

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2021 Program Participants



Rachel Brandon is the Manager of Marketing and Events at the Village Alliance. She is an energetic & organized communications leader with +5 years of experience in community development and non-profit growth. She is experienced in marketing, event management, public relations & social media. Rachel is also a lifelong learner, avid traveler & proud mama to a rescue Pitbull.



Katherine Brill is the Community Engagement and Marketing Manager at the Grand Street Business Improvement District and is passionate about using place-based planning that is responsive to extant cultural resources. As a recent Graduate of Master of Science in Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania with a concentration in preservation planning, policy and community development, she recently entered the BID world to focus on the intersection of cultural heritage and community development. Katherine's research is in economic development, progressive public policy and community resilience. Using these tools she hopes to propel support for small businesses, initiate placemaking activities and lead public engagement to build stronger urban environments.



Ryan Cagle is the Industrial Business Program Assistant at BOC Network where he represents six of the City's twenty one Industrial Business Zones (IBZs), including the Maspeth, Ridgewood, and East New York IBZ(s). His role encompasses business services, community development, and advocacy. Prior to joining BOC Network, Ryan conducted neighborhood outreach for the Communications and Marketing Office at Pratt Institute and district marketing for Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership. Ryan holds a master's in urban placemaking from Pratt Institute and a bachelor's in marketing from Georgia State University. He is a proud resident of Brooklyn and on weekends you can find him and his family exploring the rolling hills of Prospect Park.



Tali Cantor joined the Union Square Partnership (USP) in 2020 as the Planning Associate, where she focuses on business reopening, recovery efforts and the implementation of the Union Square-14th Street District Vision Plan. Prior to joining USP, Tali worked as Associate/Urban Designer at Grimshaw Architects, and as Associate Director at CIVITAS, a community-based organization supporting urban quality of life on the Upper East Side and in East Harlem. Since 2016 Tali has also served as an adjunct professor at NYIT, teaching ArcGIS and graphic representation to graduate urban design students. Tali completed her Master of City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania and holds a B.A. in Urban Design and Architecture Studies from New York University. She is a certified planner (AICP) and a member of the American Planning Association.

Neighborhood Leadership Program



Ariana Cipriani is Ariana is a community and economic development professional passionate about placemaking, neighborhood development, and small businesses. A recent graduate of Hunter College's Urban Planning Master's program, Ariana is interested in equitable economic development, community-based planning, and alternative land ownership strategies. After completing the NYC SBS Neighborhood 360 fellowship at the Jerome Gun Hill BID upon graduating from Fordham University, Ariana has spent the last three years working closely with small business owners in the Northwest Bronx. Currently as Manager of Neighborhood Development for Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC) she leads community and economic development programming including streetscape projects, public art, public space activations, community events, and district marketing plans.



Lorial Crowder began working at the Community League of the Heights (CLOTH) as the Small Business Development Program Director in August of 2020. In December she organized a special event with the Community Board 12 - Business Committee, Washington Heights Inwood Development Corporation (WHIDC) and Senator Robert Jackson who presented a Proclamation recognizing the sacrifices of all the small businesses in Northern Manhattan. She is a Mom to her comical son Noah (14) and three COVID kittens Loki, Lox and Luna. She still asks herself why she is a distance runner though has completed 8 marathons, 15 x 13.1 and the NYC TRI. As a rabid environmentalist and naturist she volunteers with the NYC Parks as an Advanced Tree Steward (14'), is a TreesNY Certified Tree Pruner and a member of the Manhattan Solid Waste Board (MSWAB). Salamat Coro Neighborhood Leadership!



Abigail Ellman is an urban planner and action researcher with experience in affordable housing, equitable economic development, sustainable infrastructure, health equity, and community organizing. As Director of Planning and Development at the Cooper Square Committee, she supports the organization's overall affordable housing development and preservation work, as well as leads small business and commercial tenant organizing and advocacy. Her work on commercial vacancy and displacement has been featured in the City of the Future podcast and Curbed. In coalition with environmental justice organizations, she co-authored 'Collecting Dust,' a report which exposed failures and inequity in lead dust safety enforcement. Prior to her current role, Abigail worked on economic development research at the Pratt Center, co-led two phases of participatory action research focused on social determinants of health with MIT CoLab, and developed the capacity of immigrants to self-advocate and organize as an adult educator with Make the Road NY in Queens.

She holds a BA from Yale and a MSc in City and Regional Planning from the Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment.



Regina Fojas is a Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff at the Times Square Alliance, the organization that works to improve and promote Times Square - cultivating the creativity, energy and edge that have made the area an icon for over a century. She is currently responsible for outreach and engagement strategy for approximately 7,500 stakeholders which include property owners, commercial tenants, and residential tenants. She also manages and executes the Alliance's public policy, government affairs, and advocacy agenda. Regina holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from the CUNY Macaulay Honors College. She is a native New Yorker with a passion for volunteering and exploring new neighborhoods through food.

Neighborhood Leadership Program



Jennifer Furioli is Executive Director of the Jamaica Center Business Improvement District, the largest Business Improvement District in Queens. Before joining the Jamaica Center BID, Jennifer worked with the New Rochelle Downtown Business Improvement District (NRBID), where she was responsible for overseeing NRBID special projects, events and external communications. In 2018, she was the key lead in the City of New Rochelle's Mayors Challenge team: an interdisciplinary group of New Rochelle City executives, New Rochelle BID employees and technologists from IDEA New Rochelle competing against other cities nationwide to develop innovative solutions to city problems. New Rochelle's team was one of nine cities to win the Mayors Challenge, resulting in a \$1 million dollar implementation grant for the City of New Rochelle to utilize augmented and virtual reality as a tool to increase citizen engagement in the city planning process. Prior to joining NRBID in 2016, Jennifer worked for one of New York City's flagship BIDs, the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District in Manhattan. While at Lincoln Square, Jennifer worked on a city-wide committee to make the UWS and Lincoln Square more age friendly District, raised sponsorship dollars for Winter's Eve at Lincoln Square, authored external BID communications, and helped advocate for a newly-designed Dante Park. Her past experience also includes time at the national office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Larisa Ortiz Associations (a commercial revitalization consultancy) and New York City's Department of Small Business Services, which oversees the City's network of 76 Business Improvement Districts. She holds a Masters in Public Administration from NYU's Wagner School of Public Service.



Katty Garces is Katty Garces is the Avenue NYC commercial revitalization program manager for the Woodhaven Business Improvement District. She is currently focusing on completing the community Neighborhood Assessment (CDNA) in Woodhaven while helping local businesses with COVID19 relief information and marketing. Katty holds an associate degree in hospitality and tourism management and a Business Administration associate degree. Katty has extensive hospitality and customer service experience that has helped her transition from hospitality management to the non-profit sector in economic development. In addition to her continuous volunteer work throughout the years within the community.



Ionna Jimenez is currently the Associate Director of Placemaking & Workforce Development at the Brownsville Community Justice Center, a demonstration site for the Center for Court Innovation. Being a Brownsville native and having a strong passion for the advancement of low to moderate income communities, fittingly Ionna leads the Justice Center's place-making and mobility from poverty initiatives with a strong focus on public safety, community organizing, and neighborhood revitalization. In her capacity she also oversees the coordination of BCJC's economic empowerment initiatives including neighborhood incubation, retention and expansion of services (scaling), and youth workforce development strategies. Ionna is also co-owner of 3 Black Cats, a family owned and operated bakery currently specializing in custom cakes and edible party favors.



Angela Pennyfeather holds a BA in Communications from Hampton University and an MBA in Marketing from Metropolitan College. Ms. Pennyfeather spent most of her career at Coney Island specializing in creative marketing and branding. She had the privilege of leading and developing high-impactful campaigns which resulted in revitalizing the brand. Today, Ms. Pennyfeather is the Director of Marketing for the Fifth Avenue Association, where she collaborates with retailers to produce events, culture, and programming on the most iconic Avenue in the world.

Neighborhood Leadership Program



Lisa-Marie Pierre is driven by a desire to connect people to resources that help them reach their goals. She currently works at Bronx Community College in the Division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education as a project manager for Ascend NYC. This program connects Bronx minority/women-owned businesses with contracting opportunities from large institutions and provides them with essential training, mentoring, and financing to successfully manage those contracts. Lisa-Marie is active in her community and currently is on the steering committee for the Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative and the Sacred Heart Academy DEI taskforce. She regularly shares content via her newsletter and facilitates workshop training on leadership and professional skills. She is an alumna of Sacred Heart Academy, Spelman College, the University of Miami, and Michigan State University.



Dina Rabiner currently works at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and the NYC Business Solutions Center for Brooklyn. She manages the business education workshops and advises entrepreneurs and small businesses on how to navigate NYC government. Outside of work, she is the co-president of the Cortelyou Road Merchants Association where she amplifies local businesses, informing them of resources; runs local community events; and looks for new ways to increase membership and participation. Her background at the NYC EDC Women.nyc program, the local news site, Bklyner, the Girl Scouts of Greater New York, and earlier employers includes many years of supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs in marketing, sales, and partnerships. Dina has a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University. When it is not a pandemic she enjoys traveling, exploring NYC, and finding new and interesting restaurants and locales. She looks forward to being a part of the Coro Neighborhood Leadership program and meeting like-minded professionals working in community and economic development.



Leonor Reina's interest in business and finance started back in her country, El Salvador, when she worked at a Real State office. Her combination of education and work experience had prepared her for her current job as Executive Director at REMA 4 US, Inc. REMA 4 US was awarded the Neighborhood 360 Program, sponsored by the NYS Small Business Services. She started this job in June 2020, however, she came in with years of experience directing and executing city program contracts sponsored by the NYS Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). REMA 4 US is located in Far Rockaway, Queens. Right now, the Downtown Commercial District is undergoing new urban development, including three housing developments and a new plaza with commercial space that will become available by 2020. Leonor is excited about this opportunity of being part of the Coro Leadership Program. It will provide the skills needed to help her merchants and property owners revitalize the commercial district. Leonor's education background includes a MS. Finance Executive from Baruch College and a MS. Accounting, from Brooklyn College. She has a B.A. in Business Administration from York College. She has furthered her education in Taxation, obtaining various certificates while working at two jobs: HR Block and Rockaway East Merchants Association 4 United synergy.



Claudia Rincon is a bilingual marketing professional experienced in digital marketing, public relations, and event planning. She is an expert at engaging communities, growing digital audiences, and creative storyteller. She currently works as the Marketing and Events Manager at the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership.

Neighborhood Leadership Program



Catherine Roepke is the Digital Media and Community Engagement Manager at the Meatpacking BID. At the BID, Cate is the creative lead on all content, oversees the communication strategy for Meatpacking, and ensures community members are informed, involved and empowered through participation and open communication. Cate has been with the BID for 3.5 years and is passionate about building community, forming relationships, and ensuring businesses thrive in the neighborhood. As a native from Birmingham, Alabama, Cate brings a bit of southern charm to her team. Before Meatpacking, Cate taught English in Spain, worked in the luxury travel industry, and briefly worked in Impact Investing.



Dr. Camelia Tepelus is the inaugural Executive Director of the Morris Park BID established in 2018. With over 20 years of high-level executive and non-profit experience, Dr. Tepelus successfully operationalized a competitive and effective BID that makes a difference for over 300 businesses on the Morris Park Avenue commercial corridor. Dr. Tepelus work to create innovative economic development programs, corridor marketing, beautification and horticulture projects, policy making and legislative advocacy for the Bronx has been highlighted in The Wall Street Journal, Gotham Gazette and City Limits. Dr. Tepelus is the NY State 2020 “Women of Distinction” honoree of Sen. Alessandra Biaggi, and a 2020 “Bronx Women of Power” honoree.



Neil Wagner is the Business Service Program Manager at the Queens Chamber of Commerce where he currently manages the Chamber’s state funded programs and the Small Business Resource Network outreach team. Prior to the Chamber, Neil worked for the Department of Tourism in his home state of South Dakota where he helped lead initiatives in sports, tribal, and agritourism. He also spent four years working in film and television in Los Angeles. Neil holds a bachelor’s degree in Finance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Neighborhood Leadership Program

Past Participants

Note: Organizations listed represent participants' employers at the time of the program.

2020 Program Graduates

Abeer Alharazi

Yemeni American Merchants Alliance (YAMA)

Jahnavi Aluri

Jamaica Center Business Improvement District

Sean Ansanelli

Rockaway Business Alliance

Natalie Armstrong

Downtown Alliance

Lynette Battle

Bed-Stuy Gateway Business Improvement District

Angella Brown

Fulton Area Business (FAB) Alliance

Kristin Brown

Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District

James Campbell

Atlantic Avenue Business Improvement District

Yasmin Cruz

Westchester Square Business Improvement District

Philip Gordon

Lincoln Square Business Improvement District

Jonathan Hawkins

Garment District Alliance

Tiffany lung

Greater Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation

Kimberly Lynch

Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership

Nikkole Mojica

Hudson Yards/Hell's Kitchen Alliance

Nicole Paynter

Columbus Avenue Business Improvement District

Ann Marie Selzer

Project Hospitality

Sam Smouha

Queens Economic Development Corporation (QEDC)

Katherine Torres

Urban Health Plan

Brandon Zwagerman

SoHo Broadway Initiative

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2019 Program Graduates

Albert Kakudji

Made in Brownsville

Amy Tse

Meatpacking Business Improvement District

Christina Chavez

Long Island City Partnership

David Estrada

Sunset Park Business Improvement District

Erin Piscopink

Grand Street Business Improvement District

Hai-Yin Kong

Think!Chinatown

Heather Ducharme

Downtown Alliance

Jacqueline Tesman

Community League of the Heights (CLOTH)

Javier Medrano

Third Avenue Business Improvement District

Joanna Castro

Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance

Joanna Tallantire

Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District

Jose Taveras

Greater Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation

Lupe Ramsey

Flatbush Development Corporation

Michael Devigne

Business Outreach Center Network (BOCNET)

Morgan Fowler

Harlem Park to Park

Oma Holloway

Bridge Street Development Corporation

Raquel Olivares

Woodhaven Business Improvement District

Rebecca Lieberman

Times Square Alliance

Shannon Goodson

Davidson Community Center

William Lewis

Village Alliance Business Improvement District

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2018 Program Graduates

Alexandra Silversmith

Alliance for Coney Island

Amanda Zenteno

Bay Ridge 5th Avenue Business Improvement District

Ariana Hellerman

Downtown Brooklyn Partnership

Brigette Blood

RiseBoro Community Partnership

Cordelia Persen

NoHo Business Improvement District

Dominique Green

Lower East Side Partnership

Egaudy Gomez

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

Gloria J. Medina

Queens Chamber of Commerce

Jaime-Faye Bean

Sunnyside Shines Business Improvement District

Janet W. Dugo

Staten Island Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc.

Jeff Brault

Manhattan Chamber of Commerce

Kimberley Wong

BronxWorks

Megan Garcia

Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership

Michelle Cruz

Union Settlement

Natalie Mendell

Grand Street Business Improvement District

Nina Flores

Staten Island Business Outreach Center

Patricia Gouris

Hudson Yards/Hell's Kitchen Alliance

Theo Boguszewski

Rockaway Business Alliance/Perch Advisors

Tokunbo Anifalaje

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2017 Program Graduates

Alix Fellman

Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco)

Andrew Stricklin

Garment District Alliance

Clara Schuhmacher

DUMBO Improvement District

David Shuffler

Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

Gail Davis

Local Development Corporation of East New York

Glenn Greenidge

Sutphin Boulevard Business Improvement District

Isidro Medina

Washington Heights Business Improvement District

Jacob McNally

Hudson Square Connection

Jane Wolterding

Alliance for Downtown New York

Jennifer Tausig

Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District

Jesse Gericke

Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District

Jessie Lee

Renaissance Economic Development Corporation

Kelly Vasquez

Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation

Layman Lee

Community Solutions

Leslie Ramos

82nd Street Partnership

Majora Carter

Majora Carter Group, LLC

Maria Diaz

Greenwich Village Chelsea Chamber of Commerce

Nick Petrie

Make the Road New York

Paula Horowitz

Grand Central Partnership

Scott Grimm-Lyon

Church Avenue & Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement Districts

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2016 Program Graduates

Anna Adler

Fourth Arts Block

Carey King

New Harlem East Merchants Association

Christine Silletti

DUMBO Improvement District

Daniel Scorse

Hudson Yards/Hell's Kitchen Alliance

David Rose

Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership

Homer Hill

Grand Street Business Improvement District

Jacqueline Kennedy

Brownsville Partnership

Jarrold Grim

Alliance for Downtown New York

Jesse Solomon

Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation

Kriss Casanova

Union Square Partnership

Linda Humphrey

Beach 116th Street Partnership

Lowell Herschberger

Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation

Mark Dicus

SoHo Broadway Initiative

Marques Payne

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce

Michael Tsang

Two Bridges Neighborhood Council

Patreinnah Acosta-Pelle

Bradhurst Merchants Association

Ryan Gleason

Staten Island Chamber of Commerce

Tameka Pierre-Louis

Queens Library

TJ Witham

Times Square Alliance

Trey Jenkins

Alliance for Coney Island

Whitney Barrat

Old Seaport Alliance

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2015 Program Graduates

Andrea Devening

Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation

Barbara Askins

125th Street Business Improvement District

Chad Purkey

Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership

Daniella LaRocco

Village Alliance

Jenna Petok

Long Island City Partnership

Johanna Zaki

Alliance for Coney Island

John Rodriguez

Staten Island Economic Development Corporation

Kathleen Sforza

Northfield Community Local Development Corporation

Lamgen León

Chinatown Partnership

Lawrence Blaber, Jr.

Operation Hope

Nupur Chaudhury

Rebuild by Design

Rhonda Binda

Jamaica Center Business Improvement District

Ryan Pukos

Grand Central Partnership

Sarah Hornung

East Midtown Partnership

Tasemere Gathers

South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation

Tom Harris

Times Square Alliance

Victor Wong

NerdWallet

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2014 Program Graduates

Belle Domingo

Times Square Alliance

Brigit Pinnell

Montague Street Business Improvement District

Cheryl Tse

Neighborhood Plaza Partnership

Dana Frankel

Long Island City Partnership

Duane Roggendorff

Grand Central Partnership

Jamila Diaz

South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation

Jennifer Stokes

Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership

Katie Mirkin

Flatbush Avenue & Church Avenue Business Improvement Districts

Kristin LaBuz

DUMBO Improvement District

Krzysztof Sadlej

Beach 116th Street Partnership

Marcia Cameron

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Mark Caserta

Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District

Minnie Graham

Empowerment Zone Inc.

Myles Monaghan

Community League of the Heights, Inc.

Natalie Raben

Lower East Side Partnership

Nikoa Evans-Hendricks

Harlem Park to Park

Patrick Kwan

Chinatown Partnership

Philip Marino

Belmont Business Improvement District

Priscilla Marco

Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership

Sara Romanoski

East Village Community Coalition

Wilma Alonso

Fordham Road Business Improvement District

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2013 Program Graduates

Akila A. Shenoy

Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco)

Ariel Ferreira

Washington Heights Business Improvement District

Chris Martin

DUMBO Improvement District

Daniel Coates

Make the Road New York

David Thorpe

East River Development Alliance Long Island City Merchant's Association

Felicia Tunnah

Union Square Partnership

Jane Kojima

Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership

John Choe

One Flushing Community Economic Development Center

Josef Szende

Atlantic Avenue Business Improvement District

Justin K. Rodgers

Greater Jamaica Development Corporation

Kamillah Hanks

Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership

Leigh A. Eisen

Fashion Center Business Improvement District

Lisa Sorin

Westchester Square Business Improvement District

Michelle McClymont

Flatbush Nostrand Junction Business Improvement District

Peter Arndtsen

Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District

Rachel Thieme

Sunnyside Shines Business Improvement District

Renée Schoonbeek

Hudson Square Business Improvement District

Ryan Grew

MetroTech Business Improvement District

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2012 Program Graduates

Andrew Flamm

Renaissance Economic Development Corporation

Artineh Havan

Grand Street Business Improvement District

Dan Miner

Long Island City Partnership

Daniel Bernstein

Fordham Road Business Improvement District

Daniel Murphy

Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District

Daryl D. Garrett, Jr.

Hope Community, Inc.

Doug Jones

Bed-Stuy Gateway Business Improvement District

Garrett J. Lucien

South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation

James D. Ellis

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

Kenneth Mbonu

Bridge Street Development Corporation

Loretta Cauldwell

Forest Avenue Business Improvement District

Medina Sadiq

Southern Boulevard Business Improvement District

Melissa Hodge-Miller

Jamaica Center Business Improvement District

Meredith Phillips Almeida

Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership

Michael Lambert

Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Naomi Hersson-Ringskog

No Longer Empty

Rebeca Ramirez

Heart of Brooklyn

Seth Taylor

82nd Street Partnership

Wellington Z. Chen

Chinatown Partnership

William Kelley

Village Alliance

Neighborhood Leadership Program

2011 Program Graduates

Angelina M. Ramirez

Washington Heights Business Improvement District

Bob Zuckerman

Lower East Side Partnership

Dale Charles

Pratt Area Community Council

Elizabeth Demetriou

Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation

Ira Jones-Cimini

Abyssinian Development Corporation

Kerry A. McLean

Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation

Kevin Alexander

Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation

Kevin Kong

Renaissance Economic Development Corporation

Kevin Tolan

Fulton Mall Improvement Association

LaQuita Henry

Heritage Heights Village Commercial Revitalization Initiative

Laurel Brown

Nostrand Park

Lauren Danziger

Greenwich Village Chelsea Chamber of Commerce

Lauren Elvers Collins

Church Avenue Business Improvement District

Lisa Thompson

Bed-Stuy Gateway Business Improvement District

M. Blaise Backer

Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership

Michele Sledge

Northfield Community Local Development Corporation

Phillip Kellogg

Fulton Area Business Alliance Business Improvement District

Ralph Memoli

Lincoln Square Business Improvement District

Ricardi Calixte

Queens Economic Development Corporation

Simone Louise Price

Sutphin Boulevard Business Improvement District