



**NATIONAL TRUST**  
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

Spring/Summer 2007

# DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

[http://www.nationaltrust.org/scholarships/diversity\\_scholarship.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/scholarships/diversity_scholarship.html)

Volume 1, Number 1

## Highlights:

- Spotlight on Bill Watanabe (*shown right*) – 2004 Diversity Scholar honored at the National Trust / HGTV Restore America Gala (*below*)
- How I Became a Preservationist – Interview with Mtamanika Youngblood, 1994 & 1997 Diversity Scholar and current vice chair of the National Trust Board of Trustees (*page 3*)



Courtesy of Little Tokyo Service Ctr-CDC

The Diversity Scholarship Program (DSP) is under new leadership. The Office of Diversity Initiatives at the National Trust headquarters in Washington, D.C., has been charged with continuing the scholarship program and augmenting its national marketing and outreach plan.

As a result, we have created the *Diversity Scholarship Program Alumni Newsletter*, a semi-annual publication. Our goal is to inform you of the happenings at the National Trust, and to stay in touch with each of you. But we also want to hear from you. Tell us what you are working on. How can we help? Send us stories to be shared with your fellow alumni. We are easily reached by U.S. or electronic mail (see back page for details).

In this inaugural issue, we are featuring two alumni—Bill Watanabe of California and Mtamanika Youngblood of Georgia. You will also find what we are planning for the 2007 Twin Cities Conference, and other information on other key preservation events.

We hope that you will find this issue useful and inspiring. In our Fall/Winter 2007 issue, we will provide a summary of the conference, which will include a report on the first Diversity Scholarship Program Alumni Reunion. The Office of Diversity Initiatives looks forward to hearing from you.

Jeffrey A. Harris  
Director for Diversity, National Trust

## Spotlight on Bill Watanabe

*On June 12th, Bill Watanabe will be honored at the 2007 National Trust / HGTV Restore America Gala at the historic Union Station in Washington D.C.*

Bill Watanabe (DSP '04) is the founding executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation (LTSC CDC, [www.ltsc.org](http://www.ltsc.org)) and has been in this position for nearly 28 years. Although Bill's professional background is in mechanical engineering, his true passion is in community development and social work. The initial focus of LTSC CDC was social work; however, the organization gradually became more engaged in community and economic development in Little Tokyo, an ethnic Japanese American district in downtown Los Angeles—one of the few Japantowns left in the United States. Becoming involved in historic preservation was the next logical step. Bill explains, “as we began to learn more about our community’s 100-plus year history, we also became more aware of the need for historic preservation, not only of our buildings and sites, but also of our culture and heritage and practices—the intangibles that also need to be preserved and transmitted to future generations.”



"Main Street" in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo  
Photo Courtesy of Little Tokyo Service Center-CDC

LTSC CDC has created more than 500 units of affordable housing for low-income families and developed senior assistance programs (transportation, widow support groups and more). As with any organization, challenges remain. Bill's greatest preservation challenge “is trying to address the tremendous gentrification currently taking place in downtown Los Angeles and in Little Tokyo.” Bill hopes that the proposed construction of a recreation center will attract young people to come to Little Tokyo for sports, martial arts, and community events. Through active engagement, the next generation will learn about the community’s culture and history.

Bill has attended several National Preservation Conferences and believes that this event provides an eye-opener to what's going on across the country in historic preservation. “The Diversity Scholarship helped me to take that first step—to get involved with the National Trust and to see some of the best practices and leaders in the field do what they do. The cost of the conference is daunting for any nonprofit staff person, so without such a program, I am not sure I would have ever attended,” Bill noted. “I don't consider myself a ‘preservation professional,’ but I certainly do have goals of working to preserve the irreplaceable history and heritage of the Little Tokyo community, and the values, strategies, examples, encouragements, funding, staff support, etc. What I have received from the National Trust has been invaluable.”

In response to being honored at the National Trust / HGTV Restore America Gala, Bill commented, “when I consider the thousands of people across the country who are working for the

(continued on page 3)

## The Conference Corner

Diversity and Colodny Scholars (Celeste Lanier, Leah Brown, Ethel Washington, Asia Browner, Jessica Williams and Tiffany Lang) say farewell at the Diversity Scholars' Closing Session in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Photo by Melita Juresa-McDonald NTHP Western Office

*DSP Fact: Demographics for the 2006 Diversity Scholars who attended the Pittsburgh National Preservation Conference – 63 percent considered themselves to be preservation professionals; 60 percent of awardees were women; 8 percent were of Hispanic/Latino descent; 6 percent were between the ages of 18 and 25.*

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Diversity Scholarship Program Alumni Reunion

2007 Twin Cities National Preservation Conference

7:30 – 9:00 pm, Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

(Following the Preservation Awards)

The Liffey Irish Pub at the Holiday Inn Saint Paul - RiverCentre

#### Plan to attend the Twin Cities National Preservation Conference ♦ October 2 - 6, 2007

The National Preservation Conference is the premier conference in the United States for preservation professionals, dedicated volunteers, and serious supporters. It is the single best source for information, ideas, inspiration, and contacts. Bring perspectives to the table, and participate in the discussions that will help craft the preservation movement's agenda for the future. The conference brings together experts and practitioners in the diverse specialties that contribute to preservation—architecture and cultural landscapes, historic sites and heritage tourism, heritage education, smart growth and regional planning, downtown revitalization, neighborhood revitalization and housing, organizational management, public policy, real estate development, and more. And it pulls all these topics together in the context of a national advocacy movement. No other national conference covers so much.

**Diversity-related sessions planned for this year include –** Preserving and Presenting Local Dakotah Indian Heritage; Overcoming Preservation Challenges: Learning from Asian and Pacific Islander Communities; and Reclaiming Lost Communities and Revealing Roots: Opportunities and Challenges in Minority Communities. These sessions are just a sample of the diverse education and field sessions being offered

this year. We guarantee that you will learn something new about preservation in the United States.

At this year's conference, you will be able to explore two great cities of the Midwest—Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Some of the sites you can expect to visit will be the Fitzgerald Theater, home of *A Prairie Home Companion* and Saint Paul's oldest theater, and the Landmark Center, a former federal courthouse and post office, turned elegant cultural center. Landmark Center is managed by our principal conference planning partner, *Minnesota Landmarks*. Our conference headquarters will be the Saint Paul RiverCentre, the convention center in Minnesota's capital.

Check out the **NEW Conference Blog** for fun and informative tidbits about the Twin Cities, brought to you by the National Trust Conference Team! <http://twincitiesconference.blogspot.com/>

**Early Bird Registration cut off is July 31<sup>st</sup>! Conference Hotel Rates deadline is Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>!** For more information about the National Preservation Conference, please call (800) 944-6847 or [nthpconference.org/registration](http://nthpconference.org/registration).

*Funding for the National Preservation Conference and the Diversity Scholarship Program is supported by both public and private funds—thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Center for Preservation Leadership at the National Trust.*

While in Saint Paul, visit a museum dedicated to celebrating diversity in the arts! **The Minnesota Museum of American Art** is committed to representing the great cultural, racial, socioeconomic and regional diversity of American art and artists—past, present, and emerging. The Museum is located at 50 West Kellogg Boulevard (at Market Street) in St. Paul, Minn. For more information call (651) 266-1030 or visit <http://www.mmaa.org/>.

*DSP Fact: Since the beginning of the Diversity Scholarship Program (formerly known as the Cultural Diversity Program or CDP [1992-1998] and the Emerging Preservation Leaders Scholarship Program or EPL [1999-2003]), more than \$500,000 has been distributed to over 1,100 awardees, and only three different acronyms used. ☺*

## How I Became a Preservationist

*Mtamanika Youngblood (DSP '94 & '97) is President and CEO of the Center for Working Families, Inc., an Atlanta based nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening both families and neighborhoods. Mtamanika is also vice chair on the National Trust Board of Trustees, having served on the Board since 2000.*



Photo Courtesy of Elizabeth Welsh, HQ President's Office

### An Interview with Mtamanika Youngblood

**DSP: How did you become a preservationist?**

MY: I became a preservationist after buying, renovating and moving in to a then 95-year-old house built by the leading African American contractor in Atlanta. I was struck by the quality of the construction and the thoughtfulness of the design. I had just moved to this home from a new house that I had built and the difference was substantial. The house, in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District, caused me to pay attention to and ultimately appreciate and rehabilitate other structures in the district.

**DSP: What is the value of diversifying the preservation movement?**

MY: Recognizing and preserving what's important to all of us, not just those who have in the past owned structures that were grand and glorious. Preservation needs to become, like recycling, recognized as something that is good for our country, good for all of us and something we can all participate in and something to do.

**DSP: How did you become familiar with the National Trust?**

MY: I became familiar with the National Trust when I became involved with the Historic District Development Corporation [Atlanta's leading nonprofit, community-based,

builder of affordable housing]. The organization applied to the National Trust Southern Office for a small planning grant. The relationship grew from there.

**DSP: What did you think of your experience as a Diversity Scholar?**

MY: I'm from Atlanta, where, except for a relatively small group of us, preservation is not looked upon with much regard. There was no really good example of a revitalized low-income historic neighborhood. I remember attending my first National Trust Conference (as a diversity scholar) and seeing a presentation by someone, I think from Rhode Island, on how he had revitalized his community, but managed to beautifully preserve it as well. I was so impressed by the "before" and "after" pictures, that I was determined to do the same for my neighborhood.

**DSP: Final thoughts?**

MY: We have all, through our own efforts or the efforts of our ancestors, participated in the shaping and building of this country. Sometimes the memories embodied in historic structures and places are positive, sometimes they are negative. In any case, they represent our inheritance, our legacy, and we should claim and preserve them.

### Spotlight on Bill Watanabe

*(continued from page 1)*

preservation of unique historic resources, many of whom are doing so much more than I, I am truly humbled and honored. At the same time, I think the efforts we have made to try to protect our current living historic ethnic neighborhood is an effort worth noting, and I am a representative of those efforts by many others in the community of Little Tokyo and other California historic Japantowns."

With a wide array of services reflecting the needs of this diverse community, LTSC CDC, under the leadership of Bill Watanabe, has much to be proud of, and Bill's work is a reflection of the honor received. Congratulations, Bill, on this accomplishment!

*You can read more about Japantowns in a Preservation Online article entitled "Searching for Japantown: Preserving Japanese Culture amid Rampant Development" written by Stephanie Smith Mar. 23, 2007 Go to <http://www.nationaltrust.org/magazine> and type "Japantown" under Search.*



### Diversity Scholarship Program Alumni Newsletter

Jeffrey A. Harris, *Director for Diversity*  
Sakinah Linder, *Diversity Scholarship Program Coordinator*

The goal of the **Diversity Scholarship Program** is to increase the diversity of participants at the annual National Preservation Conference and in the preservation movement. The Scholarship covers registration, hotel and/or travel for approximately 60 community leaders from diverse social, economic, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to attend the Conference.  
*Important 2007 DSP Dates are listed on page 4.*

The National Trust defines diversity as inclusive, embracing people of all races, creeds, genders, ages, sexual orientations, religions, physical characteristics and disabilities, veteran status, and economic or social backgrounds. For the Diversity Scholarship Program, it also encompasses historic places, communities, and geographical areas that represent the full range of unique characteristics, experiences, and cultures found in the U.S.



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## IMPORTANT DATES

### June

**1:** DSP application deadline  
**7-10:** Society for Industrial Archaeology Conference, Philadelphia (906) 487-1889  
**12:** NT / HGTV Restore America Gala, Washington DC (202) 588-6310  
**25-29:** DSP applicants notified of award decisions

### July

**25-28:** League of Historic American Theaters Conference, Boston (877) 627-0833  
**31:** DSP award acceptance due

### August

**29- Sep.1:** Assoc. of African American Museums Conference, Birmingham, AL (937) 376-4944

### September

**5-8:** American Assoc. for State & Local History, Atlanta (615) 320-3203

### October

**2-6:** Twin Cities National Preservation Conference, MN (800) 944-6847  
**17-20:** Traditional Building Conference, New Orleans (800) 982-6247  
**25-27:** National Organization of Minority Architects Conference, Orlando, FL (202) 686-2780

### December

**4-5:** Native American Cultural Property Law Seminar, Seattle (703) 765-0100

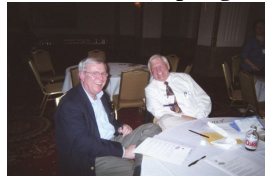
### We want to hear from you!

Please send us your thoughts on this new publication, article suggestions, or address/email updates via email or snail mail. Thanks! [scholarships@nthp.org](mailto:scholarships@nthp.org)  
 –OR–

### DSP-NTHP

1785 Massachusetts Ave NW  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 Tel: (202) 588-6000

**Fall/Winter 2007 Issue:** *How I became a Preservationist? Who's Next?; Federal Tax Credits Explained; Twin Cities Conference Summarized; De-Gentrification?; National Trust Historic Sites*



Photos by Sakinah Linder and Adams & Faith Photography

## Your National Trust Regional Offices

Ever wonder what's happening with that old abandoned neighborhood school or how to get advice on how to save it? The National Trust Regional Offices are not only terrific resources for getting the preservation scoop, but also for receiving technical assistance and preservation funds. For more information, visit [http://www.nationaltrust.org/regional\\_offices/index.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/regional_offices/index.html) or contact:

**Midwest Office** - Royce Yeater, Director – 53 W. Jackson Blvd, Suite 350 – Chicago, IL 60604 ▪ (312) 939-5547 ▪ [mwro@nthp.org](mailto:mwro@nthp.org) - (IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI)

**Mountains/Plains Office** - Barbara Pahl, Director – 535 16th St, Ste 750 – Denver, CO 80202 ▪ (303) 623-1504 ▪ [mpro@nthp.org](mailto:mpro@nthp.org) - (CO, KS, MT, NE, ND, SD, UT, WY)

**Northeast Office** - Wendy Nicholas, Director – 7 Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 4th Fl – Boston, MA 02109 ▪ (617) 523-0885 ▪ [nero@nthp.org](mailto:nero@nthp.org) - (CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT)

**Northeast Field Office** - Adrian Scott Fine, Director – 6401 Germantown Ave – Philadelphia, PA 19144 ▪ (215) 848-8033 ▪ [nefo@nthp.org](mailto:nefo@nthp.org) - (DE, NJ, PA)

**Southern Office** - John Hildreth, Director – 456 King Street – Charleston, SC 29403 (843) 722-8552 ▪ [soro@nthp.org](mailto:soro@nthp.org) - (AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, PR, SC, TN, VI)

**Southern Field Office** - Robert Nieweg, Director – 1785 Mass Ave, NW – Washington, DC 20036 ▪ (202) 588-6040 ▪ [sfo@nthp.org](mailto:sfo@nthp.org) - (DC, MD, VA, WV)

**New Orleans Field Office** - Walter Gallas, Director – 923 Tchoupitoulas Street – New Orleans, LA 70130 ▪ (504) 636-3048 ▪ [walter\\_gallas@nthp.org](mailto:walter_gallas@nthp.org)

**Southwest Office** - Daniel Carey, Director – 500 Main St, Ste 1030 – Fort Worth, TX 76102 ▪ (817) 332-4398 ▪ [swro@nthp.org](mailto:swro@nthp.org) - (AR, NM, OK, TX)

**Western Office** - Anthea Hartig, Director – 5 Third St, Ste 707 – San Francisco, CA 94103 ▪ (415) 947-0692 ▪ [wro@nthp.org](mailto:wro@nthp.org) - (AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA)

## Local & Statewide Reconnecting Tips!

1. Check out your state/local preservation website – See what's new! Is new legislation being introduced that could influence your next preservation project?
2. Volunteer/attend your statewide conference – It's also a great opportunity to find out what's happening closer to home.
3. Find out when the next membership meeting is – Join and network!

[http://www.nationaltrust.org/help/statewide\\_org.asp](http://www.nationaltrust.org/help/statewide_org.asp) to search contact information.

**Help Wanted:** The New York Landmark Preservation Commission (NYC) is seeking a Landmarks Preservationist Level I. This person reviews applications to restore, rehabilitate, or correct violations issued on individual landmarks and properties in historic districts; also reviews applications for new construction in historic districts. *This job and other national jobs can be found at ForumOnline.* <http://forum.nationaltrust.org/> Join today!

**Main Street Certification:** National Trust Main Street Center's Certification in the Professional Main Street™ Management Institute ("Certification Institute") provides advanced-level training and certification in the Main Street Four-Point Approach™ to commercial district revitalization. Although it is not restricted only to people involved in a Main Street program, the methodology taught is grounded in the Main Street Four-Point Approach™. The 2008 Certification Institute application deadline is **November 1, 2007**. For more information please call (202) 588-6219 or visit <http://www.mainstreet.org/>

"Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember.  
 Involve me, I understand."

-Confucius