



## PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

*for greater philadelphia*

For Immediate Release

Contact: Elise Vider, 215-546-1146 x. 5;  
elise@preservationalliance.com

### **Community Projects in Germantown, Fishtown, Powelton Village and along Baltimore Avenue in West Philadelphia Receive Preservation Alliance Grants**

(May 22, 2009) – Four community projects received grants from the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia at the May 15 “A Sense of Place, Preserving Philadelphia Neighborhoods” citywide conference.

The grants are intended to support community driven efforts that focus on recognizing and preserving their neighborhood’s distinctive historic character.

“From small ‘seed money’ grants like these, communities can grow strong roots,” said Patrick Hauck, the Preservation Alliance’s director of neighborhood preservation programs. “The four projects all demonstrate how education, special events and exhibitions of neighborhood pride can draw public attention to their historic neighborhoods, and to the value of historic preservation.”

**Northwest Interfaith Movement** received \$1,500 to collaborate with historians and neighborhood historic sites, scholars and a group of local congregations to produce and present *Germantown Speaks*, a three-part series of inter-generational public history programs that will examine 20<sup>th</sup> century Germantown street life, World War II, Civil Rights struggles and community festivals.

The project will utilize Germantown High School students who will be trained to conduct video interviews with senior citizens in order to capture these stories of the recent past. The results will be shared at a fourth program at the high school to showcase the project, and will include a project brochure, videos and a mini-exhibition.

The Alliance also granted \$1,500 to **New Kensington Community Development Corporation** to develop the *Delaware Riverfront Lost and Found Scavenger Hunt*, a self-guided tour where participants will follow a route along the riverfront and through Fishtown while providing an entertaining learning and educational experience about the history of the neighborhood and the riverfront. Maps and other materials created will incorporate a sense of “lost and found” and will provide a historic context to buildings and spaces along the waterfront, as well as information about their current status and ways to get involved with ongoing efforts to preserve and revitalize the area.

In addition, the Alliance made a \$1,000 grants to **Vineyard Community Church** to collaborate with community and business organizations, congregations, and other civic groups along Baltimore Avenue from 40<sup>th</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> streets, to produce *Baltimore Avenue Venue Menu*, a brochure that will include a description of the area, a map of the cluster

of the houses of worship along the route, and a detailed information about the spaces in each sacred place that is available for public and community use. The goal is to educate the local community and visitors about the history of the area, and to encourage increased knowledge, appreciation and preservation of the area's important historic resources.

**Powelton Village Civic Association** also received \$1,000 to collaborate with the University City District and Drexel University to create and display 80 -100 banners celebrating the 2010 sesquicentennial of Powelton Village. The goal is to draw attention to the heritage of the area and to encourage broader community support for the preservation of its historic resources. The education and outreach effort will also include a special sesquicentennial issue of the *Powelton Post*.

Twelve community groups presented proposals before a panel of experts in the fields of architecture, community development and historic preservation at the Sense of Place conference, the first citywide conference for community leaders about preserving and celebrating Philadelphia's neighborhoods. Two \$1,500 grants were originally announced, but the high quality of the proposals prompted the Alliance to add the two, \$1,000 grants.

About 140 attended, representing neighborhoods from throughout the city and participating in sessions on topics emphasizing how historic preservation is an indispensable tool for community revitalization.

The Alliance plans to convene another citywide historic preservation, neighborhood conference in fall 2010.

*The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia actively promotes the appreciation, protection and revitalization of the Philadelphia region's historic buildings, communities and landscapes. To learn more, visit [www.PreservationAlliance.com](http://www.PreservationAlliance.com).*

###

1616 Walnut Street, Suite 1620, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

---

Telephone: (215) 546-1146 Fax: (215) 546-1180 Email: [info@preservationalliance.com](mailto:info@preservationalliance.com)  
[www.preservationalliance.com](http://www.preservationalliance.com)