



**NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION**

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010
No. 10-14**

**CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMS APPOINTMENTS OF TWO NEW LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSIONERS AND REAPPOINTMENT OF ANOTHER**

Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney today announced that the City Council has approved the appointments to the Commission of Michael Devonshire, an architectural conservator at Jan Hird Pokorny Associates, Inc., and Michael Goldblum, an architect and founding partner of The Building Studio, LLP. The Council also has confirmed the reappointment of Commissioner Roberta Washington, an architect who has served on the panel since 2007.

“Commissioners Devonshire and Goldblum have a combined 50 years of experience between them, and will bring a wealth of knowledge and perspective that are critical to making challenging decisions that affect the character of New York City’s landmark buildings and streetscapes,” said Chairman Tierney. “I am very grateful they and Commissioner Washington have generously agreed to volunteer their time, talent and passion for preservation to the City of New York.”

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the municipal agency responsible for protecting and preserving New York City’s architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings and sites. Since its creation in 1965, LPC has granted landmark status to approximately 27,000 properties in all five boroughs and regulates most exterior alterations that are made to them.

Under the law that created the LPC, the Commission must be comprised of at least three architects, a historian, a realtor, a planner or landscape architect, as well as a representative of each borough. There are 11 commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the Mayor for staggered three- year terms and are unpaid, with the exception of the Chairman, who also serves as the head of the agency.

Commissioner Devonshire is currently the Director of Conservation at Jan Hird Pokorny Associates, Inc., where he has worked as an architectural conservator since 1987. He has written numerous papers and publications about restoration technology and strategy, and is a member of the New York State Board for Historic Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He previously served on the boards of the U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America and the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, and is an adjunct professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture and Planning and Historic Preservation.

Commissioner Devonshire received training in architecture, sculpture and historic preservation at Roger Williams University, the Rhode Island school of Design and the Aegean School of Art in Greece. His recent restoration projects include the Morris-Jumel Mansion in Washington Heights, which served as General George Washington’s headquarters for a month during the Revolutionary War; the Church of the Incarnation in Manhattan, and the North China Daily News Building in Shanghai. He lives in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn, and replaces Commissioner Roberta Brandes Gratz, who served on the Commission for seven years.

Commissioner Goldblum will serve as the panel's Bronx representative, and replaces architect Stephen F. Byrns, who stepped down from the Commission after six years. Commissioner Goldblum founded Building Studio Architects, a New York-based architecture and design firm, in 1992. The firm's projects include New York City's first LEED-certified single family house, along with apartment buildings, houses of worship, schools and interiors.

He is a former member of the board of the Municipal Art Society Fellows, and is a current member of the U.S. Green Building Council. He also served on the board of the Bronx Borough President's Historic Preservation Task Force, which studied numerous historic buildings and sites in the borough and made recommendations for landmark designation. Commissioner Goldblum has participated in numerous design juries at design schools in the New York City area, and was an adjunct professor of architectural history at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Commissioner Goldblum earned his graduate and undergraduate degrees in architecture at Columbia University. He lives in the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

Commissioner Washington is the principal of Roberta Washington Architects PC in Harlem. Founded in 1983, the firm is responsible for such projects as an environmentally sustainable residential building in Harlem, and several health facilities and schools in the New York area, including the Interfaith Specialty Clinic in Brooklyn. Her firm also designed the African Burial Ground Interpretive Center in Lower Manhattan and the Park Place Station for the Franklin Avenue subway station in Brooklyn.

Commissioner Washington serves on the board of the Center for Architecture Foundation, and is a member of the American Institute of Architects' College of Fellows. She is the former president of the National Organization of Minority Architects, and previously served as chair of the New York State Board of Architecture. She is a former member of Community Board 10 in Central Harlem, and was chair of panel's housing committee and co-chair of land use committee.

Commissioner Washington received a bachelor's degree in architecture at Howard University, and a master's degree in architecture Columbia University.

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