



ANNUAL REPORT
2012

December 11, 2012

Dear ABNY Members,

2012 has been one of the busiest years in ABNY's history and has added to over 41 years of advocacy on behalf of New York City. While continuing our longstanding practice of civic engagement of New York City's business community, public-private partnerships, and issue advocacy, we are also building new traditions. Our Young Professionals network took off this year, along with significant membership growth and a busy season of receptions and gatherings. We have also testified and advocated on behalf of our members with greater frequency, supporting crucial development projects currently underway in New York City, such as the new Cornell NYC Tech campus on Roosevelt Island, the renovation of Pier 17 at the South Street Seaport, and the Hudson Yards Rezoning, among many others.

In the past year, ABNY has brought you 14 amazing events in our "Power Breakfast" series. Our speakers tackled issues ranging from transportation to climate change, and from the growth of the tech sector to economic development projects.

We also hosted several Young Professionals events, where the future crop of New York City leaders gathered to view new spaces, broaden their professional horizons, and hear guest speakers discuss a wide array of topical civic issues. This included a reception in January with Deputy Mayor Caswell Holloway, a tour of the future Moynihan Station with Moynihan Station Development Corporation President Timothy Gilchrist, and a cocktail party at Google.

We were there to support our members and their projects through countless testimonials and letters of support this year more than ever before. We expressed our support for the construction of a Cornell NYC Tech campus on Roosevelt Island, the redevelopment of Willets Point, the revitalization of Hudson Square, the Governor's ConnectNY program to assist with broadband internet dissemination, and much more.

Finally, the ABNY Foundation had another successful year. Our 2012 Spirit of ABNY Awards focused on New York City's emerging technology sector and recognized public sector officials, innovators, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists who have taken the helm in creating a place for New York City on the national stage for technology. Looking forward, the ABNY Foundation will be supporting public infrastructure and, in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the role infrastructure plays in protecting our city from extreme weather and other consequences of climate change.

As we look back from our beginning in 1971 to the present day, we are grateful for the leadership and vision of our founders, who were so critical to New York's resurgence after the fiscal crisis of the 1970s. From them, we draw our resilience and dedication to ensuring New York's bright future. With a growing roster of New York's top businesses as our members, and a renewed focus on advocacy and action, ABNY remains New York's greatest champion, and an integral part of the civic fabric of our city. There's

never been a better time to be an ABNY member and we thank you for your continued support.

In the following pages, we will go into further detail on our activities during 2012 and give a preview of what is to come in 2013. We look forward to another year of continued success on behalf of New York City!



Yours for a Better New York,

Bill Rudin, Chairman

Jen Hensley, Executive Director

Jordan Isenstadt, Deputy Director

Eftihia Thomopoulos, Manager of Membership & Special Events

2012 Power Breakfasts:



United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

January 13, 2012 | Hilton New York

Senator Gillibrand gave an update on Congress, discussed New York's economic recovery, and praised the city's efforts to become a "top destination" for tech companies.



Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye

January 31, 2012 | The Roosevelt Hotel

Executive Director Foye discussed the Port Authority's transportation priorities, including the completion of One World Trade Center and the maintenance and repair of the city's bridges and airports.



US Congressman & House Majority Leader Eric Cantor

February 13, 2012 | Sheraton New York

Congressman Cantor spoke about national tax policy and economic development, as well as transportation funding—a critical issue for New York.



Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy

March 7, 2012 | Loews Regency Hotel

Governor Malloy declared Connecticut's commitment to working with New York and New Jersey to boost regional development in the tri-state area, and gave an update on Connecticut's efforts to close the achievement gap in education.



Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer

April 17, 2012 | Hilton New York

Borough President Stringer presented a plan to overhaul New York City's transportation system via the reintroduction of the suburban commuter tax, and emphasized the need for increased revenue in order to obtain a stronger transportation network.



New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott

May 17, 2012 | Sheraton New York

Chancellor Walcott discussed reforming the DOE Absent Teacher Reserve in order to provide New York City children with the most qualified and most dedicated crop of teachers possible.



New Tech City: The Future of New York's Tech Sector

June 5, 2012 | Chelsea Market

Guest panelists, moderated by the Center for an Urban Future's Jonathan Bowles, spoke about the ways in which New York City's tech sector has developed and the work that remains to be done.



New York City Deputy Mayor Robert K. Steel

June 21, 2012 | John Jay College

Deputy Mayor Steel announced BluePRint, a new business customer service initiative within the Mayor's office in order to streamline the cumbersome process businesses and developers undergo to get their projects approved.



NYCHA Chairman John Rhea

September 24, 2012 | Club 101

Chairman Rhea presented NYCHA's plans to implement mixed-use construction of housing and retail space in order to develop affordable housing units, while at the same time mitigating displacement of communities and reinvesting revenue back into local construction sites.



New York City Public Advocate Bill de Blasio

October 4, 2012 | Conrad Hotel

Public Advocate de Blasio discussed his ideas on early childhood and middle school education initiatives as part of an effort to invest in a more successful middle class.



Election Day: What Does it Mean for New York City?

November 7, 2012 | Sheraton NY

Guest panelists, moderated by NYU Professor Mitchell Moss, discussed the fallout of the 2012 general elections. Topics included obtaining funding after Hurricane Sandy and reforming the Republican Party.



New York City Council Speaker Chrisine Quinn

November 13, 2012 | Grand Hyatt NY

Speaker Quinn addressed the need to tackle the realities of climate change in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, and urged New Yorkers to agree on plans to strengthen our city's building and energy infrastructure.



AT&T Chairman & CEO Randall Stephenson

November 15, 2012 | The Penn Club of New York City

Chairman Stephenson discussed AT&T's growing role as a national and global player in communications and technology, and the company's efforts to increase and improve wireless access in buildings around the country.



Chelsea Clinton

December 10, 2012 | 7 World Trade Center

Chelsea Clinton was joined by panelists from City Year New York, Share our Strength, and the Clinton Global Health Initiative to discuss childhood hunger and obesity in New York City, as well as ways to prevent the problem from growing.

New Tech City

This spring, ABNY and AT&T partnered with the Center for an Urban Future to produce *New Tech City*, a study which aimed to illustrate how New York City's technology sector has emerged as an increasingly powerful economic driver for the city. Through interviews with technology investors, founders and CEOs of major tech companies, and public officials in support of these initiatives, the report concluded that the tech sector in New York City is growing faster than anywhere else in America and that the city now trails only Silicon Valley as a hub for development of new technology companies.

New Tech City discussed the ways in which New York City is well suited to where technology is going, and why New York can now have a prominent place where one didn't exist previously.

As noted in the report, "Maybe Silicon Valley will continue to build the next chip sets, hardware, and certain types of apps, but the expertise we have in New York is well suited to the next generation of tech companies." This "next generation" includes companies in financial tech, health tech, digital media, social networking, education tech, e-commerce, and advertising tech—areas New York City's economy is already geared towards. Indeed, many of the most recognizable tech brands today were conceived and developed here in New York. Among them are tumblr, foursquare, Etsy, Gilt Groupe, and ZocDoc.

By harnessing both human and financial capital, incubators and co-working spaces, raw talent, and community support, New York's tech leaders have brought our city to the forefront of technology development and innovation. Hundreds of tech startups have sprouted throughout the five boroughs in the past year, angel investors are choosing to invest in New York over other major tech hubs in the country, and company expansion has resulted in job creation and more economic opportunity for the city.



However, the report also cautioned that work still needs to be done to maintain and grow New York's tech sector. A lack of skilled engineers, the high cost of living, the limited availability of adequate commercial office space, and the spotty broadband service found in certain parts of downtown Manhattan and Brooklyn are all areas the city needs to collectively address before its tech sector can grow further.

Reception of *New Tech City* was very positive. In May, ABNY participated in Internet Week along with the Center for an Urban Future to showcase the report, and in June we hosted a breakfast panel with leaders from AT&T, the NYC Economic Development Corporation, and venture capital firms in order to share their own experiences in the tech sector and bring the study's findings to life. Both events drew impressive crowds and press coverage.

2012 Young Professionals Meetings:

After its launch in June 2011, ABNY's Young Professionals program really took off in 2012. Our Young Professionals network has grown to nearly 900 members, and we have had a chance to introduce the ABNY brand to New York's next generation of leaders through unique events at Google headquarters, Moynihan Station, the 7 Line Extension construction site, and other landmark event spaces around the city. Our speakers have addressed our Young Professionals on a wide range of topics, including technology, energy, civic engagement, transportation, labor, and more. Below is a listing of all Young Professionals meetings ABNY hosted in 2012.

- **Young Professionals Cocktail Reception with Deputy Mayor Cas Holloway**
 - January 23rd 2012 | The Flatiron Lounge
- **Senior Advisor & Director of the Office of Energy Policy Sergej Mahnovsky**
 - February 27th 2012 | Con Edison
- **Former President of SEIU 32 BJ Michael Fishman**
 - March 21st 2012 | SEIU 32BJ
- **Young Professionals Cocktail Reception with NYC Chief Digital Officer Rachel Sterne**
 - April 17th 2012 | Google Headquarters
- ***New Tech City* Presentation with Jonathan Bowles from Center for an Urban Future**
 - May 17th 2012 | New Work City
- **Site Visit of the MTA's 7 Line Extension**
 - June 21st 2012 | 7 Line Extension Construction Site
- **Young Professionals Cocktail Reception with City Councilwoman Jessica Lappin**
 - July 16th, 2012 | 230 5th Avenue Rooftop Bar
- **Bernstein Global Wealth Management Director Kathy Fisher**
 - July 23rd, 2012 | Bernstein Global Wealth Management
- **9/11 Memorial & Museum Tour**
 - August 1st 2012 | World Trade Center
- **Site Visit of the Future Moynihan Station**
 - October 16th 2012 | James A. Farley Post Office Building
- **State Senator Daniel Squadron**
 - October 30th 2012 | US Custom House*

*This event was canceled due to Hurricane Sandy

ABNY Foundation & Spirit of ABNY:

The ABNY Foundation's sixth annual Spirit of ABNY Awards honored outstanding public officials, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and advocates working to support New York City's growing technology sector and drew a record crowd to the Union Square Ballroom. Mayor Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn were on hand to help present the awards to honorees including:

- New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Robert K. Steel
- Co-Founder of NY Tech Meet-Up Dawn Barber
- Cornell University Provost W.Kent Fuchs, on behalf of Cornell NYC Tech
- foursquare CEO Dennis Crowley
- ideeli CEO Paul Hurley
- Founder & Managing Director of Greycroft LLC Alan Patricof



the abny foundation

Together we raised more than \$300,000. The proceeds were allocated to technology projects and initiatives working to make New York City a strong and competitive tech hub in the country. They include:

- The NYC EDC Incubator Initiative
- The NYC Digital Project, in support of Internet Week 2012
- The Summer Scholars Program, within the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

We also made a substantial donation to the Center for an Urban Future in sponsorship of *New Tech City*, a report on New York City's emergent tech sector growth.

After Hurricane Sandy hit New York City, the ABNY Foundation made significant contributions to The Mayor's Fund, the Empire State Relief Fund, and other nonprofits to support recovery efforts.

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.

Advocacy:

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 2012:

- **VoIP Support Letter** – On February 22 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to Governor Cuomo in support of the Voice over Internet Protocol project (VoIP) and urged the Governor to invest in more projects like VoIP in order to make New York more attractive to the telecommunications industry.
- **Spectra Energy Support Letter** – On April 3 2012, ABNY Chairman William Rudin sent a letter to the Hudson River Park Trust in support of the Spectra Energy New York-New Jersey request for an easement in the Hudson River Park.
- **NBC Universal Support Letter** – On April 19 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to the United States Courthouse in New York in support of legislation that protects the intellectual property media companies and content providers own and distribute.
- **Barclay Center Support Letter** – on June 11 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to the State Liquor Authority in support of awarding the Barclay Center a full liquor license.
- **NYU 2031 Core Expansion Testimony** – on June 29 2012, ABNY Chairman William Rudin submitted testimony to the City Planning Commission to express ABNY's support of New York University's campus expansion plans in Greenwich Village
- **Trust for Public Land/Friends of the QueensWay Support Letter** – on July 10 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent letters to American Express and CUNY in support of turning the abandoned LIRR Rockaway Beach Branch into a new public park.
- **Chelsea Market Expansion Testimony** – on July 24, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley testified before the City Planning Commission to affirm ABNY's support for the Chelsea Market expansion plan spearheaded by Jamestown Properties.
- **Public Education Reform Testimony** – On July 26 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley testified before the State Education Commission in support of New York State public education reform and an increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in our schools.
- **Harlem School of the Arts Support Letter** – on August 1 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to the City Planning Commission in order to preserve the HAS's development rights in the West Harlem rezoning project.

- **Willets Point Testimony** – on September 27 2012, ABNY Chairman William Rudin submitted testimony to the New York City Economic Development Corporation in order to express ABNY’s support of the Willets Point Redevelopment Plan.
- **South Street Seaport Revitalization Testimony** – on October 4 2012, ABNY Deputy Director Jordan Isenstadt testified before Community Board 1 to express ABNY’s support for the Pier 17 revitalization project at the South Street Seaport.
 - **ABNY also testified several other times throughout the year before CB1, the City Planning Commission, the New York City Council Lower Manhattan Redevelopment & Waterfront Communities, and the Landmarks Preservation Commission to support all aspects of the Pier 17 redevelopment effort.
- **Google Support Letter** – on October 9 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to the Federal Trade Commission in support of an accommodating federal regulatory framework in order for tech companies like Google to flourish and continue their innovation and job creation.
- **South Street Seaport Support Letter** – On October 23 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley wrote to Community Board 1 in support of new signage and wayfinding displays as part of the revitalization of Pier 17.
- **Chelsea Market Expansion Testimony** – on October 23 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley testified before the City Council to express ABNY’s support of the amendment to the Special West Chelsea District as proposed by Jamestown Properties.
- **Governor Cuomo’s ConnectNY Letter** – on October 29 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to the New York City Economic Development Corporation on behalf of Time Warner Cable and in support of Governor Cuomo’s ConnectNY program to assist with broadband dissemination in underserved areas around New York City.
- **EDC Restructuring Support Letter** – on November 26 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to New York City Council Member Karen Koslowitz in support of restructuring the NYCEDC.
- **Cornell NYC Tech Testimony** – On November 26 2012, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley testified before Community Board 8 in support of building a new Cornell NYC Tech campus on Roosevelt Island.
- **Hudson Square Rezoning Testimony** – on November 28 2012, ABNY Manager of Membership & Special Events Eftihia Thomopoulos testified before the City Planning Commission to express ABNY’s support for the Hudson Square rezoning plan.