



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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THREE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

City Council Confirms Appointment of New Commissioner and Reappointment of Two Others

Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney today announced that the City Council unanimously approved the appointment of Frederick Bland, an architect and managing partner of Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP, to the New York City Landmarks Preservation (LPC) and the reappointments of Commissioners Joan Gerner and Christopher Moore on a 49-0 vote. Commissioner Bland replaces Commissioner Jan Hird Pokorny, who passed away in May at age 93 after 12 years of service.

“Fred will be a great asset to the Commission, and I am very happy that he has agreed to lend the City of New York his considerable talent and experience in arriving at the right design solutions for historic buildings locally, nationally and internationally,” said Chairman Tierney. “I’m equally pleased that Commissioners Gerner and Moore are going to remain with us and continue to dedicate their time, wisdom and expertise to protecting the City’s distinctive character.”

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is 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 more than 25,000 buildings and sites in all five boroughs and oversees most exterior alterations 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.

Commissioner Bland joined Beyer Blinder Belle in 1972, a New York-based architecture practice known for restoring and renovating historic buildings, and became the firm’s first non-founding partner in 1978, and managing partner in 2004. His projects include the consolidation of Manhattan’s landmark General Theological Seminary, as well as the construction of a new building on the campus; the Mark Morris Dance Group building in the Brooklyn Academy of Music Historic District; the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, KY; Shanghai Cultural Plaza in Shanghai, China; a mixed-use redevelopment on 42nd Street that included the restoration of elements of the Empire, Harris and Liberty theaters; the adaptive reuse of a vacant industrial site into a commercial and residential complex in Stonington, CT and the residential conversion of the former Long Island Headquarters of the New York Telephone Company in Brooklyn, a New York City landmark.

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Commissioner Bland also is an adjunct professor in NYU's art history department, and he has lectured on design at Yale and Columbia universities. He has served on the Board of the Brooklyn Historical Society, as president of the Brooklyn Heights Association and is the chairman of Brooklyn Botanic Garden's board of trustees. He is a member of the Vestry of Trinity Church in Manhattan, and serves on several other civic boards in New York City, including the James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation. He earned his master's and bachelor's degrees in architecture at Yale University, and lives in a historic district in Brooklyn.

Commissioner Joan Gerner, one of two Queens representatives on the Commission, is a trained architect, construction manager and historic preservationist. She is the executive vice president for design, construction and capital planning for the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was a senior vice president at Bovis Lend Lease LMB, Inc., one of the world's leading project management and construction companies, and the founder of the firm's preservation division. She has 29 years of senior-level experience managing renovation, restoration and new construction for such projects as the revitalization of Grand Central Terminal and the Women's Memorial in Arlington, Va. Her experience also includes work on the restoration of the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, the Brooklyn Museum of Art and The Smithsonian Institution. Ms. Gerner received two degrees in architecture at the City University of New York and a master's degree in historic preservation at Columbia University. She lives in a historic district in Queens, and has served on the Commission since 1995.

Commissioner Christopher Moore, who serves as the Commission's historian, was first appointed to the panel in 1995. He is curator and research historian for the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. A specialist in African American history, he wrote and co-produced the History Channel's award-winning television special *The African Burial Ground: An American Discovery*. He is featured in Annenberg Media's nationally acclaimed Teaching Multicultural Literature program, "Langston Hughes and Christopher Moore," and *New Jack City: Harlem Walking Tour* with Christopher Moore (Warner Brothers), directed by Mario Van Peebles, and he is a consultant to PBS History Detectives and author of *Fighting For America: Black Soldiers, The Unsung Heroes of World War II*. A former journalist and news editor for ABC Radio and National Black Network News, Commissioner Moore served as the original project historian for Hudson River Park in Manhattan. He lives in Brooklyn.