

Historic Districts Council Award to Ridgewood Property Owners & Civic Assn

The Historic Districts Council (HDC) presented their 2009 Grassroots Preservation Award to the Ridgewood Property Owners & Civic Assn (RPOCA) for collaborating with the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission on Ridgewood's ongoing city landmarking designation process. Said HDC's President Paul Graziano, "The Ridgewood Property Owners & Civic Assn has served the Ridgewood community in Queens for the last 78 years. It addresses neighborhood issues dealing with the community's overall quality of life and in particular Ridgewood's parks, zoning, security, transit and local retail. Today there are nearly 700 member families. The Association has long fought to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood, which largely consists of early 20th century brick row houses with a variety of architectural detailing. In 1983, after several years of staff work by its sister organization, the Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corp, Ridgewood became one of the largest residential historic districts in the nation, with 2,982 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. More recently, through RPOCA efforts, the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission calendared 96 of these six family townhouses, known as Matthews Flats, as part of the proposed Ridgewood North Historic District, and calendared another 210 buildings as part of the Ridgewood South Historic District. Ridgewood looks forward to these and additional city designations of this worthy community in the near future", Graziano concluded.



Accepting the award on behalf of the Ridgewood Property Owners & Civic Association were: (L to R) RPOCA Board members Luis Rodriguez, Mark Montalbano, Paul Kerzner; Ridgewood LDC Executive Director Ted Renz; Simeon Bankoff, HDC Executive Director; Voytec Oktawiec, R.A.; Paul Graziano, President, HDC; and John Maier. [Queens Civic Congress congratulates RPOCA]