



[VoteYourMainStreet.org](http://VoteYourMainStreet.org)



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**GERMANTOWN UNITED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION A FINALIST  
FOR NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT  
PRESENTED BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC & AMERICAN EXPRESS**

***Vote for Germantown, the only finalist in the entire state of Pennsylvania,  
to receive up to \$150,000 in grant funding from American Express.***

**PHILADELPHIA — September 25, 2017** ... As a finalist in the **Partners in Preservation: Main Streets** campaign, **Germantown United Community Development Corporation** encourages the public to visit [VoteYourMainStreet.org/Germantown](http://VoteYourMainStreet.org/Germantown) to help Germantown United CDC secure funding to preserve two buildings on Germantown Avenue's business corridor: Parker Hall (5801 Germantown Ave) and John Trower's building (5706 Germantown Ave). Germantown is the only neighborhood in Philadelphia and the entire state of Pennsylvania participating in this competition.

With the awarded funds, this project will provide necessary facade and structural improvements to these two significant 20th-century African-American historic sites. The history of both buildings dates to the 1870s. Today, Parker Hall contains the office of Dr. Althea Hankins, MD, and the ACES Museum, which pays tribute to multi-ethnic contributions to the U.S. Military in WWII. The museum hosts veterans groups from throughout the country. John Trower's building is home to the Crab House restaurant, a popular local business. Restoring these facades will benefit these businesses, bolster the historic appeal of Germantown, and increase community pride by highlighting the contributions of African-Americans to the history and culture of this country, in an underserved African-American urban community.

Germantown United CDC's mission is to promote and facilitate the revitalization of Germantown and its business corridors through a sustainable, creative and community driven approach to economic development. GUCDC believes that Germantown's history and built environment are economic assets upon which to rebuild Germantown's economy and create equitable economic development. After decades of decline, there are signs of improvement and vibrancy in Germantown.

Partners in Preservation is a community-based partnership, created by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express, to raise awareness of the importance of preserving historic places and their role in sustaining local communities.

Partners in Preservation: Main Streets will award \$2 million in grant funding from American Express to Main Street districts in need of preservation support across America. The public will determine which



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sites will receive funding by voting for their favorite main streets through October 31 at [VoteYourMainStreet.org](http://VoteYourMainStreet.org), the online voting portal hosted by National Geographic Travel.

### **Partners in Preservation: Main Streets Open House Weekend**

Germantown United CDC will host a public Open House Weekend event at their new storefront office, located at 5320 Germantown Avenue, on Saturday, October 7 from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. to highlight the importance of Main Street preservation efforts in Philadelphia. The Open House will coincide with the [Revolutionary Germantown Festival](#), a neighborhood-wide event honoring the legacy of the Battle of Germantown. Germantown United CDC is one of 25 historic Main Street districts across the country participating in the Partners in Preservation: Main Streets Open House Weekend.

### **Why Main Street Matters**

According to [2016 data from Main Street America](#), investments in Main Street districts have a significant impact on local economies – encouraging real estate development as well as the creation of new businesses and jobs. In 2016, \$4.65 billion reinvested in Main Street improvement programs resulted in 8,042 building rehabilitations, 5,616 business openings, and 27,462 new jobs.

Furthermore, according to a recent study from Morning Consult of 2,201 Americans commissioned by American Express, 79 percent of Americans say that preserving Main Street is important. Additionally, 79 percent of Americans say that the idea of Main Street is what makes America beautiful. Main Street is also seen as vital in connecting Americans to their local community – 82 percent of Americans say that Main Street is important to their ability to socialize with others in a community. A similar amount, 86 percent, say that Main Street is important to the well-being and the enjoyment of a community.

For more information and to vote daily for Germantown United CDC through October 31, visit [VoteYourMainStreet.org](http://VoteYourMainStreet.org) and share the love via social media using #VoteYourMainStreet and #VoteGermantown.

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### **About Germantown United Community Development Corporation**

The mission of Germantown United Community Development Corporation (GU CDC) is to promote and facilitate the revitalization of Northwest Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood and its business corridors through a sustainable, creative, and community-driven approach to economic development. Learn more at <http://germantownunitedcdc.org/>.

### **About Partners in Preservation**

Partners in Preservation is a program in which American Express, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, awards preservation grants to historic places across the country.

Through this partnership, American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation seek to increase the public's awareness of the importance of historic preservation in the United States and to preserve America's historic and cultural places. The program also hopes to inspire long-term support from local citizens for the historic places at the heart of their communities.

### **About American Express**



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### **About the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places: [www.savingplaces.org](http://www.savingplaces.org).

### **About Main Street America**

Main Street America has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 35 years. Today it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, Inc., a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

### **About National Geographic Partners LLC**

National Geographic Partners LLC, a joint venture between National Geographic Society and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox, combines National Geographic television channels with National Geographic's media and consumer-oriented assets, including National Geographic magazines; National Geographic Studios; related digital and social media platforms; books; maps; children's media; and ancillary activities that include travel, global experiences and events, archival sales, catalog, licensing and e-commerce businesses. A portion of the proceeds from National Geographic Partners LLC will be used to fund science, exploration, conservation and education through significant ongoing contributions to the work of the National Geographic Society. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/> and find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Pinterest](#).