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A woman-owned business providing archaeological consulting services to government agencies and their prime contractors in the New York City Metro area since 1992.

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 | Fall 2018

THE LATEST FROM LINDA

Hello all,

Thank you for your kind words and feedback since my first semi-annual newsletter last Spring. There was some consensus on a topic for this issue. You spoke and I listened - a concise piece on the archaeological compliance process.

It turns out the timing of this newsletter couldn't be better for that topic because my fall newsletter coincides with the recent release of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) [revised archaeological guidelines](#), posted just a couple of weeks ago.

The old guidelines were dated 2002 and contained 35 pages, including appendices. The revised guidelines are now 142 pages. It was daunting for even me to read. But I did. I provided comments on two rounds of drafts, some of which have been incorporated. LPC hosted two presentations to stakeholders in September to show off and explain the new guidelines. I attended the first of the sessions. It was also attended by SHPO representatives who say they too will be using these guidelines for New York City projects under their review.

What this means for you is that all archaeologists, agencies, their contractors and other applicants will be required to comply with the revised guidelines going forward. In some, but not all, cases, it will mean budgeting additional funds for archaeology. In any case, you should familiarize yourself with the new requirements and this newsletter could be a start.

Feel free to reach out to me if you want more information or have an idea for a future newsletter. I'm always happy to hear from you.

I look forward to working together again soon.

Linda

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLIANCE PROCESS

Although not the most riveting topic, if you've read this far, you realize this is something you need to know about. You can download the new guidelines by clicking [here](#). Key items to keep in mind, with page references, are:

- Initiation of the archaeological process (pages 10, 23-24 and 92-96; laws/regulations pages 12-14)
 - Lead agency, or its designated applicant, is generally responsible
 - An archaeologist isn't necessarily needed at this step
 - Site specific information is provided to LPC, including if below ground disturbance is planned
 - When LPC requires archaeology, site details need to be provided to your archaeologist
- How much time (cost) will archaeological work take (pages 97-99)
 - When hiring an archaeologist, or budgeting for archaeology, check for adequate hours by task
- Phases or steps of the archaeological work itself (page 18 and Chapter C)
 - LPC recognizes 3 phases of archaeological work, each based on positive findings of the previous:
 - Documentary Study, Field Testing and Data Recovery
 - An AWP (Archaeological Work Plan) is needed prior to any of the three phases
 - Reporting on results is needed upon completion of each phase
 - Time is needed for LPC to review the AWP's and reports, so be sure that's included in the schedule
- Project closure (pages 31 and 68)
 - LPC concludes archaeological concerns have been addressed AND
 - Artifacts and records are curated with an appropriate repository and/or returned to the owner

So there you have it in a nutshell. If you'd like any more details without having to spend hours and hours reading 142 pages, please reply to this message or phone me at [212-888-3130](tel:212-888-3130). I'm glad to help.

NEWS YOU CAN USE: UPDATE

The last issue of my newsletter (April) mentioned two other big happenings at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. First, the then chair of LPC had resigned. Last month, the former executive director Sarah Carroll was appointed by Mayor de Blasio as the new chair. The other update is that LPC did not incorporate language on archaeology in their general rules for excavation. We now know that's likely because they were preparing to independently issue the revised archaeological guidelines.



On site with my signature hard hat brim, showing the Munsell Color Chart to a crew member.

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