

Organizational Leadership

Roosevelt Island Historical Society



The Roosevelt Island Historical Society has led efforts to document and celebrate the Island's history and preserve its landmark buildings for more than 30 years.

Most recently, the group successfully lobbied for funding for further restoration of the 1796 Blackwell House and engineered the move and restoration of a circa 1900 trolley kiosk that originally stood on the Manhattan side of the 59th Street Bridge. The kiosk is now a popular visitor and history center for the Island.

The kiosk move required working with the City Council, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York City Department of Design and Construction to raise the monies needed for the move, prepare the site, and construct the storefront and entry area. The Society also raised money for staff and organized historical exhibits to be featured in the kiosk.

The group's archives have assisted the restoration of other Island landmarks, including the Octagon and the Strecker Laboratory — both previous Lucy G. Moses awardees — and the planned stabilization and restoration of the former Smallpox Hospital designed by James Renwick.

Judy Berdy, the Society's president, is the resident voice of Roosevelt Island preservation. In addition to advocacy, she has written extensively about the Island's history and is a frequent lecturer and tour leader.

Roosevelt Island Historical Society, continued

Judith Berdy, President
The Roosevelt Island Historical Society

Trolley Center and Visitor Kiosk

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
Angela Blocker

Laura Heim, Architect

NYC Department of Design & Construction

Irene Alpert
Ashwani Bedi
Emeka Enyosiobi
Chris Gallo
Dale Laurin
Tim Lynch
Kenneth McKenna
Wadie Mikhail
Michael Nastasi
Alexandra Ramos
Philip Schatz
Sergio Silveira
Ron Tagliagambe
Sandra Thompson
Margot Woolley
Maria Yao

D & K Construction
Bally Murphy

Eagle Pro
Ram Kiran

Tectonic Controlled Inspection
& Laboratory Services
Pete McCourt

Blackwell House

Page Ayres Crowley Architects, LLC
Page Ayres Crowley
Eric DiFonzo

Robert Silman Associates, PC
Julie Cridland
Ian Pendelton

Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
Stephen Shane
Fernando Martinez
Tomas Turcic

Fame Construction
Michael Andreou

Joan Geismar

Long Island Landscaping
Bill Laderer

NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Jared Knowles

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation
& Historic Preservation
Beth Cummings
Merrill Hesch