

**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

**PANYC**

# **NEWSLETTER**

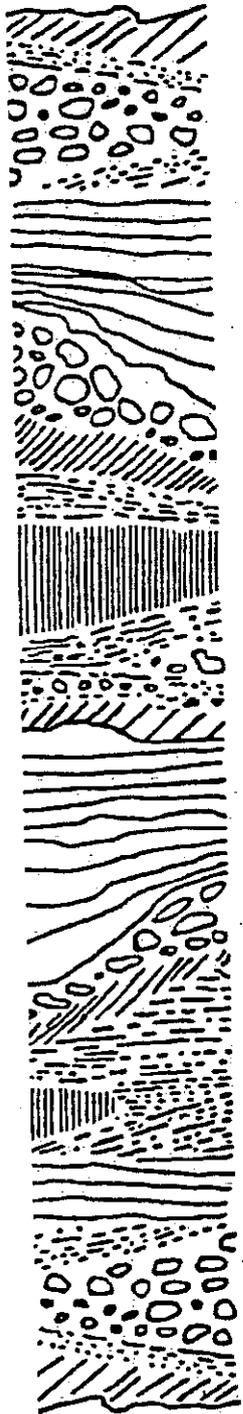
Number 119, May 2005

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Materials for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to:

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**Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC)**  
Minutes of the General Meeting held March 22, 2005

**Notice of upcoming meeting: May 17, 2005, Hunter College, rm 710**

Present: Kelly Britt, Celia Bergoffen, Anne-Marie Cantwell, Diane Dallal, Patience Freeman, Joan Geismar, Elizabeth Martin, Arnold Pickman, Lynn Rakos, Chris Ricciardi, Shelly Spritzer, Linda Stone, Diana Wall

The meeting opened with Elizabeth Martin introducing herself. She teaches at Hunter and has worked on archaeological excavations upstate.

Treasurer's report: At the end of 2004, PANYC had 51 members, 2 honorary members and 6 subscribers, and \$2,358.61.

President's report: Ricciardi thanked last year's board. He said it had been a bad year for archaeology, citing the South Street and NYU Downtown Hospital issues, and observed that there was a lot of work ahead, besides dealing with the issue of a repository --perhaps even extending to changing the laws within city planning.

Awards: Cantwell announced the winner of the Bert Salwen award: Robert Kristek, a student of Diana Wall, for his paper on the Lower East Side.

Elections: The results were announced: President: Joan Geismar; Vice President: Diane Dallal; Treasurer: Shelly Spritzer; Secretary: Susan Malin Boyce. Board members will be: Anne-Marie Cantwell, Joe Schuldenrein, Linda Stone, Lynn Rakos, and Diana Wall. The meeting was then turned over to Geismar, who thanked Ricciardi.

Governor's Island: this committee has been combined with the repository committee. A meeting was held regarding the REFI / expressions of interest for uses. Stone wrote regarding a repository. Governor's Island Planning and Action Committee's (GIPAC) Head of Finance advised PANYC to prepare a proposal stating what our organization is seeking and to identify documents that they should read. Linda Stone and Joan Geismar will put together the proposal and send it out for comments. Amanda Sutphin has said that she wants to work with the Parks Department to find a repository for artifacts. Dallal cautioned that curation must be a part of any plan. The State Museum will only take artifacts already collected but not anything from new excavations. A repository is therefore still being sought. But any agreement with the Parks Department should be in writing and according to standards. Cantwell asked about research and planning, suggesting that PANYC might hold a conference on the questions of archaeological repositories, de-accessioning, etc. Cantwell, Dallal, Kelly, Ricciardi, Rothschild and Wall all volunteered to be on the new Research & Planning committee, the old committee had included Wendy Harris, Karen Rubinson and Joe Schuldenrein. It was suggested that the committee focus on the fall and come up with suggestions for the conference by PANYC's next meeting on May 17.

Landmarks: The issue of NYU Downtown Hospital's non-compliance, to date, with CEQR was raised. Rakos looked through some of the regulations and found the loophole that allows this: essentially if a property is zoned for private development and will be developed in any case, there is no need for mitigation even if public funds/rezoning, etc are needed. The Bensonhurst rezoning, where compliance with CEQR is also at stake, was briefly raised as well [see the letter by Geismar to the Brooklyn Community Board Number 11, in the *PANYC Newsletter* no. 118, March 2005]. It was noted that the change made in 1991 whereby every agency involved in a development is its own lead might make implementation of CEQR more difficult. It was feared that the DCP might simply say that they had identified archaeology as an issue but not address it. It was proposed that the Board of Standards and Appeals be approached to rectify the situation so that action would also be required. It will be necessary to consult a lawyer for an interpretation of the law. Geismar offered to contact the lawyer that NYAC used in Albany.

Membership: Ricciardi said that PANYC members needed to be encouraged to get more involved with the organization, especially for the newsletter. Elizabeth Martin expressed an interest in joining PANYC. A letter or email should be sent out to members who have not paid their dues. To attract more members to the meetings, it was suggested that individuals be invited to speak on their current projects.

Newsletter: Geismar thanked Rakos and Pickman for preparing the last newsletter. We are still seeking a newsletter editor for next year. Geismar suggested that we put another plea in the next newsletter, or send an urgent request via email asking members to get involved. For the coming year, members of the board have agreed to prepare the newsletters as follows: Ricciardi offered to do the May newsletter with Alyssa Loorya. The September issue will be edited by Freeman and Stone. Wall and Cantwell or Schuldenrein will edit the November issue. In January, the newsletter will be prepared by Rothschild and Geismar, and in March, Pickman and Rakos will do it.

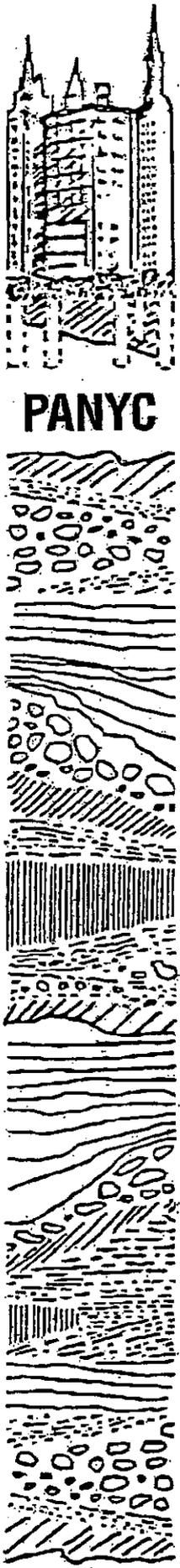
Met Chapter: Kelly has sent out a letter asking for dues and officers. There is a possibility for a virtual chapter, but otherwise, this organization is inactive. The virtual Met chapter would be done through the State's chapter.

Public Program: Freeman informed us that she had completed the mailing for the public program.

Old Business: Dallal reported on the Seaport: she was invited to meet with the SSSM and the New York State Museum and asked if she would serve as consultant for both to coordinate the transfer of artifacts. The objects are moving in April into a space that is "exhibits quality", then to the first floor of a building on Schermerhorn row. The fate of New York Unearthed is unknown. A list of artifacts needs to be drawn up specifying which will stay at the Seaport and which will go to the NYSM. Others will be on loan to the SSSM (the Weeksville, Staten Island and Columbia University collections, among others).

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Celia Bergoffen.



**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

May 9, 2005

The Honorable Devin Nunes, Chair  
 Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands  
 187 Ford HOB  
 Washington, DC 20518

Dear Congressman Nunes:

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) is deeply concerned and dismayed by the proposal before the National Parks Subcommittee to alter Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We strongly urge that the provision changing Section 106 be removed from the bill

PANYC is a not-for-profit organization of professional archaeologists with a membership that includes educators, regulators, and practitioners. Our mandate is to preserve and protect vulnerable archaeological resources in New York City and to educate city agencies and the general public in regard to these resources. The opportunity to preserve and/or document archaeological resources is mainly provided by city, state and federal environmental laws and processes. Key among them are the protections provided by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. While PANYC supports the reauthorization of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, we are opposed to the proposed change to Section 106.

As currently written, Section 106 ensures the identification, evaluation, and, if warranted, the protection or mitigation of significant historical and archaeological resources. It does so by requiring that state, federal, and tribal agencies identify and evaluate cultural resources when there will be a public undertaking. This process allows for the protection or documentation of significant data that might otherwise be lost through development. Identification of previously unrecognized cultural resources as currently mandated by the 106 Process is a key element of the federal government's responsibility to protect our national heritage. Members of PANYC have been professionally involved with archaeological sites determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places through the 106 Process, among them the African Burial Ground in Manhattan.

Rather than streamlining the 106 Process, the proposed amendment will reduce protections currently afforded to highly vulnerable resources. By no longer requiring that the issue of potentially significant but as yet unidentified resources be addressed during planning, irreplaceable resources will be destroyed without appropriate evaluation. This is a blatant abrogation of the federal government's responsibility to protect our cultural heritage. PANYC strongly urges elimination of the change proposed in Section 4.

Sincerely,



Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D., PANYC President

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CC. The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
 The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090

May 6, 2005

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Regulatory Branch

SUBJECT: Permit Application Number 2004-00607-RS by One Beard Street LLC (formerly IKEA Property, Inc.)

Mr. Don L. Klima  
Director, Office of Federal Programs  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
11 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Klima:

This to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 10, 2004 letter (the 2004 date of your letter appears to be a typo for 2005) regarding a Department of the Army permit application submitted by IKEA Property, Inc. The applicant sought authorization to perform shoreline stabilization activities, to dredge in order to clean up contaminated sediments, and to construct a ferry dock. The location of the proposed work is in Erie Basin at One Beard Street, in Red Hook, Brooklyn, New York.

Your letter noted that the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has determined that Buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Graving Dock No. 1, and the Northern Gantry Crane adjacent to Graving Dock No. 1 are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Your letter expressed concern that demolition work may be occurring at the site prior to New York District's concluding its review of the project.

I was also informed that some demolition work has occurred on Building 5. In a letter dated December 30, 2004 (copy enclosed), I advised the applicant to take no action affecting these properties until we determine the scope of jurisdiction that will be included in evaluation of the Department of the Army permit application it submitted. We will take the necessary actions to ensure that the applicant's activities are in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

In a letter dated January 4, 2005 (copy enclosed), Victor A. Gordon, P.E. stated on behalf of the applicant that the façade of Building Number 5 was removed as it was in imminent danger of collapse. Based on this information, we concurred that this work was necessary to rectify an immediate safety hazard.

By letters of January 26 and April 13, 2005, the applicant's consultant submitted revised drawings showing a reduced scope of work which eliminated the ferry dock, and indicated that the identity of the applicant has changed from IKEA Property Inc. to One Beard Street LLC. The revised application is currently incomplete. We are seeking additional information from the applicant and once the application is complete, we will evaluate the revised project to determine the extent of our regulatory jurisdiction and take the necessary steps to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We will then notify you of our initial findings.

I note the New York City Department of Planning has issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) evaluating the Project on August 27, 2004. A copy of Chapter 7 of the City's FEIS, discussing Historic Resources is enclosed for your information.

We also note that we have received seven letters from organizations expressing concerns about impacts to historic properties on the subject site. We are sending copies of this letter to parties who have expressed concern regarding historic properties at the site, the applicant, and the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to inform them of your interest regarding the project.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Schumach, Regulatory Project Manager, at (917) 790-8417.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Tomer  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

Copy furnished w/o enclosures:

Mary Habstritt, President, Roebling Chapter, Society for Industrial Archaeology  
Roberta E. Weisbrod, Ph.D., Partnership for Sustainable Ports  
Captain W.W. Sherwood, The United New York Sandy Hook Pilots' Benevolent Association  
Captain R.J. Schoenlank, The United New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots' Benevolent Association  
Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D., Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.  
David Sharps, President, Waterfront Museum  
Antonia Bryson, Esq., Urban Environmental Law Center  
One Beard Street LLC c/o Jeffrey Vollumth, Vollmuth & Brush

# A great job if you truly dig the city

**EXCLUSIVE**

By JEREMY OLSHAN

The Parks Department is hiring its own Indiana Jones to search for artifacts and human remains beneath city playgrounds and ball fields.

This raider of the lost park is the city's first full-time archaeologist. He would document and sometimes dig up fragments of the past.

Since many city parks were built atop cemeteries and potter's fields, construction often unearths bones and other items of archaeological interest, said Amy Freitag, deputy parks commissioner.

Plans for a playground at Martin's Field in Flushing, Queens, for instance, were halted by the discovery that the site had been a burial ground for Native and African Americans. The community agreed last year to put a smaller playground beside a memorial to those buried there.

"Because of the earlier lives of these parks, we're often going to run into archaeological resources," Freitag said. "In the past, we've hired consultants after the fact. But if we can anticipate what's underneath in advance, we can prevent a surprise that puts a project over budget."

Resumes are being accepted for the position, which would pay as much as \$97,548 a year. Interviews are to begin next month.

Unlike the rest of New York, the archaeological resources underneath city parks have not been destroyed by years of constant growth and development, said Arthur Bankoff, a Brooklyn College archaeology professor who'll oversee the interview process.

"We have to be reactive, but once someone is already

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2005

TITLE/SPEAKER	EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
Monarchs of the Sea: Celebrating the Ocean Liner Era	Exhibit	Perm. Exhibit		South Street Seaport Museum, 12 Fulton Street	212.748.8766 or <a href="http://www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org">www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org</a>	\$5 adults Free children under 12 members-member card
Brooklyn Works: 400 Years of Making a Living in Brooklyn	Exhibit	Exhibit		Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn	<a href="http://www.brooklynhistory.org">www.brooklynhistory.org</a> or 718.222.4111	\$6.00 Adults \$4.00 Students/ Seniors
Nieuw Amsterdam: Dutch New York as Represented in the Archaeological Collections of South Street Seaport Museum	Exhibit	?	?	South Street Seaport, Schermerhorn Row Galleries, 12 Fulton Street	<a href="http://www.southstreet.org">www.southstreet.org</a>	?
Totems to Turquoise: Native North American Jewelry Arts of Northwest and Southwest	Exhibit	October 30, 2004-July 10, 2005	10:00-5:45 pm	American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 79 <sup>th</sup> Street	<a href="http://www.amnh.org">www.amnh.org</a>	Suggested Donation
First Seen: Photographs of the World's Peoples, 1840-1880 February 1 - May 1, 2005	Exhibit	February 1, 2005-May 1, 2005	Tuesday-Sunday 11:00-6:00 pm	Dahesh Museum, 580 Madison Avenue-between 56 <sup>th</sup> and 57 <sup>th</sup> Streets	<a href="http://www.daheshmuseum.org">www.daheshmuseum.org</a>	\$9.00 Adults \$4.00 Students/Seniors Free Members and Children under 12
George Catlin and His Indian Gallery	<a href="http://www.mcny.org/Exhibit">http://www.mcny.org/Exhibit</a>	February 26, 2005-September 5, 2005	10am-5pm; open Thursdays until 8pm	George Gustav Heye Center, New York	<a href="http://www.nmai.si.edu">http://www.nmai.si.edu</a>	Free
First American Art: The Charles and Valerie Diker Collection of American Indian Art	Exhibit	April 24, 2004-April 9, 2006	10am-5pm; open Thursdays until 8pm	George Gustav Heye Center, New York	<a href="http://www.nmai.si.edu">http://www.nmai.si.edu</a>	Free

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 2005

TITLE/SPEAKER	EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
Tolerance and Identity: Jews in Early New York, 1654-1825	Exhibit	May 10 - October 2, 2005	Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., The Museum is closed on Mondays.	Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street New York, NY 10029	<a href="http://www.mcny.org/">http://www.mcny.org/</a>	\$7.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for senior citizens and students, \$15.00 for families (maximum two adults), Museum members are free.
Jeffrey Quilter, Dumbarton Oaks, <i>Life, Death, and Sacrifice at El Brujo: 4000 Years of Prehistory on Peru's North Coast</i>	AIA-Lecture	Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15, 2005	11:00 am Saturday May 14, 2005; 1:00 pm Sunday May 15, 2005	Co-sponsored with The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium, 11 am (Saturday) and 1 pm (Sunday)		(for AIA and MMA members with invitations)
Aaron Beebe, the first full-time curator of the Coney Island Museum, <i>Art/Science Collision: The Coney Island Museum</i>	Lecture	Tuesday July 26, 2005	7:00 p.m. Code: EL072605	American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 79 <sup>th</sup> Street-Linder Theatre-first floor	<a href="http://www.amnh.org">www.amnh.org</a>	\$15 (\$13.50 Members, students, senior citizens) This program will be interpreted in ASL.

If any members have events that they would like listed, please contact Kelly Britt at 717.393.6425 or email at [kb239@columbia.edu](mailto:kb239@columbia.edu)  
Or by mail 410 South West end Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603