

NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM & LIBRARY

**New-York Historical Society and the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation
Announce the Creation of a New Division of New-York Historical,
the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Institute
for New York City History, Politics, and Community Activism**

**Generous Gift from the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation to Support
Scholarly Programs, Fellowships, and New Archive
Focused on 20th and 21st Century New York City History**

New York, NY, June 24, 2021 – The New-York Historical Society, the oldest museum in New York City (1804), has announced plans to create the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Institute for New York City History, Politics, and Community Activism—a new division within New-York Historical initiated and funded by the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation. The Institute will create a new historical archive, including a focus on New York City’s marginalized communities and inclusive voices that reflects important political, social, and cultural moments from the mid-1900s to the present; it will also offer scholarly programs, a resident fellowship, and short-term fellowships. Among the first archives to be added to the Institute are Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel’s papers and the High Line archives. Several archives already in New-York Historical’s library and museum collections, including materials relating to the Occupy Wall Street movement, will be archived in the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Institute as well. A national search for an executive director with a professional background and experience in the Institute’s fields of study and research, will be undertaken immediately.

“We are so grateful for the initiative and support of the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation for this new endeavor, which will help scholars and the general public to understand how political and social movements, focused on balancing individuals’ right to self-determination with their responsibility to one another, have shaped our city’s history,” said Dr. Louise Mirrer, New-York Historical’s president and CEO. “The emphasis of the new Diamonstein-Spielvogel Institute on studying, disseminating, and contextualizing New York City’s history, politics, and community organizing will also make patent the local story’s implications for the nation and world.”

“The Diamonstein-Spielvogel Foundation is very pleased to initiate this vital enterprise,” said Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel. “The Diamonstein-Spielvogel Institute for NYC History, Politics, and Community Activism addresses key issues in New York City. We will bring together collective memory and experiences for research and manifestations, so that present and future historians can place these multiple histories within a meaningful context.”

An important component of the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Institute’s mission will be the collection of relevant materials that relate to 20th and 21st-century local history, including the civil rights movement, women’s rights, climate concerns, the drive for LBGTQ+ rights, and the historic preservation movement. A selection of historic documents associated with the High Line and its transformation from disused rail structure to public open space by the Friends of the High Line, the organization that championed the project starting in 1999, will be among the first pieces in the Institute’s archive.

"It's an honor to have items from the High Line's history become a part of the archives of the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Institute," said Robert Hammond, co-founder and executive director of the High Line. "As the history of the High Line reflects the diversity and innovation of New York City, it's a critical effort to have these materials preserved and accessible to scholars and New Yorkers alike."

