street. #2B. New York, NY 10017

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