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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**LANDMARK SOCIETY AND COLLEAGUES HOST  
2019 NEW YORK STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE:  
EMPHASIS ON DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND EQUITY IN PRESERVATION**

*Landmark Society of Western New York Partners with the Preservation League of New York State, Preservation Buffalo Niagara, and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation for Three Day Event*

ROCHESTER, NY March 8, 2019 — The Landmark Society of Western New York is hosting the 2019 NY Statewide Preservation Conference in Rochester April 25-27. Once again, the conference will be in the heart of downtown Rochester, in newly rehabbed and in-progress spaces in the preservation award-winning Sibley Square. More than 350 experts, grassroots community advocates, and new voices in the preservation movement from across the state will come together to share successes, challenges, and new strategies.

“This year, we are placing an emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and equity in the preservation movement,” said Wayne Goodman, Landmark Society Executive Director. “We have increased representation of diverse backgrounds in our roster of speakers and session topics.” The Pre-Conference Training on Thursday will focus on intersectional diversity and inclusion training and conference partners are introducing a Diversity Scholarship Program to support leaders from under-represented communities.

“These efforts are small steps forward, meant to acknowledge the importance of diverse perspectives in today’s preservation movement and profession,” said Goodman. “Preservation must help tell the stories of people from all racial, ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, gender, and generational backgrounds. We hope you will join us in this endeavor.”

The NY Statewide Preservation Conference is the only event of its kind in the state—a multi-day gathering for anyone involved in preservation and community revitalization. “It’s an opportunity to learn, network, become inspired and, yes, have fun,” said Caitlin Meives, Landmark Society Preservation Planner. “It is *the* preservation event in New York State.”

Conference keynote speaker is Lee Bey, a photographer, writer, lecturer, and consultant whose work deals in the documentation and interpretation of the built environment—and the often complex political, social, and racial forces that shape spaces and places.

He is a sought-after expert on architecture, architectural history and the development of cities. He has been interviewed by a range of media outlets on the subject, including the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, CityLab, WTTW Chicago Public Television, WGN-TV, Echappees Belles, an international travel show on TV5MONDE Europe, and That Far Corner: Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles, produced by KCET-TV in Los Angeles. He has lectured before audiences at the University of Hamburg, University of Michigan, City Club of Chicago, the Art Institute of Chicago, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Chicago Architecture Foundation, the Arts Club of Chicago, Palm Springs' Modernism Week, and more.

Bey, a senior lecturer at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, also served as deputy chief of staff for urban planning under former Chicago mayor Richard M. Daley. He was also governmental affairs director for the Chicago office of the architecture firm Skidmore Owings & Merrill. Bey was also executive director of the Chicago Central Area Committee. Chicago public television station WTTW in 2014 called Bey “one of Chicago’s keenest observers of architecture and urban planning.

Rochester Colonial is a title sponsor and major sponsors are Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation and Winn Development. Media Sponsor is WXXI and local partners include the City of Rochester, AIA Rochester, and 540 WMain Communiversity.

Registration is now open. Visit [www.landmarksociety.org/conference](http://www.landmarksociety.org/conference) to register. Early Bird pricing available through April 1. Preservation advocates, community/neighborhood leaders, non-profit staff, and others interested in applying for Diversity Scholarships can visit the Conference website for more information.

***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.*