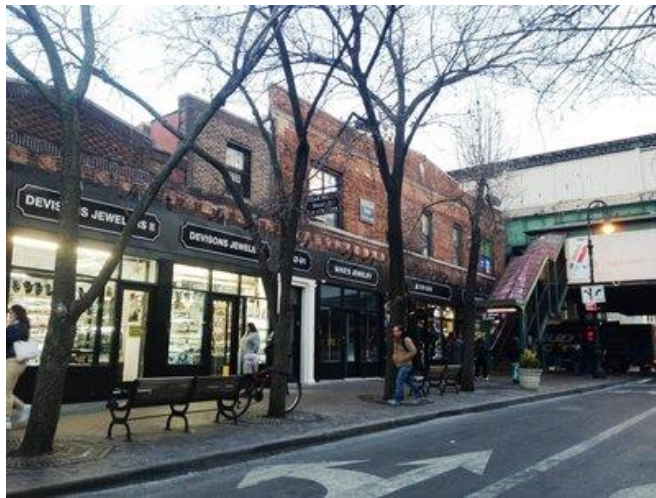


Historic storefronts on 82nd St. get a makeover

by Andrew Shilling

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Businesses on 82nd Street in Jackson Heights recently received grant money from the city to further their beautification initiative.

The Storefront Restoration Grant Program is an initiative led by the 82nd Street Partnership. Last week, seven ground floor storefronts and three upper floor facades between 37th and Roosevelt avenues took advantage of nearly \$200,000 in grant funding for a much-needed makeover.

"The 82nd Street Partnership's Storefront Restoration Grant Program is one of many ways we work to improve quality of life in the Jackson Heights business improvement

district," said Seth Taylor, executive director of the 82nd Street Partnership.

Through the \$50,000 Neighborhood Challenge, three businesses were able to remove nearly 20 Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) violations and work towards expanding their customer base.

"By restoring older storefronts with new signs, windows, lights, and awnings, we're making shops more attractive and inviting, which ultimately helps our mom-and-pop merchants retain and expand their customer base," Taylor said. "Ultimately, the goal of this program is to help preserve retail diversity and enhance the neighborhood's architecture and sense of place."

Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras congratulated Taylor and the 82nd Street Partnership last week on the improvements.

"With this award, a new milestone is marked not only for our deserving local businesses, but also for the 82nd Street Partnership, who have been committed to enhancing the quality of life for our community," Ferreras said. "Through our joint collaboration, I am confident that the quality of life for everyone in our community will only continue to improve."