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# Recognizing New York City's Landmark Buildings

Martha Yuan Tao | June 12, 2013 3:14 PM [VIDEO](#)

Recognizing New York City's Landmark Buildings ...



For more than 15 years, the [Historic Landmarks Preservation Center \(HLPC\)](#) has recognized New Yorkers' contributions to the arts, sciences, the law, business, education, sports and politics through its [Cultural Medallion Program](#). The medallions are placed on buildings associated with notable people or occurrences.

Many of these buildings have been preserved thanks to the Landmark Preservation Law enacted in 1965 by then mayor Robert Wagner. To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the law, HLPC created the [NYC Landmarks50 Advisory Committee](#). The committee aims to further spotlight historically significant buildings, events, and personalities that helped shape New York City into what it is today.

“There isn't a neighborhood in New York that hasn't been transformed by this remarkable law,” said Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel, chair of Landmarks50 and of HLPC.

The NYC Landmarks50 Advisory Committee includes leaders of many of New York's corporate, cultural and art organizations and the most recent medallion installation ceremony was held last month at 312 W. 77<sup>th</sup> street, where the legendary jazz trumpeter Miles Davis lived and worked from 1960 to 1983.

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**Web Extra:** Students from Harlem School of the Arts Advanced Jazz Combo, Dominique Gervais (15 drums), Matthew Whitaker (12, keyboard), Franklin Rankin (17, guitar), and Oren Maximov (17, bass) perform at an event honoring jazz legend Miles Davis and his former home on Manhattan’s Upper West Side.

Over the next two years, the committee will host a series of such installations to record the lasting influence of more city icons, informing and engaging the public in the city’s rich cultural heritage.

“It’s important to preserve these because the spirit of the people are still within those walls,” said Gary Bartz, Grammy award-winning saxophonist and clarinetist. “Hopefully this will continue and there will be other monuments around.”

Three more medallion ceremonies are in the pipeline later this year to commemorate artists Edward Hopper and Barnett Newman, and Mayor Edward Koch, according to Diamonstein-Spielvogel.

Tags: Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel, Cultural Medallion Program, Historic Landmarks Preservation Center, Landmark Preservation Law, Miles Davis, NYC Landmarks50 Advisory Committee

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