

THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY



Years of
**Preserving
Sacred Sites**

Jewish Heritage Fund

THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY



Program Overview

Historic synagogues throughout New York City document important Jewish contributions to American life and culture. These sites are in danger of being lost due to several causes:

- Deferred or misguided maintenance
- Changing demographics
- Lack of champions
- Many are virtually unknown

New York Landmarks Conservancy has launched a new initiative to safeguard these endangered buildings by providing funds for major repairs and restoration.

Jewish Heritage Fund

Until launch of Jewish Heritage Fund in 2010, due to limited funding, grants of no more than \$10,000 were awarded to synagogues. Through this unprecedented new initiative, Challenge Grants from \$25,000 to \$50,000 are available to cover a greater share of restoration costs. This program addresses the following:

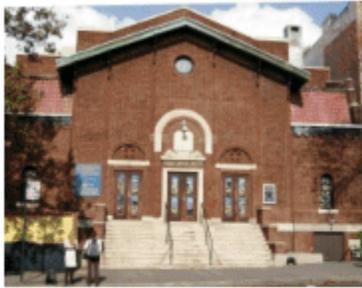
- **STEWARDSHIP:** Larger grants will encourage a higher standard of stewardship, providing an incentive for comprehensive, high-quality, long-term and ultimately cost-effective repairs congregations can't otherwise afford.
- **OUTREACH:** A dedicated Jewish Heritage Fund will shine a spotlight on the dozens of landmark-quality New York synagogues in need of restoration.
- **URGENCY:** Worthy landmark quality synagogues are lost to neglect, redevelopment and misguided repairs each year; Rivington Street Shul's dramatic 2006 collapse is just one example.
- **FLEXIBILITY:** A dedicated Jewish Heritage Fund will facilitate funding for important and unique interior synagogue features, such as hand-carved arks, Art Deco murals or folk-stenciled ceilings, as government funding for restoration does not allow expenditure on religious interiors.

Jewish Heritage Fund Program Elements

- Unprecedented survey of 530 synagogues in all five boroughs
- Identification and documentation of historic buildings
- Technical and financial assistance to congregations in applying for National Register listing
- Grants of \$25,000-\$50,000 provided for restoration
- Grantee congregations obligated to match grants

Jewish Heritage Fund Success

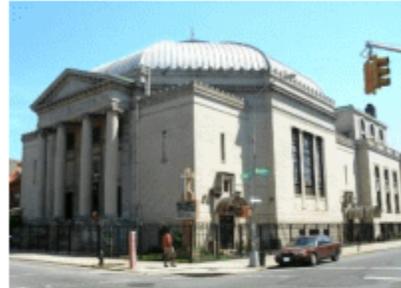
Completion of unprecedented, city-wide Jewish Heritage Survey of 530 synagogues in the 5 boroughs which identified 100 synagogues of architectural and historic interest.



Congregation Bnai Jacob, Park Slope, 1913-1915



Congregation Sons of Israel Synagogue, Bensonhurst, 1919



Former Shaare Zedek Synagogue, Crown Heights, 1924



Flatbush & Shaare Torah Jewish Center, Kensington, 1921



Talmud Torah of Flatbush, 1925



Jewish Center of Brighton Beach, 1928-1931



Congregation Pri Eitz Chaim, Sheepshead Bay, 1930



Manhattan Beach Jewish Center, 1951



Temple Beth El of Rockaway Beach, 1921



Congregation Kneseth Israel, Far Rockaway, 1963



former Temple Adath Israel, Morrisania, 1928-1931



Beth Israel West Side Jewish Center, 1924



Congregation Anshe Chesed, 1927

The Conservancy will assist these congregations to obtain National Register listing and grants as funding allows.

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

Jewish Heritage Fund Success

Conservancy outreach following survey resulted in National Register Nominations for 13 synagogues in Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan.



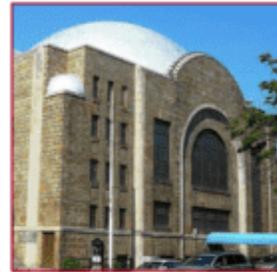
Ocean Parkway J.C.,
Kensington, 1925



Congregation Kol Israel,
Crown Heights 1927



Young Israel of Flatbush, Midwood 1923



Young Israel-Beth El,
Borough Park 1920



Jewish Center of Kings Highway, Midwood
1921



Shaari Zedek - St Leonard's
Bedford Stuyvesant, 1909



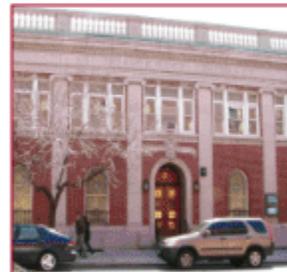
Kingsway Jewish Center,
Brooklyn, 1951



Beth El Jewish Center,
Homecrest, 1927



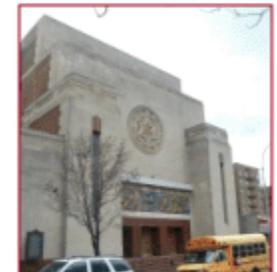
Mt. Zion Church of God -
Beth Abraham,
East Flatbush, 1929



Astoria Center of Israel,
Queens, 1925



Free Synagogue of Flushing
Queens, 1927



Rego Park Jewish Center,
Queens, 1948

These congregations are now eligible to apply for Conservancy-Jewish Heritage Fund grants of up to \$50,000 and New York State restoration grant funding up to \$400,000.

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**



Hebrew Tabernacle of Washington
Heights, 1931-1932

Jewish Heritage Fund Program Detail

The Conservancy estimates that there will be 100 synagogues in need during the next 20 years, and has identified 40 historic synagogues in need to date.

Completed surveys:

- Brooklyn:
 - 180 synagogues surveyed
 - 50 historic synagogues identified
- Queens:
 - 120 synagogues surveyed
 - 10 historic synagogues identified
- Bronx:
 - 74 synagogues and former synagogues surveyed
 - 5 historic synagogues identified
- Staten Island:
 - 28 synagogues and former synagogues surveyed
 - 7 historic synagogues identified
- Manhattan:
 - 128 synagogues surveyed
 - 30 historic synagogues identified

Sacred Sites Program History

Since the Sacred Sites program's launch in 1986:

670 Sacred Sites have been preserved

1,200 grants awarded, totaling more than \$7 million:

Annual Grants of up to \$10,000

- 1,100 grants awarded from 1986-2011, totaling \$4.32 million
- Average of 41 grants totaling \$173,000 per year
- Average Sacred Sites grant size: \$4,100

Challenge Grants of up to \$70,000

- 90 grants awarded from 2000-2011, totaling \$2.74 million
- Average of 8 grants totaling \$240,000 per year
- Average Challenge Grant size: \$30,000

Sacred Sites Program Elements

- Technical outreach, consulting and referrals
- Religious properties survey and research
- Workshops on various topics
- Hands-on project management
- Publications:
 - *Common Bond* journal to 5000 subscribers
 - How-To Guides:
 - *Managing Repair & Restoration Projects*
 - *Inspecting & Maintaining Religious Properties*

Thank you!

Your interest is greatly appreciated.

How you can help

For more information about the Jewish Heritage Fund, please contact Scott Leurquin, Director of Development, [REDACTED]

To learn more about Sacred Sites and other New York Landmarks Conservancy programs, please visit its website at nylandmarks.org.