

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CAITLIN OR THOMAS DIRECTLY.  
THANKS!

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**LANDMARK SOCIETY SPEARHEADS PLAN FOR PARK AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD**

**TO BECOME HISTORIC DISTRICT**

*Public Invited to meeting on October 24 at 7 pm*

*in Timber Room at Wegmans East Avenue.*

ROCHESTER, NY, September 27, 2017 — The Landmark Society of Western New York is helping the Park Avenue Neighborhood of Rochester to become a historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The New York State Council on the Arts, together with the Preservation League of New York State and the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation awarded the Landmark Society \$10,000 for this effort. Rochester Area Community Foundation has awarded the ABC Streets Neighborhood Association \$15,000 to complete the steps necessary to become a historic district. The listing would make homeowners of over 1,500 properties eligible for a tax credit equal to 20% of qualified home repairs and upgrades.

"The ABC Streets Neighborhood is delighted to be partnering with The Landmark Society on this exciting project to create a National Register historic district in the neighborhood," said Tom Pastecki, President, ABC Streets Neighborhood Association. "Access to the NYS historic homeowners tax credit program will help our residents continue to maintain the quality and character of our historic homes and streetscapes. We are grateful to Rochester Area Community Foundation for its support of this important neighborhood project."

Officially National Register eligible since 1986, this neighborhood represents one of the most obvious and intact potential districts in the entire city. Recent changes in census data resulted in the neighborhood now being eligible for NYS historic tax credits, spurring interest in pursuing National Register listing.

"Becoming a National Register historic district is long overdue for this neighborhood," said Caitlin Meives, Landmark Society Preservation Planner. "Even though it's a large undertaking, it will be a boon to the neighborhood and the city and help homeowners make repairs to their homes in one of the most intact historic neighborhoods in the city. This would not be possible without the support of our partners (ABC Streets Neighborhood Association, Park Meigs Neighborhood Association, Barrington Street Neighborhood Association, and the Park Avenue Revitalization Committee) and funders like Rochester Area Community Foundation and the Preservation League of New York State."

According to Pastecki more funds are needed to complete the requirements for the listing. Neighborhood residents are invited to attend a public informational meeting on Tuesday, October 24' 7-8:30 PM at East Avenue Wegmans. For a map of preliminary historic district boundaries or to donate, visit [www.landmarksociety.org/parkave](http://www.landmarksociety.org/parkave)

Since the NYS Historic Homeowners Tax Credit program was introduced in 2005, neighborhoods throughout the city have pursued the expansion of existing districts or the creation of new districts in order to qualify for tax credits. Recent districts include: South Wedge, Maplewood and Maplewood extension, Browncroft, and four districts in the 19th Ward.

Across the state and the country, tax credit programs have proven to be a catalyst for economic revitalization and neighborhood stabilization. The programs encourage investment, provide local jobs, keep buildings on the tax rolls, and preserve the character of historic neighborhoods that makes them attractive to residents and investment.

**About The Landmark Society:** *The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc. is one of the oldest and most active preservation organizations in America, serving nine Western New York counties. Formed in 1937, The Landmark Society continues to protect the unique architectural heritage of our region and promote preservation and planning principles that foster healthy and sustainable communities. For additional information about The Landmark Society, visit [www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org). The Landmark Society is supported in part by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*