



### **Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel**

Throughout her career, Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel has served as a leading voice on some of the defining urban issues of our time, including the preservation of the historic built environment of our country. She serves as a model for civic and cultural engagement, having demonstrated unparalleled commitment to the arts, architecture, design and public policy through roles that have brought her from the writer's desk to The White House, where she was a White House Assistant, and helped create the White House Fellows, the Presidential Scholars Program, and the first and only White House Festival of the Arts in 1965.

She served as the first Director of Cultural Affairs in New York City, is the author of 24 books on culture, arts, urban and preservation issues, and as the curator of eight international traveling museum exhibitions. She was the producer and interviewer for seven television series about the arts, architecture, design, crafts, and public policy for the Arts & Entertainment Network, and many other programs for such national networks as CBS and NBC. Her television interviews are now available on YouTube, having been digitized by the Diamonstein-Spielvogel Video Archives at Duke University.

Appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Board of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, she served as Chair of the Sub-committee of the Museum that commissioned all of the Art for their Public Spaces. In 1996, she was appointed by President William J. Clinton to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA); in 2002, she was the first woman to be elected as Vice Chair of the CFA in its century-long history.

Dr. Spielvogel was the first woman to be elected, in 2001, as an honorary member of PEN-Slovakia; and in 2003, received the Gen. Milan R. Stefanik Award for contributing to the advancement of public knowledge about the Slovak nation and people. In 2004, The Slovak Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs decorated her for "her remarkable personal contribution to the development of a civil society in Slovakia."

In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed her to the American Battle Monuments Commission, which oversees the design, construction, and maintenance of the U.S. military memorials throughout the world; she chaired the ABMC New Memorials Committee and represented ABMC at numerous ceremonies at its 26 permanent American military cemeteries and 32 federal memorials, monuments and markers, located in 17 foreign countries, including Normandy, France. In July 2013, she was named to lead the ABMC delegation to Busan, Korea, and was the keynote speaker at the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War, attended by leaders and veterans of 21 participating nations. In 2018, she was appointed to the newly-formed American Battle Monuments Foundation. On 11 March 2022, she was one of President Biden's key appointments to the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

Appointed to the New York State Council for the Arts in 2007, from 2013 to 2016, she served as vice chair, and was appointed Chair and CEO in 2016, serving in that capacity until 2018. She was the longest serving member of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, spanning four mayoral administrations, from 1972 to 1987. She then served as the Chair of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Foundation from 1987 to 1995, where she created and underwrote the placement of Historic District street signs, descriptive markers, and maps in each of New York City's then 84 (131) Historic Districts, programs which have since become models for similar initiatives throughout the United States. Dr. Diamonstein-Spielvogel has been the chair of The Historic Landmarks Preservation Center since 1995.

In addition to her extensive public service, Dr. Diamonstein-Spielvogel, the recipient of numerous honors and awards, is the Founder and Chair of the NYC Landmarks50+ Alliance—a consortium of more than 189 organizations representing the literary, visual and performing arts, business, medicine, science, architecture, and preservation, convened to commemorate and honor the significant anniversaries of the passage of the NYC Landmarks law in 1965. Her husband, the leading international business executive, and former U.S. Ambassador to The Slovak Republic, Carl Spielvogel, passed away in April, 2021.

Dr. Diamonstein-Spielvogel is being honored by St. Bartholomew's Conservancy at the May 24, 2022 Gala for her long-term leadership efforts for local, national and international cultural and preservation communities.

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