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Brooklyn Architect Joins West Harlem Group

Appointment signals future growth of commercial development

West Harlem Group Assistance (WHGA), the oldest and largest community-development organization in the area, has appointed architect Howard Duffy to its board of directors. He expects to begin serving early in the new year.

The vision of WHGA is to re-create a community in which all responsible residents, organizations, and stakeholders are mobilized and firmly committed to working together willingly and cooperatively to ensure that Harlem can be safe, socially stable, healthy, economically sound, well-educated, informed, and politically strong.

"At the moment I am just an appointee," Duffy tells *The Green*, "but the group has been responsible for a lot of recent housing development and redevelopment, buying buildings and getting people into homes. My sense is that the group wants to move into more of the commercial side of development to build stronger communities. I will be bringing a lot of experience with private enterprise and lots of business organizations to the endeavor. But it is all very concep-

tual at this point."

Duffy and his business partner Thierry Paret are principals of HTDStudio in Brooklyn, a design firm with projects ranging from traditional residential and commercial architecture to interior design, furniture, graphics, and marketing around the U.S. and in Ireland.

Duffy, a native New Yorker, studied architecture at Hampton University in Virginia and the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.



Howard Duffy

He is an adjunct instructor at the Parson School of Design in New York and is a mentor at the New Jersey School of Architecture. He is also working on a book of urban photography due out next year.

Paret, born in Kinshasa in the Republic of Congo, is a graduate of Pratt. He is an avid golfer, pilot, and third-degree black-belt in karate. He lives in Cork, Ireland, leading a project that represents HTDStudio's entry to Europe.



Thierry Paret