



DHPS | NY news

DOCUMENTING DHPSNY'S ADVENTURES IN THE EMPIRE STATE

FALL 2018

VIEW FROM THE ROAD: Our Second Year in Site Visits, Conferences, and Workshops

Delivering **Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York's** free programs and services comprehensively throughout the State requires our staff to spend a lot of time on the road. In our first year, we traveled nearly 15,000 miles in New York State—by the summer of 2018, we more than doubled that total. Our travel schedules often have staff members crisscrossing New York, and monthly travel recaps have become a centerpiece of our email newsletter. In the past year, we brought the total number of organizations awarded free Planning & Assessment Services to 81 while continuing to deliver workshops and present at conferences and meetings around the State. Let's take a look back together at some of the highlights of the past year at DHPSNY.

Site Visits

As the last issue of *DHPSNY News* went to press, we were just beginning to conduct Planning & Assessment site visits from the summer 2017 application round. We began with a Preservation Survey at the **Lake Placid Museum** in Lake Placid (Essex County), whose collections contain commemorative pins, photographs, and other documents from the 1980 Winter Olympic Games. Other visits from that round included an Archival Needs Assessment at the historic **South Street Seaport Museum** in lower Manhattan (New York County), which was featured in an episode of our podcast, and a Preservation Survey at **The Explorers**

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Club in New York City (New York County), whose research collections date from 1472 and reflect the institution's dedication to the advancement of field research and the exploration of land, sea, air, and space.

In 2017, DHPSNY added a new category, **Condition Surveys**, to our roster of free Planning & Assessment Services. We traveled to the Bronx Zoo that fall to conduct our pilot survey at the **Wildlife Conservation Society Archives** (Bronx County). The survey examined specific photographic content in the collection, the suitability of current housing and storage, and potential conservation treatment needs.

Around the same time, we visited Syracuse for an Archival Needs Assessment at **WCNY** (Onondaga County), Central New York's member-supported public broadcasting station. This was our first visit to the archives of a local media outlet, and it was fun to view decades of programming documents, including promotional photographs and back issues of the station's colorful program guide.

DHPSNY continues to provide Strategic Planning Assistance in collaboration with the **New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON)**, and our Strategic Planning visits in fall 2017 included a meeting at **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts** in New York City (New York County). While we were there, we viewed the Center's archives, which featured an incredible

collection of architectural watercolor paintings of proposed theater and courtyard designs. You can read more about our ongoing work with Lincoln Center in this issue's interview with Archivist Bonnie Marie Sauer. Other planning retreats around that time included trips to the **Northport Historical Society** in Northport (Suffolk County) and the **Schenectady County Historical Society** in Schenectady (Schenectady County).

After a break to avoid the winter weather, we headed back on the road in March for our first site visits of 2018. We started with Preservation Surveys at the **Hudson River Maritime Museum** in Kingston (Ulster County) and the **Cheektowaga Historical Association and Museum** in Cheektowaga (Erie County). DHPSNY staff also conducted a number of Archival Needs Assessments throughout the spring, visiting the **Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education** in Suffern (Rockland County); **Bard College's Stevenson Library** in Hudson (Dutchess County); and the **Memorial Art Gallery (MAG)** at the **University of Rochester** in Rochester (Monroe County).

Later in the spring, we conducted a Preservation Survey at the **Huntington Public Library** in Huntington (Suffolk County). The collections in the Library's Local History Room included a number of rare books, such as this personally inscribed 1867 copy of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* (pictured left). We also visited Long Island for an Archival Needs Assessment at the **Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center** in East Hampton (Suffolk County). In addition to housing a research library that includes the archival materials of Jackson Pollock, Lee Krasner, and related artists, the house preserves many original furnishings. The studio floor is still covered with evidence of Pollock's famously kinetic creative process.

Throughout 2018, our Strategic Planning retreats also continued, including visits to the **Sojourner Truth Library** at SUNY New Paltz (Ulster County); **Valley Stream Historical Society** in Valley Stream (Nassau County); and the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center** in New York City (New York County).

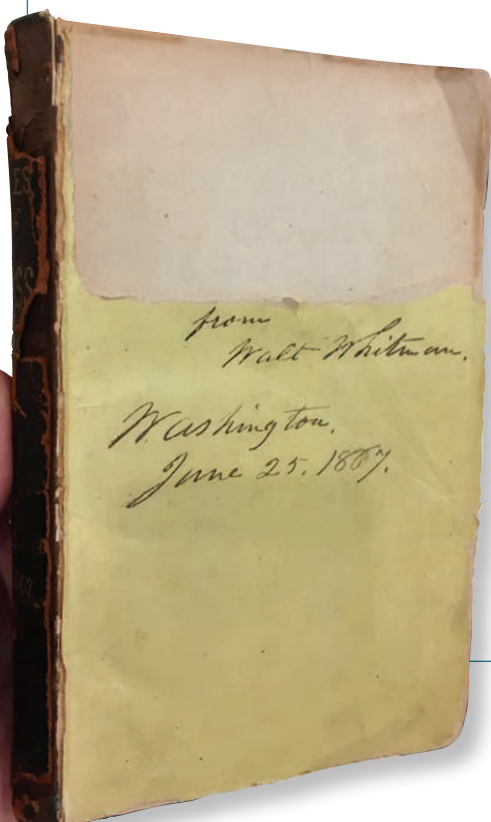


Workshops

Hands-on, interactive workshops are a major part of what we do at DHPSNY. Every year, we present on three new topics at five locations each throughout the State—15 workshop sessions total, with the goal of enabling everyone in the State to take part. Last fall, we presented **Fundamentals of Caring for Paper Collections** at the **Brooklyn Historical Society** in Brooklyn (Kings County); the **Western New York Library Resources Council** in Cheektowaga (Erie County); the **National Museum of Dance** in Saratoga Springs (Saratoga County); the **Corning Museum of Glass** in Corning (Steuben County); and the **Flower Memorial Library** in Watertown (Jefferson County).

In spring 2018, we presented **Red Flag! Identifying Preservation Needs While Processing Collections**. These sessions provided participants with the opportunity to assess the condition of items in a study collection and work together to assign conservation and housing priorities. The series took DHPSNY staff to the **North Shore Historical Museum** in Glen Cove (Nassau County); **Crandall Public Library** in Glens Falls (Warren County); **Northern New York Library Network** in Potsdam (St. Lawrence County); **Livingston County Emergency Management Center** in Mt. Morris (Livingston County); and the **Roberson Museum and Science Center** in Binghamton (Broome County).

Our summer workshop series, **Identification and Preservation of Photographic Collections**, began in June in Albany





Albany workshop led by Barbara Lemmen

(Albany County) in conjunction with the **New York Archives Conference (NYAC)**. Barbara Lemmen, Senior Photograph Conservator at the **Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)**, led this hands-on presentation which guided participants in understanding and identifying a complete range of photographic processes and materials. The series continued with stops throughout June and July at **The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute** in Chazy (Clinton County); the **Ukrainian Museum** in New York City (New York County); the **George Eastman Museum** in Rochester (Monroe County); and the **Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History** in Jamestown (Chautauqua County).



Participants processing collections at a Red Flag! workshop

Conferences

Fall 2017 was a very busy season of conferences for DHPSNY staff. In October, DHPSNY Program Manager Anastasia Matijkiw attended the **New York Archives 2017 Week Symposium: Archives and Local History** in New York City (New York County) and was an exhibitor at the **Greater Hudson Heritage Network (GHHN) Annual Conference at Bard College** in Hudson (Dutchess County). Later in the month, Anastasia and DHPSNY Archives Specialist Amelia Parks visited Buffalo (Erie County) for the fall meeting of the **Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC)**, where they presented the panel discussion *Serving New York State's Collecting Institutions: The Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York Initiative*.

In November, DHPSNY staff attended the **Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) Annual Conference** in Poughkeepsie (Dutchess County), where Anastasia led a discussion on DHPSNY, highlighting successes and challenges from our first year. Anastasia also attended the **New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference** in Saratoga Springs (Saratoga County), where she presented a panel discussion on DHPSNY with colleagues from the **New York State Library** and **Seymour Public Library** in Auburn (Cayuga County). Between site visits in November, Amelia led a disaster response panel discussion at the **Genesee County History Retreat** in Batavia (Genesee County)

for members of the **Western New York Association of Historical Agencies (WNYAHA)**.

As with site visits, conferences slowed down for the winter and picked up again in April, when Anastasia was in Rochester (Monroe County) for this year's **Museum Association of New York (MANY) Annual Conference**. That month, we also attended the **Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC)** spring meeting in Hershey, PA. There, Anastasia chaired the panel discussion "Serving Archival Communities," which also included CCAHA Director of Preservation Services Dyani Feige.

In May, Amelia joined the **Long Island Museum Association (LIMA)** for a round table discussion in Smithtown (Suffolk County). Amelia's presentation *Emergency Planning and Preparedness: An Introduction to Basics* took place at the **Smithtown Historical Society's Frank Brush Barn**, the site of one of DHPSNY's 2017 hands-on Disaster Preparedness workshops.

As June began, DHPSNY Preservation Specialist Gillian Marcus was in Houston for this year's **American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) Annual Meeting**. On the final day of the conference, Gillian presented the paper "Caring for Electrophotographic Art: A Case Study of the Pati Hill Archives at Arcadia University," which analyzed Pati Hill's materials and working methods in order to establish a preservation strategy for black and white photocopy art.

Meanwhile, back at the office, we were busy with a number of other projects. In late 2017, we introduced the **DHPSNY Podcast** (available on Apple Podcasts and Mixcloud), which highlights some of the outstanding organizations we work with and gives the listener a behind-the-scenes glimpse at how we deliver our Planning & Assessment Services (Archival Needs Assessments, Preservation Surveys, Condition Surveys, and Strategic Planning Assistance). In early 2018, we also launched the **DHPSNY Directory** (dhpsny.org/directory), an interactive online map and database of nearly 4,300 libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other organizations located throughout New York State. The Directory's purpose is to promote communication and collaboration among the employees and volunteers of the State's collecting institutions.

INTERVIEW:

Bonnie Marie Sauer

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA)



In our spring 2017 application round, **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA)** was awarded DHPSNY's Strategic Planning Assistance. Earlier this year, after completing our Strategic Planning curriculum, Lincoln Center was awarded a Preservation Survey, making it the first organization to receive DHPSNY services in more than one category. We caught up with Archivist Bonnie Marie Sauer to discuss the distinguished arts institution's history and collections, as well as her experience collaborating with DHPSNY.

Please tell us a little about Lincoln Center.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts was incorporated in 1956 and broke ground on its campus in 1959. It serves three primary roles: the world's leading presenter of superb artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community relations, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. Its Archives were established in 1989 to provide a secure central repository where records of permanent value can be preserved, maintained, and made available for research and reference use. In May 2019, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ground breaking ceremonies at which President Dwight D. Eisenhower turned the first shovel of earth.

What is your personal favorite document or item in the archives?

We had two film archivists work on our film collections last year and discovered this incredible 30 minute film made for the 20th Anniversary of Lincoln Center. The full title is 51 words, so we just refer to it as *Variations* or "the 20th." This production was as massive as its title. From three projectors across the plaza, the film was projected on five screens—each covering one of the arches of the Metropolitan Opera House; this was the largest temporary screen for a film at the time. The film premiered on May 21, 1979, with screenings continuing every weekend through Labor Day as a gift to New York City's residents and visitors. Pulling from

archival footage of the construction of the campus and opening of Lincoln Center's concert halls and including new footage shot for the occasion, *Variations* was conceived and directed by Bob Gil and Robert Rabinowitz, who were coming off their success in creating Broadway's *Beatlemania*. The film is incredibly clever and charming. We had it transferred into a composite digital format and I can't tell you how many times I have watched it.

How did you find out about DHPSNY?

I learned of DHPSNY through a colleague who suggested looking into the services as a way to start out on firm grounding in my new position.

Premiere of Variations... projected on the façade of the Metropolitan Opera House as part of Lincoln Center's Twentieth Anniversary Celebration gala on May 21, 1979. Photo by Peter SchAAF. Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Archives.



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DHPSNY STATEWIDE SURVEY

Notes from the Second Year

by Lee Price, Director of Development, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts

To a statistician, survey results viewed in the aggregate appear like a snapshot. As individual responses blend together, trends and patterns start to come into focus. While the resulting “snapshot” may not exactly match the result of any single survey response, it can provide insights unavailable through any other means.

Add a second survey, administered approximately one year later, and then the real task of survey analysis can begin in earnest. This is the point where DHPSNY now stands, with the second analysis completed of the annual DHPSNY Statewide Survey.

We'll start with great news: responses were way up in the second year! The response rate increased by more than 40%, with 385 viable responses received from New York State's libraries, archives, museums, historic sites, historical societies, and local government archives. Since we know it takes time, thought, and sometimes even research to complete these complex surveys, we deeply appreciate the commitment of all respondents.

The second DHPSNY Statewide Survey was launched on November 6, 2017 and remained open through December 1. Using information received from the first survey, along with notes from DHPSNY staff, every effort was made to direct the survey

to the right person. This task is often surprisingly subjective: at an all-volunteer organization, the best contact person might be the Board President; at a small organization with professional staff, the best contact might be the Executive Director; and at a major university, the best contact might be the Special Collections Librarian. Of course, sometimes we get it wrong—and then we welcome the feedback that directs us toward the most appropriate contact! Perhaps the increase in the response rate is a partial indication that our efforts to fine-tune the survey are working.

With two consecutive years of information, DHPSNY can now begin the process of moving beyond the task of establishing baselines to the identifying of patterns. From the first survey, we could begin to see variations according to region, institution type, and institution size. And now with the second survey, we can begin to sharpen the focus, adding the dimension of time which allows us to note where needs are increasing or decreasing. Information of this kind is essential in making critical decisions about where and how to invest funding, resources, and assistance.

The New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program and the New York State Library Conservation/Preserva-

tion Program are using the data for insight into existing or emerging collections care needs. Additionally, DHPSNY benefits from the analysis in pinpointing opportunities to refine existing programs for technical support or education.

As we enter DHPSNY's third year, the survey analysis will be deepened to include a qualitative analysis of open-ended responses. This new component will focus on identifying current gaps in available support services and consultation, emerging needs, and new trends that could affect how collections care practices evolve in the 21st century.

And, of course, there will be a third year survey, to be launched in late fall 2018. Ultimately, it's the quality of the individual responses that determines the value of the survey. To date, that quality is extraordinarily high. So please—keep up the great work!

If you have no record that your organization received a survey last November, please contact DHPSNY at info@dhpsny.org with your organization name and the preferred contact—ideally the person with the most direct knowledge of your collection care systems. We don't want to leave any institution's voice out of this valuable process.

How was your experience with the DHPSNY application and site visit process?

The application process was fairly painless. Even if I had not been awarded the services, the process was helpful in centering me. The site visit during the Strategic Planning was tremendously helpful in that it brought stakeholders from across my organization together in one

room. Some great ideas came out of the discussions and some of the information I had been working to convey about archives really reached people in the group setting.

You're the first site to be awarded DHPSNY services in more than one category. Did insights from the Strategic Planning Process lead you to apply for a Preservation Survey?

When I saw all the services DHPSNY offered, I wanted to apply for them all! I started with the first logical step of the Strategic Plan, which helped me to identify which services were necessary. From there, we were awarded the Preservation Survey. I feel fortunate to have DHPSNY's support in these stages as we work towards furthering the LCPA Archives.



Planning, Survey, and Assessment Sites across New York State

AWARDED FALL 2017 THROUGH SUMMER 2018

Archival Needs Assessments

- **Stevenson Library, Bard College**, (Annandale-on-Hudson, Dutchess County)
- **Cobblestone Society and Museum** (Albion, Orleans County)
- **Coney Island Museum** (Brooklyn, Kings County)
- **Historic Red Hook** (Red Hook, Dutchess County)
- **Holocaust Museum and Center for Tolerance and Education** (Suffern, Rockland County)
- **McEntegart Hall Archives, St. Joseph's College NY** (Brooklyn, Kings County)
- **Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester** (Rochester, Monroe County)
- **NAACP Legal Defense Fund** (New York, New York County)
- **Oswego County Historical Society** (Oswego, Oswego County)
- **Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center** (East Hampton, Suffolk County)
- **Poughkeepsie Day School** (Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County)
- **Preservation Long Island** (Cold Spring Harbor, Suffolk County)
- **Syracuse Polish Community, Inc.** (Syracuse, Onondaga County)
- **Town of Western** (Westernville, Oneida County)
- **Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church** (Liverpool, Onondaga County)



Historic Red Hook, Dutchess County

Preservation Surveys

- **American Folk Art Museum** (New York, New York County)
- **American Jewish Historical Society** (New York, New York County)
- **Cheektowaga Historical Association and Museum** (Cheektowaga, Erie County)
- **Clinton County Historical Association** (Plattsburgh, Clinton County)
- **Hudson River Museum** (Kingston, Ulster County)
- **Huntington Public Library** (Huntington, Suffolk County)
- **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Archives** (New York, New York County)
- **Livingston County Historian's Office** (Mt. Morris, Livingston County)
- **NYC Municipal Archives** (New York, New York County)
- **Rakow Research Library, Corning Museum of Glass** (Corning, Steuben County)
- **Schenectady County Historical Society** (Schenectady, Schenectady County)
- **Town of Islip** (Islip, Suffolk County)

Strategic Planning

- **Albany County Historical Society** (Albany, Albany County)
- **Bard College, Stevenson Library** (Annandale-on-Hudson, Dutchess County)
- **Cortland County Historical Society** (Cortland, Cortland County)
- **Fulton County Historical Society** (Gloversville, Fulton County)
- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Community Center** (New York, New York County)
- **Schenectady County Historical Society** (Schenectady, Schenectady County)
- **Sojourner Truth Library, SUNY New Paltz** (New Paltz, Ulster County)
- **Valley Stream Historical Society** (Valley Stream, Nassau County)

Condition Survey

- **Wildlife Conservation Society** (Bronx, Bronx County)
- **Merchants House Museum** (New York, New York County)

QUESTIONS FOR OUR TEAM

Anastasia
Matijkiw



Learn more about members of the DHPSNY team! In this issue, we speak with DHPSNY Program Manager Anastasia Matijkiw. Anastasia oversees every aspect of DHPSNY, including coordinating educational programs, communications, outreach, and Planning & Assessment services.

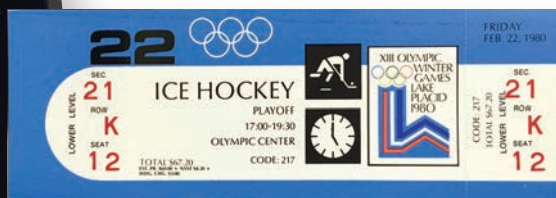
What's your background? What experience prepared you for life as DHPSNY's Program Manager?

I've been working with collecting institutions since high school, starting with my school's archives. I then proceeded to work in libraries, archives, and museums throughout my undergraduate career and found myself pursuing my MLIS in Archives, Preservation, and Records Management directly after finishing my Bachelor's. Since completing my Master's, I've worked in positions that have required me to work with a wide range of collecting institutions, which led me to CCAHA and DHPSNY in 2016. While working with various sites prepared me to some degree for my role, I feel I also have to give credit to my time as a hostess and a camp counselor. Seating in a restaurant and managing a bunk of teenagers can teach you a lot about management!



Tell us about an interesting DHPSNY trip or site visit you've conducted and what made it special.

My favorite site visits have been those that tie into the Olympics. I've been a massive fan since I was a child—just ask my family! I was super excited when I had the opportunity to visit the Lake Placid Olympic Museum. Not only did I get to see the rink where the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" hockey match happened, I got to see gold medals, tickets, and more documenting the 1932 and 1980 Winter Games. This site visit was also special as I've been able to watch them work hard to follow through with a number of the recommendations from their report in a short time!



What's your favorite rest stop in New York State?

Sloatsburg! It's the perfectly located rest stop and I'm fairly certain I stop there every time I'm traveling North on the NY Thruway.

About us

A statewide program of the New York State Archives and New York State Library, **Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY)** provides free planning and education services to support the vast network of repositories such as archives, libraries, historical societies, museums, and other institutions that safeguard and ensure access to New York's historical records and unique library research materials.

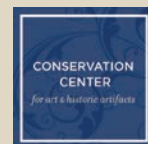
Connect with us

Visit dhpsny.org for more on our free programs and services and to sign up for our monthly email newsletter, which features our recent activity and important updates on application deadlines and upcoming programs.

Contact DHPSNY staff for answers to archives- and preservation-related questions, help with applications, or to make suggestions for future programs at info@dhpsny.org or (215) 545-0613.

Our partners

Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) is a collaboration between two long-running New York State Education Department programs dedicated to service and support for archival and library research collections throughout the State: the New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program and the New York State Library Conservation/Preservation Program. DHPSNY is a program of the New York State Education Department, with services provided by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts.





DHPS | NY

DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE
& PRESERVATION SERVICES
FOR NEW YORK

264 S. 23RD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

DHPS | NY *by the Numbers*

With approximately 4,500 collecting institutions in New York State, DHPSNY's goal is simple: to reach every single one with free programs, services, and other important resources. Whether your institution is interested in DHPSNY's free Planning & Assessment Services or attends a free webinar or workshop, we want each repository in the State to know that we are here and available to help.

81 *institutions awarded
free Planning &
Assessment Services*

1,011 *education
program
attendees
(in past year)*



21,852 *miles traveled in the past
year by DHPSNY staff
(36,783 total all time)*

32,344 *page views (in past year)*

6,133 *unique website visitors (in past year)*

Thank you for making our second year another great success! We hope these numbers will continue to grow.



+    = 116,324

Because of your interactions with DHPSNY on our website and through social media, our message has made more than 116,000 total unique impressions on the professionals and volunteers around the State who help care for and safeguard New York's historical records.