



History of the black cowboy comes alive in Howard Beach.

Ten spots that 'matter' a bunch

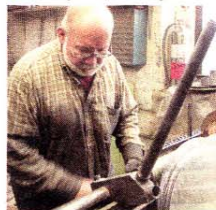
NEW YORK. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Place Matters, the joint advocacy project of City Lore and the Municipal Art Society will honor tonight 10 culturally and historically significant city spots, culled from more than 650 nominations. Place Matters director Marci Reaven told Metro what makes these institutions special.

Federation of Black Cowboys

● **Howard Beach, Queens**
Besides teaching city kids about horsemanship and the history of the black cowboy, this group "keeps the city surprising and distinctive," Reaven said.

Greenpoint Manufacturing & Design Center

● **Greenpoint, Brooklyn**



Reaven views this nonprofit industrial development of five rehabbed vacant manufacturing buildings as a "gathering place," that's not a park or stoop. "It recreated clustering for manufacturing in the city."

JCR Percussion

● **Highbridge, Bronx**



Calixto Rivera makes cowbells, congas, bongos and timbales by hand, keeping tradition alive, Reaven said.

La Plaza Cultural Armando Perez

● **Lower East Side, Manhattan**
Created in 1976, it was one of the first community gardens. Some who helped plant seeds include architect Buckminster Fuller, artist Gordon Matta-

Clark and Green Guerilla founder Liz Christy.

Mandolin Bros. Ltd.

● **Staten Island:**
People from around the world come here to buy their acoustic guitars. Reaven said, "It also matters in a way that small businesses can become a destination in their own right."

A.J. Muste Building

● **Noho, Manhattan**
This three-story building is best known as home to the War Resisters League, which bought it in 1969 as a home for itself and other activist groups. It's a "place for incubating social change," Reaven said.

Snug Harbor Cultural Center

● **Staten Island**
Reaven is impressed how "relaxing" this former home to sailors feels and commended the 130-acre center for "keeping our city beautiful."

The Point Community Development Corp.

● **Hunts Point, Bronx**



Recognized for fostering community, the Point works on economic and social justice, along with the arts.

Weeksville Heritage Center

● **Crown Heights, Brooklyn:**
This historic site marks and preserves history, Reaven said. Its four wood-frame houses on the former Hunterfly Road are the last remaining artifacts of a 19th century African-American community built after slavery's demise in New York.

"The Cage"

● **Greenwich Village, Manhattan**
Noted for "bringing public space to life," the West Fourth Street Courts draw serious basketball players from around the city — and even the world.

AMY ZIMMER/METRO