



James  
Marston  
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***The James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation announces our latest Mid-Career Grant Awards.***

New York, May 19, 2009 – John H. Stubbs, Chair of the James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation, announced on behalf of the Foundation’s trustees the latest Fitch Mid-Career Grant Awards. “The Foundation had a very strong set of applicants this year, and is delighted to award a Samuel H. Kress Mid-Career Grant as well as two Fitch Foundation Mid-Career Grants to three very worthy recipients,” stated Stubbs.

The Trustees of the Fitch Foundation are happy to announce the Kress Mid-Career grant award to Sara Wermiel for her project, *American Architect-Engineers in the Nineteenth Century*. Ms. Wermiel will complete a book-length publishable study of American architect-engineers in the nineteenth century, their accomplishments and technological contributions, and why this type of profession has all but disappeared. Her final product will provide a new perspective on the history of American building production and alert professionals who work on old buildings to be more attentive to technologically significant design solutions and materials and to appreciate these matters more.

This year, the Fitch Foundation has also awarded two additional Mid-Career Grants to Paul Daniel Marriott and Vicki Weiner. Mr. Marriott’s project, *Developing a Uniform Taxonomy for Historic Roads*, will prepare a SHPO guidebook establishing a uniform national nomenclature for historic roads, by defining essential preservation terminology within standard DOT classification. Developing a uniform taxonomy for historic roads, expectations and protocol for transportation projects from both the SHPOs’ and the DOT’s perspectives will more fully anticipate and will ease many of the obstructions that arise as a result of a lack of common knowledge and language. Given some of the recent Federal stimulus package projects that are just getting under way, this publication is all the more timely.

Ms. Weiner’s project, *Historic Preservation and Community Development: Protecting ‘Place’ in Low Income Communities*, will propose strategies for embedding the values and tools of historic preservation into community development activities in New York City’s low-income communities.

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In her proposal, Ms. Weiner notes that historic preservation and community development emerged at the same time in the wake of destructive urban renewal policies, and an absence of collaboration between the two fields is, in many ways, a missed opportunity. By using research, case studies and policy analyses, Ms. Weiner will point to a variety of community-building methods and tools that historic preservation can offer to low-income communities as they seek broader changes in improving their neighborhoods.

The Trustees of the James Marston Fitch Foundation are excited to support such outstanding grants, whose subject proposals reflect the far-reaching breadth of Jim Fitch's vision of the built environment and how to protect its many facets.

**The James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation**, founded in 1988, was established to recognize the unique contribution of Dr. Fitch to the field of historic preservation in the United States. The purpose of the foundation is to advance the study and practice of historic preservation by supporting related endeavors through a research grant program as well as publications, seminars and lectures. Please visit us at <http://www.fitchfoundation.org>

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