



Annual Report

Association for a Better New York

2015

abny

2015'S POWER BREAKFAST SERIES FEATURED SOME OF NEW YORK'S MOST PROMINENT FIGURES AS WE WELCOMED THE MAYOR, THE GOVERNOR, AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, AMONG MANY OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS. BELOW IS THE COMPLETE LIST OF ABNY'S 2015 EVENTS:

Andrew M. Cuomo

New York State Governor
January 20, 2015 | Grand Hyatt New York

Governor Cuomo presented his transportation and infrastructure plan for downstate New York as part of his 2015 Opportunity Agenda series.



Carmen Fariña

New York City Department of Education Chancellor
January 22, 2015 | Sheraton New York

Chancellor Fariña discussed her personal experiences within the New York City education system as both a teacher and administrator, and laid out several bold new proposals for the Education Department, including overhauling the New York school support system.



Scott Stringer

New York City Comptroller
January 26, 2015 | Westin Grand Central

Comptroller Stringer highlighted the accomplishments of his first year in office, and announced first-of-its-kind partnership with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) designed to leverage the Comptroller's ClaimStat initiative to reduce claims against the NYPD.



Bill de Blasio

New York City Mayor
March 5, 2015 | The Pierre

Mayor de Blasio presented his vision for opportunity, innovation and economic development for NYC, announced a \$150 million revitalization of the Hunt's Point Market, and discussed his plan to further increase pre-kindergarten seats and his commitment to the creation of thousands of jobs at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.





His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan

April 13, 2015 | The Mandarin Oriental

Members of the business community heard the Cardinal present his vision for the Archdiocese, in which he addressed consolidating parishes, gave an update on Catholic schools, and announced the positive progress surrounding the repair and revitalization of St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Andrew M. Cuomo

New York State Governor

April 24, 2015 | Grand Hyatt New York

Governor Cuomo delivered a presentation that reviewed the significant reforms made for the 2015-2016 New York State budget and announced the MTA's winning a \$1 billion federal loan for train safety.



Joseph Crowley

United States Congress Member

May 6, 2015 | Westin Grand Central

Representative Crowley spoke about his Building Better Savings, Building Brighter Futures report and raised awareness to those serious financial issues on the minds of working American families, including savings plans and retirement security.



Scott Rechler

Chairman and CEO of RXR Realty and the Vice-Chairman of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

May 12, 2015 | Hilton Hotel

Mr. Rechler delivered his "Regional Perspective" presentation, which discussed issues such as the New York real estate market and important infrastructure issues.



Eric L. Adams

Brooklyn Borough President

June 5, 2015 | Marriot Marquis

Borough President Adams shared his views on how to better protect NYC – from safe spaces for the city's youth to better communication between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Joe Biden and Andrew M. Cuomo

Vice President of the U.S. and New York State Governor
July 27, 2015 | Sheraton New York

Together, Governor Cuomo and Vice President Biden delivered a groundbreaking presentation that announced the master plan behind the re-design of LaGuardia Airport.



Carl Heastie

New York State Assembly Speaker
September 17, 2015 | 583 Park Avenue

Speaker Heastie addressed current priorities of the Assembly, one of which being putting families first, which included higher minimum wages, affordable housing, and improving transportation and infrastructure.



William J. Bratton

Commissioner of the NYPD
September 22, 2015 | Grand Hyatt New York

Commissioner Bratton delivered a presentation containing facts and figures on the state of crime and quality of life issues in New York City, as well as the NYPD's Plan of Action to further reduce crime city-wide.



Carolyn Maloney

United States Congress Member
November 12, 2015 | Intercontinental

United States Representative Carolyn Maloney updated the audience on her New York City-focused priorities in Washington, D.C., including advocating for full funding for Phase II of the Second Avenue Subway, as well as full renewal of the 9/11 Zadroga Act.



Bill de Blasio

New York City Mayor
December 17, 2015 | Grand Hyatt New York
Mayor de Blasio discussed the critical issues facing New York City.



2015 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MEETINGS:

ABNY'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK CONTINUED TO GROW STEADILY IN 2015, AND TODAY INCLUDES 1,500 MEMBERS. BELOW IS A LISTING OF THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MEETINGS ABNY HOSTED IN 2015.

- ***Young Professionals Presents: "What's Up Downtown?"***
featuring a Discussion and Reception with ABNY, the Alliance for Downtown New York, and WeWork
 - July 29, 2015 | WeWork
- ***Young Professionals Presents: "What's Up in LIC?"***
featuring a Discussion and Reception with the Coalition for Queens (C4Q)
 - September 24th 2015 | Cityview Racquet Club
- ***Young Professionals Presents: "The Future of Downtown Brooklyn's Innovation Economy"***
featuring a Discussion and Reception with ABNY, the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, Forest City Ratner Companies, and Makerbot
 - November 12th 2015 | Tough Mudder HQ
- ***Young Professionals Presents: "Resurgence: The Port's Investment at the World Trade Center Pays Off and Lower Manhattan Emerges as an Engine of Job Growth"***
featuring a Discussion and Tour with the Alliance for Downtown New York, NYU, and Silverstein Properties
 - December 4th 2015 | 7 World Trade Center

2015 OTHER ACTIVITIES:

ABNY ENGAGED IN A HOST OF OTHER ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS WELL. HERE IS A SAMPLING OF WHAT WE'VE RELEASED AND ANNOUNCED IN 2015:

- **Transition 2015:**

ABNY welcomed Amanda Papir and Angela Pinsky to the team, and bid Jen Hensley farewell after five years of outstanding service at the helm of the organization.

- **ABNY Research:**

ABNY, along with the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy at New York University and RBC Capital Markets, released a report entitled *The Role of Design-Build Procurement* in June 2015. The study examined the benefits of using design-build procurement practices in city and state agencies throughout New York, and recommended that increased use of design-build should be authorized in an effort to invest more efficiently in our public capital projects.

- **ABNY Tours:**

ABNY hosted an exclusive tour of the new PATH Station at the World Trade Center led by the architect Santiago Calatrava himself, courtesy of ABNY Member Rubenstein Communications.

2015 ADVOCACY TOPICS:

AT ABNY, WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN ADVOCATES FOR MAKING NEW YORK CITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT. WE'VE ALSO ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE INTERESTS OF OUR BROAD AND DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP WHETHER THROUGH TESTIMONY, LETTER WRITING OR PRESS RELEASES. IF THERE ARE ISSUES THAT YOU ARE MANAGING WHERE ABNY'S SUPPORT COULD BE HELPFUL, PLEASE LET US KNOW. BELOW PLEASE FIND A SAMPLING OF ABNY'S ADVOCACY WORK IN 2015:

- ***Film & Television Production Testimony***
on January 21, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Jen Hensley submitted testimony before the New York City Council to express ABNY's support of the film and television production industry within New York City.
- ***One Vanderbilt Testimony***
on February 4, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Jen Hensley submitted testimony before the New York City Planning Commission to express ABNY's support of the One Vanderbilt project proposed by SL Green.
- ***South Street Seaport Testimony***
on February 5, 2015, ABNY Program Director Eftihia Thomopoulos submitted testimony before the Manhattan Community Board 1 Landmarks/Seaport Committee to express ABNY's support of the Howard Hughes Corporation's Landmarks Preservation Commission application as part of its larger plan for redeveloping the Seaport.
- ***1271 Avenue of the Americas Testimony***
on February 10, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Jen Hensley submitted testimony before the Landmarks Preservation Commission to express ABNY's support of 1271 Avenue of the America's application to rehabilitate its lobby.
- ***Bus Rapid Transit Testimony***
on February 10, 2015, ABNY Program Director Eftihia Thomopoulos submitted testimony before the New York City Council to express ABNY's support of the implementation of Bus Rapid Transit throughout the five boroughs.

- ***Perimeter Letter of Support***
on March 17, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Jen Hensley sent a letter to Patrick Foye, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to express ABNY's support of the relaxation of the 1,500 perimeter rule currently in place at LaGuardia Airport.

- ***One Vanderbilt Testimony***
on April 13, 2015, ABNY Program Director Eftihia Thomopoulos submitted testimony before the New York City Council to express ABNY's support of the One Vanderbilt project proposed by SL Green.

- ***Restoring Fair Skies Letter of Support***
on May 14, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Jen Hensley sent letters to Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State, and Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, urging them to open a dialogue with certain international airlines to ensure an equal playing field for all airlines flying into and out of New York-based airports.

- ***10-Year Capital Plan Testimony***
on May 18, 2015, ABNY Program Director Eftihia Thomopoulos submitted testimony before the New York City Council Finance Committee to urge the Council to consider the importance of investing in infrastructure as part of this plan.

- ***TLC FHV Dispatch Rules Testimony***
on May 28, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Jen Hensley submitted testimony before the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission proposing amendments to proposed for-hire-vehicle dispatch rules.

- ***Coalition for Queens Letter of Support***
on July 1, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Jen Hensley sent a letter to Eichakeem McClary, Deputy Director of the Workforce Development Corporation, to express ABNY's support of the Coalition for Queens' application for the NYC Mobile Dev Corps program.

- ***Perimeter Letter of Support***
on July 6, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Jen Hensley sent a letter to John Degnan, Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to express ABNY's support of the relaxation of the 1,500 perimeter rule currently in place at LaGuardia Airport.

- ***Brooklyn Bridge Park Testimony***
on July 30, 2015, ABNY Communications and Events Director Amanda Papir submitted testimony before the Empire State Development Corporation to express ABNY's support of the modifications proposed for Pier 6 in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

- ***Coalition for Queens Letter of Support***
on July 31, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Jen Hensley sent a letter to Wendy Guilles, the President and CEO of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to express ABNY's support of the Coalition for Queens' grant proposal to the Kauffman Foundation.

- ***South Street Seaport Testimony***
on August 4, 2015, ABNY Communications and Events Director Amanda Papir submitted testimony before the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to express ABNY's support of the Howard Hughes Corporation's Landmarks Preservation Commission application as part of its larger plan for redeveloping the Seaport.

- ***New York City Workforce Development Board Nominations***
on September 15, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Angela Pinsky sent a letter to Chris Neale, Director of the New York City Workforce Development Board nominating a set of individuals to the New York City Workforce Development Board.

- ***Water Street Streetscape Project Letter of Support***
on September 16, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Angela Pinsky sent a letter to Joseph Chan, Chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, to express ABNY's support of the Water Street Streetscape Project and further investment in Water Street more generally.

- ***Time Warner Cable, Charter Communications and Advance/Newhouse Partnership Merger Letter of Support***
on September 21, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Angela Pinsky sent a letter to Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, to express ABNY's support of the proposed merger amongst Time Warner Cable, Charter Communications, and Advance/Newhouse Partnership.

- ***Coalition for Queens Letter of Support***
on November 24, 2015, ABNY Executive Director Angela Pinsky sent a letter to Howard Zensky, President and CEO of Empire State Development Corporation, to express ABNY's support of the Coalition for Queens' grant proposal for the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership's Regional Technological Development Center competition.

- ***Zoning for Quality Affordability and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Testimony***
on December 16, 2015, ABNY submitted testimony before the New York City Department of City Planning to express ABNY's support of Mayor de Blasio's affordable housing plan.

ABNY & SPIRIT OF FOUNDATION ABNY

2015
Spirit
of ABNY
awards

THE ABNY FOUNDATION'S NINTH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF ABNY AWARDS HONORED OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OFFICIALS, PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVOCATES THAT HAVE HAD MEANINGFUL IMPACT IN PRESERVING AND ENHANCING OUR CITY'S GREEN SPACES:



- **Community Parks Initiative**
(accepted by NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Commissioner Mitchell Silver)
- **Natural Areas Conservancy**
- **AT&T Wi-Fi in the Parks**
- **Seaglass at the Battery**
- **Friends of the Queensway**
- **Steven Spinola**
Real Estate Board of New York (recipient of the
Lew Rudin Founder's Award)

Together we raised more than \$300,000 and part of the proceeds were allocated to the City Parks Foundation.

The ABNY Foundation is one of the most important tools we have to support the organizations and programs that are working to make New York a better place. We thank you for your ongoing support and dedication.

*For membership information or to learn how
you can get involved, please e-mail us at
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