

Cypress Hills
Local Development Corporation, Inc.

Annual Report

2022

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Our Mission

With community residents leading the way, the mission of CHLDC is to build a strong, equitable East New York, where youth and adults achieve educational and economic success, secure and preserve affordable housing, and develop leadership skills to transform their lives and community. We actively promote policies that advance racial equity.

Our Focus

CAREER & EDUCATION

COLLEGE SUCCESS

HOUSING COUNSELING

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



Our Achievements

6,170

Local youth served through after-school, summer camp, college access, and community center programming

Participants in our workforce development programs

Youth participated in leadership opportunites

Units of affordable housing developed



\$17.51

Average hourly wage of workforce training participants

Homeowners were assisted by our Housing **Counseling Services**

Tenants avoided eviction, received home repairs and subsidies, had services restored

Over 13,000 People served this year

A Letter From Our Director MICHELLE NEUGEBAUER

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your support, activism and service in the last year! We're proud to report out on our work in this annual report. Despite the challenges of the pandemic and the City's housing crisis, we've made significant progress in developing new housing and economic opportunities in East New York, serving and educating young people and their families and mobilizing residents to fight injustice and advocate for long overdue investments in the community!



We are excited to announce that our long awaited project, Chestnut Commons and Cypress Hills East New York Community Center have not only been built, but they are open, occupied and beautiful - - signaling a new chapter for CHLDC

and our beloved community. We've proven that deeply and permanently affordable housing with larger apartments sized appropriately for neighborhood families is possible and that affordable retail outlets and community facilities can be integral components of truly affordable housing projects. The Cypress Hills East New York Community Center is now home to our comprehensive community programs and services previously scattered throughout the neighborhood. With this modern facility, we've forged new partnerships with organizations such as Brooklyn Cooperative Credit Union/Grow Brooklyn, Hot Bread Kitchen, CUNY Kingsborough Community College, Collective Fair, HousingPlus, Per Scholas, Menotti Enterprise, Brooklyn Conservatory of Music and the Cypress Hills East New York Coalition to bring diverse and advanced job training programs, a community music center, a college satellite to East New York and additional financial and food help to our neediest residents.

In the past year, we've deepened our impact in the community! CHLDC has continued to partner with grassroots food pantries to feed over 10,000 residents and enroll them in public benefits. Our organization blanketed the community with education and access to Covid-19 vaccinations and dispelled a lot of myths about vaccines. We've diversified the career fields that we are offering training and job placement in and expanded the number of young people receiving a high quality first job through the Summer Youth Employment Program. As students returned to the classrooms, CHLDC increased the number of children and families that we serve in our afterschool, Beacon and Community Schools Programs and re-engaged our high school students in pursuing and completing college. Our housing counseling team worked tirelessly to prevent evictions and foreclosures. Lastly, we're proud to support the community organizing done by the Coalition for Community Advancement and Future of Tomorrow to win housing and economic justice for East New York and to end the school to prison pipeline.

We appreciate all of your time, advocacy, guidance and financial support that you give to the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Neugebauer **Executive Director**

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Cypress Hills East New York Community Center

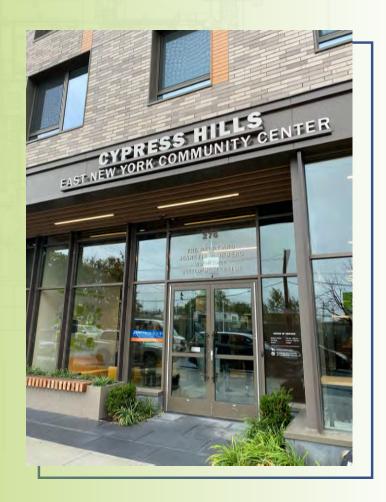
It is our pleasure to announce that this year we officially opened the Cypress Hills East New York Community Center. We are excited to offer local residents a hub to receive our services and programs in one space at their convenience.

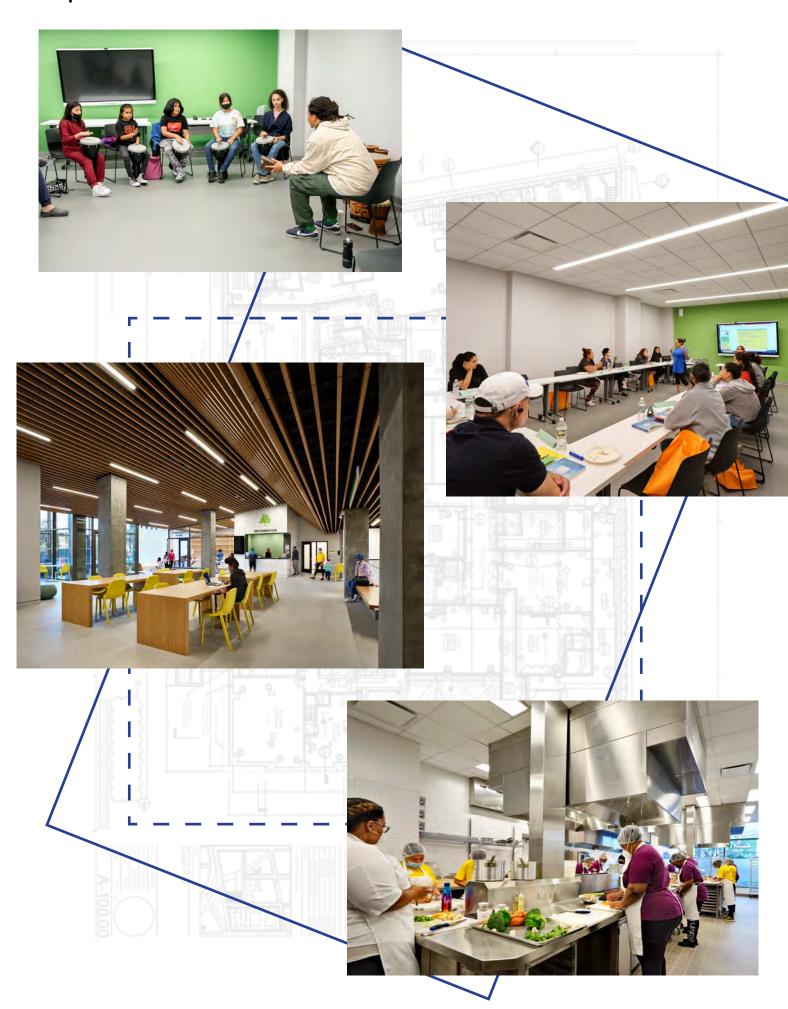
Our College Success and Career and Education divisions, along with their programs, have moved to the community center. Our emergency response team is also at the center to provide relief and enroll residents in public benefits. We also sponsor a VITA tax site in collaboration with GrowBrooklyn. In addition, the community center features a fitness studio that will be utilized for dancing and yoga classes. It also features a gymnasium equipped with a basketball court for anyone interested in sports programs. Furthermore, the lobby area and amphitheater serve as large spaces for community gatherings, whether it be a movie night, town hall, or resource fair.

This new space has birthed new partnerships and programs for our local community as well. Our state of the art community kitchen, full of stainless steel modern appliances, is being used to create opportunities within the hospitality and culinary sectors. We offer an incubator program that allows food entrepreneurs to grow their businesses by using our kitchen as a commercial cooking space. We also partnered with Hot Bread Kitchen, an organization that has helped immigrant women and women of color establish successful careers within the food industry, who will offer culinary training courses for aspiring chefs in the neighborhood. In addition, we have collaborated with CUNY Kingsborough Community College (KCC) to use the center as a satellite campus and offer college courses on site as well. Menotti Enterprises will also offer construction skills training on-site, and Per Scholas will offer technology training.

Our center has a community room that will be used for arts and crafts and a music program thanks to our partnership with the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. Our space is also a source for free internet and computer access with the addition of our computer lab and free wifi. The computer lab will be a great resource for people to use for completing work, studying, and skill enhancement, specifically through our computer literacy classes. Lastly, community center visitors can enjoy a bite to eat at Bodega Fresca, the cafe run by Collective Fare that features healthy food options.

In all, we hope that the Cypress Hills East New York Community Center will help our community achieve economic, educational, and leadership success.





Youth and Family Services

In our Youth and Family Services division, we offer after school enrichment, summer camps, recreational programming, youth leadership opportunities, and counseling services for youth and their families. This year, we provided programming to 4,494 youth participants and their family members from Cypress Hills East New York.

We run 12 afterschool programs within Community District 19 schools, where students receive help with their homework and engage in enrichment activities for reading, science, arts, fitness, recreation and leadership. This year we served 1,838 youth through our after school programs. Our programs also host family events and showcases for community members of all ages to enjoy. Once the school year ends, we continue the fun with summer camp, which is offered to students in elementary and middle school. During the summer, our staff kept 1,360 young people engaged with field trips, creative projects, and fun activities through Summer Rising, a partnership with the NYC Department of Education and NYC Department of Youth & Community Development. A fun moment this year was the Color Wars, where children from different summer camp sites enjoyed a field day filled with activities that incorporated exercise and team work.

In addition, we offer programs and services for local residents at the Beacon Community Center and Beacon Family Place at JHS 218 and the Beacon at PS 214. These school-based community centers operate after school hours and on weekends. Six hundred and eighty nine community members participated in educational and recreational activities, family counseling and Youth Leadership training. The Beacon Center offers a Counselors in Training (CIT) program where high school students volunteer as mentors for younger students, and are rewarded with stipends, skills development training and coaching. The Beacon Family Place gives community members a caring environment where families can work together to improve their relationships and lives.

Furthermore, our Middle School Student Success Center is a youth led hub, where students prepare for higher education and career success. This year we assisted 607 middle schoolers learn about their high school choices, apply for specialized and performing arts high schools and connect with organizations that support middle school students of color. One reason for the successful year was thanks to Youth Leaders, who help their peers with the high school application process.





4,013

Youth in grades K-8 served in total

2,430

Students attened after school and summer camps

975

Youth supported by Beacon Centers

Career and Education

Our Career and Education Programs foster economic opportunity through training for good jobs and assisting businesses as they not only survive but thrive in our community.

Young adults can earn a \$1,000 stipend and complete job readiness training via our four-week intensive professional development series called CHAMPION. We help young adults begin successful careers by understanding the labor market and building the customer service skills needed to be successful in any career. We continue to assist our participants on their path to educational and economic success by offering one-on-one coaching, training sequences, and more career development services for good jobs in construction, healthcare, transportation, technology, and culinary arts.

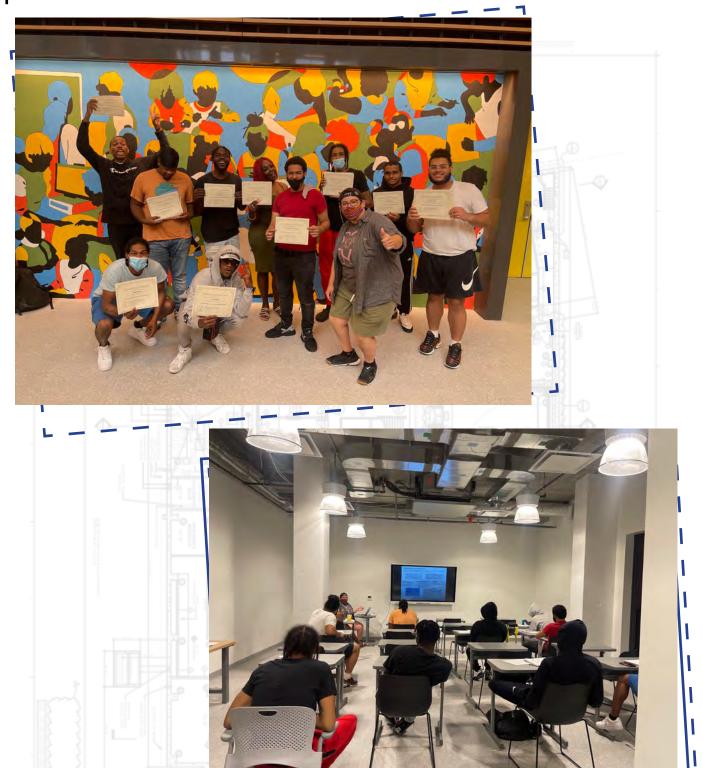
Small businesses are supported in the Cypress Hills Business Partners merchants association where we provide individual consultations, classes, and neighborhood-wide solutions. Current priorities are improving sanitation services and the cleanliness of the shopping corridor and filling vacancies on the commercial strip. In the last year, we were able to increase the membership in the merchants association from 82 to 92 and serve 105 merchants individually to resolve problems, line up loans/grants, and negotiate leases. Our kitchen incubator at the new community center provides home based culinary businesses with a licensed, state of the art industrial kitchen and additional technical assistance to increase their production, take on bigger orders and grow. Our goal is to support thirty small, food-related businesses in the coming year.

Our largest program, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), helps hundreds of high school students engage in the workforce in a supportive summer internship. SYEP also provides local nonprofits and small businesses with enthusiastic interns to complete community service projects.

This year we served 1,022 local residents through Career and Education services, which is over 300 more participants than last fiscal year. Through our different training programs, we helped 115 participants gain industry recognized credentials; e.g. CDL driver's license. In addition, 85 trainees gained verified employment with an average hourly wage of \$17.23.

The opening of the Cypress Hills East New York Community Center has allowed us to offer even more local residents the opportunity to receive career and workforce training. Our new community kitchen enabled us to partner with Hot Bread Kitchen to offer culinary skills training courses. Those graduates are being placed in restaurants, hotels and bakeries throughout New York City. In addition, the classrooms have allowed more space for participants in Building East New York (construction training), TE@CH (Commercial Driver's License Training), CHAMPION (young adult work readiness training), High School Equivalency prep courses, and Careers that Care (healthcare training). We are also partnering with CUNY Kingsborough Community College to offer training for certified nursing assistants and we forged a new partnership with Per Scholas to provide technology training on site for the first time.





1,022

Participants served

115

Participants earned industry related credentials

80

Percent rate of employment for at least 3 months

College Success

Our College Success programs are devoted to helping young people reach and succeed in college. We provide services to high school students on their way to college, and continue to support them during their pursuit of a degree.

Our Community Schools program on the Franklin K. Lane High School campus, serving three high schools (i.e. Brooklyn Lab High School, Cypress Hills Collegiate Preparatory High School, and Multicultural High School) connect students and their parents with community resources that focus on health and mental health, legal services, workforce development, housing and other opportunities. The program also does extensive outreach to students who struggle with consistent attendance and provides counseling, academic support and extracurricular activities. This year, each Community School had a graduation rate of over 90%, a result of our dropout prevention services. In addition, Community Schools held the largest prom for 275 students, and even provided free makeup and hair services for 15 young women. This was much appreciated because it was one of the first in-person senior proms since the Covid-19 pandemic began.

Our organization's Student Success Centers (SSC) guide high school students on route to college by providing early college awareness, college access counseling, financial aid advice, and career exploration. There are SSCs located on the Franklin K Lane campus and Thomas Jefferson campus, and there are offices on each site where students can visit throughout the school day. A unique aspect of the SSC is that peer college counselors/Youth Leaders offer individualized college admission counseling and workshops along with adult College Counselors. This year we served 1,660 students through both SSC programs.

At our Jefferson campus, we served 488 students and were able to expose them to different colleges during field trips and fairs. We took 22 students on a college visit to Bryn Mawr and 26 students on a college trip to St Francis College. We also took 50 students to a college fair at St. Francis as well.

Later on in the year, we hosted a Decision Day, that celebrated the college acceptances and accomplishments of 120 students at the Jefferson campus. In addition to receiving awards and recognition for their work, students were also treated to a carnival style field day where they played games, won prizes, and received gift cards. At the Lane campus, students also participated in Decision Day, where they too had a carnival, and received inspiring speeches from local government officials. Furthermore, we hosted more than 12 workshops on the Lane Campus.

As mentioned before, after students graduate and attend college, we continue to support them through their college journey. The College STEPS and Persistence (STEPS) program is designed to offer college students college counseling, office hours, group workshops on campus navigation, access to academic resources, financial literacy, summer programming, transfer advice, job readiness, and resume writing. We supported students this year with an opportunity to grow professionally, through a Career Day at the Lane campus. During the event, college students received valuable information about succeeding within the career space from a panel of professionals. Students also learned about financial management, through a budgeting workshop and practiced their communication skills through mock interviews. The event was a huge success, and students left with more knowledge and a larger network. Furthermore, we invited opportunity programs such as Kaplan Educational Foundation, Kingsborough's CUNYStart program, Queensborough's CUNYStart program, and York's ACE program to speak to seniors during virtual information sessions. Lastly, we moved from our Fulton Street office to the Cypress Hills East New York Community Center, which allows us to serve even more college students and host larger events so that more participants can attend.



"The Community Schools at the Lane Campus create a welcoming environment for students to make sure they are seen and celebrated"

Salma Salim

Former Community School Participant

Senior Job Developer of Career and Education Programs



1,660

Students served

1,128

College students received counseling services

90

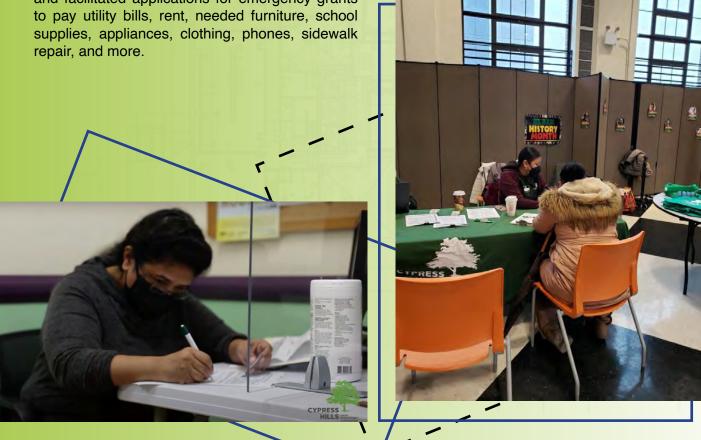
Percent graduation rate in Community Schools

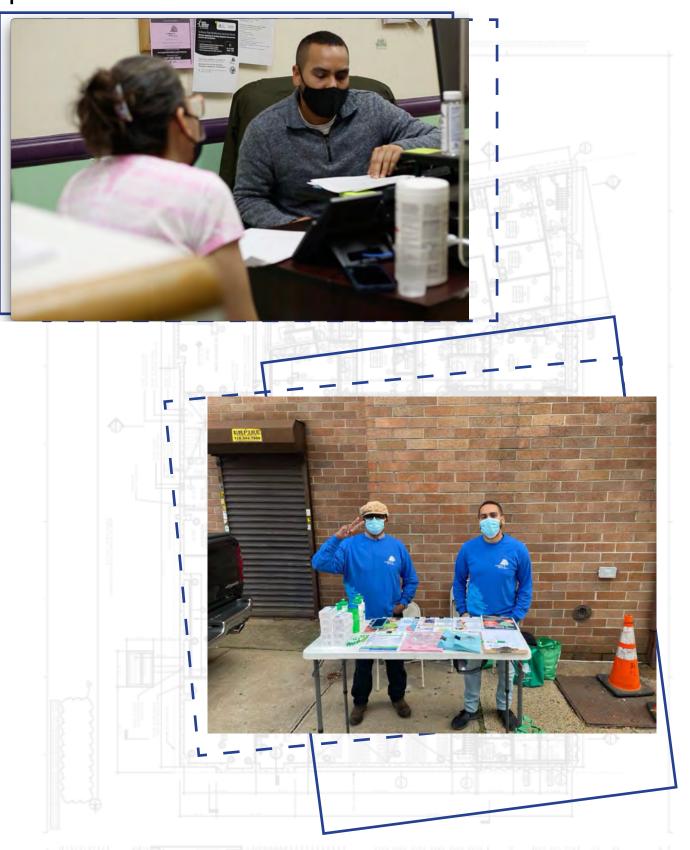
Housing Counseling

Our Housing Counseling team specializes in protecting the property owners and renters of the Cypress Hills East New York community from foreclosure, eviction and displacement. The division provides individual counseling and group workshops covering foreclosure prevention, home repairs, financial literacy, and tenant counseling and organizing. Local residents with issues related to housing can receive assistance from our Homeowner Help Desk, Foreclosure Prevention program, Financial Literacy, and our Tenant Organizing/Counseling programs.

This year, through our Foreclosure Prevention Counseling services, we saved 38 homes from foreclosure. In addition, foreclosure prevention counselors led numerous Zoom workshops, educating community members on deed theft, fraud avoidance, budgeting, property and rental management, addressing property tax liens, tax arrears and New York City building code violations. We also aided our clients with issues of home maintenance and repairs, food insecurity, and facilitated applications for emergency grants to pay utility bills, rent, needed furniture, school supplies, appliances, clothing, phones, sidewalk repair, and more.

We helped 67 new homeowners with securing home repairs, property tax exemptions, paying off arrears tax, and more. To be more specific, we helped 14 homeowners secure funding through the Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP) and State Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF), and 16 low-income homeowners address their water and sewer charges by applying for the New York State Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP.) Furthermore, our services helped 56 renters obtain home repairs, avoid evictions, secure and maintain housing subsidies, and restore their services. Specifically we prevented thirty five evictions and secured benefits (e.g. SCRIE, DRIE, Sect. 8, etc.) for senior renters. Lastly, counselors assisted more than seventy rent-burdened tenants apply for affordable housing through HPD's Housing Connect, NYC Housing Authority and NYS Homes Community Renewal websites.





Homeowners assisted with benefits

Evictions prevented

Homes saved from foreclosure

Community Development

to making sure Cypress Hills-East New York residents have access to deeply affordable housing, climate resilient homes. Affordable housing has become more challenging to come by in New York City, and in response to that we have launched programs that increase the supply of, and protect existing, affordable housing. A prime example of the type of developments we believe in is Chestnut Commons. This project created 274 new, energy efficient, permanently affordable housing units, 55 PPE and provided information on booster shots. families. In addition to creating these apartments, we also held many information sessions and workshops where community members could learn how to apply for housing in this development and for others in Community Board 5 through the Housing Connect portal or via mail. We also have another 255 affordable units in the pipeline-of these, 110 will be new construction, and 145 are preservation units. These projects are expected to close on financing in the next two years

As a way to combat food insecurity and provide access to fresh food within the community, we help local residents apply for the New York State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP benefits help low-income workers and families, the disabled, senior citizens, and others attain healthy foods. This year we served 1,425 people through SNAP, which is 674 more than last year. We submitted new SNAP applications, re-certifications and case changes, and helped 422 households navigate the SNAP mediation process. In addition, we helped 1,558 people gain access to nutritious food. We accomplished this with the help of the Cypress Hills Farmstand, a youth market organized by GrowNYC where fruits, vegetables, and more healthy items can be purchased using cash, debit, or benefits programs like SNAP. At the farmstand, we also held nutrition workshops for local residents to learn about the importance of a healthy diet. The farmstand also served as a space where community members could drop off any food scraps they had for composting, which diverted this waste from landfills and contributed to making Cypress Hills/East New York more sustainable and eco friendly.

Our Community Development division is dedicated Furthermore, we continue to care about the well being of our community. Through our Emergency Relief program, we distributed items such as healthy and fresh foods, and energy efficient/ bags of groceries, gift cards, and hand sanitizer to 13,145 people. Our Emergency Response team has also provided senior housing residents with resources for low-cost Internet, Fair Fares for the NYC subway, Social Security, and Covid-19 vaccine boosters. Although the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions have been lifted, we were still focused on providing COVID-19 test kits and of which are for formerly homeless individuals and We partnered with the NYC Department of Health and Fund for Public Health to create palm cards, fliers, and videos that educate people about the Covid-19 vaccine. We even filmed a video that featured senior citizens from the Cypress Hills Senior Center, who shared their experience with the Covid-19 vaccine to encourage vaccination. In addition, we have used our newsletter, email, and social media to share vital information about Covid-19, vaccines, booster shots, testing, and locations where our residents can receive them for free.





Accessed healthy food

People received SNAP benefits through our services

People gifted groceries and other emergecy items

Community Organizing

At CHLDC, we understand that change doesn't happen without action, so we mobilize residents to assert their rights, fight against injustice and change their community for the better. Community organizing and advocacy supported by CHLDC have led to transformational change in the neighborhood such as new investments in public schools, restorative justice programs, deeply affordable housing, etc. and has stopped public/private actions that would have negatively impacted residents; e.g. stopping the up-zoning of Arlington Village.

One of our community organizing programs, Future of Tomorrow, is a youth-led organization that ensures East New York youth feel safe in their schools and community, free from harassment. The group is dedicated to dismantling the school to prison pipeline, while combating other forms of discrimination local youth face. F.O.T. is now operating at both the Lane campus and in the neighborhood, expanding their reach and recruiting more members to advocate against harsh disciplinary and suspension codes/rules that disproportionately impact Black and Latinx students. They are proud members of the Urban Youth Collaborative working for Police Free Schools.

We also support the Coalition for Community Advancement (CCA), which is a collective of local residents, small businesses, houses of worship, and civic organizations with the goal to preserving truly affordable housing in East New York, stopping displacement of low income, BIPOC residents while ensuring public land use actions bring beneficial community resources like jobs, affordable housing, and dedicated community spaces and that government is held accountable for the promises made by past administrations. In the last year, 593 people participated in CCA events/actions, including a "teach in"/town hall held in March 2022 focused on Broadway Junction NO UPZONE with 100 residents in attendance looking to learn more about a proposed rezoning of Broadway Junction for office space and housing. Event participants asked questions and shared their comments and concerns about the harmful proposal that would take away from manufacturing land. The CCA was successful in gaining support from local organizations and Community Board 5. In addition, Coalition members traveled to Albany to attend a rally and press conference with Housing Justice For All to support the Community Protection Act, which aims to protect small homes and communities from house flippers.





593

Event participants

65

Percent event participation rate within CCA

3,900
Promised jobs secured from CCA

campaign

We appreciate all the support we received from government, foundations, corporations and individuals

GOVERNMENT

Hon. Darma V. Diaz (Former Council Member for 37th District), Hon. Erik Martin Dilan (Assembly Member for 54th District), Hon. Julia Salazar (State Senator for 18th District), Hon. Nydia M. Velazquez (Congress Representative for 7th District), Hon. Sandy Nurse (City Council Member for 37th District), NYC Administration for Children's Services, NYC Department of Education, NYC Department of Health, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, NYC Department of Small Business Services, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, NYC Office of Environmental Remediation, NYS Affordable Housing Corporation, NYS Attorney General, NYS Department of Agriculture, NYS Department of Education, NYS Department of State, NYS Homes & Community Renewal, NYS Office of Children and Family Services, US Department of Education, US Department of Housing and Urban Development

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