



2019 Annual Report

Association for a Better New York

Power Breakfasts

In 2019 ABNY welcomed leaders from across New York City and New York State to discuss timely policy issues. Members and key stakeholders convened to hear from Governor Cuomo, Senator Schumer, Congressman Rose, executives from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and various leaders in the fields of higher education, economic development, and infrastructure.



January 7

Senator Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senate Democratic Leader

Senator Schumer took the ABNY stage to discuss the year ahead in Washington, the impact of the government shutdown, and the ways in which actions at the federal level impact New York.



January 31

2020 Census Quinipiac Poll & Discussion

ABNY hosted an informative discussion on the changes to the 2020 Census and the ways the City and the State are working to ensure an accurate count. Assemblymember Marcus Crespo, Council Members Carlina Rivera and Carlos Menchaca, Director of the Census for NYC, Julie Menin, and Head of the Population Division at the Department of City Planning (DCP), Joe Salvo, were featured.



February 7

NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Governor Cuomo spoke about the region's infrastructure challenges and the need for increased funding and changes to the way that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) operates.



March 4

Address on Infrastructure by Senator Charles E. Schumer

ABNY partnered with the Regional Plan Association (RPA) and the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management to host a breakfast meeting where Senator Schumer shared his vision for infrastructure and underscored the importance of the Gateway Program.



March 11

Deans of Engineering Panel

The deans leading the schools of engineering at three of the City's prestigious universities: Gilda Barbino, City College; Jelena Kovačević, New York University; and Mary Cunningham Boyce, Columbia University shared their experiences as the first female deans at their universities as well as their visions for the future of their respective institutions in a panel discussion moderated by Ben Fried, Google.



March 18

MTA Chief Development Officer Janno Lieber

The MTA's Janno Lieber spoke about rebuilding and expanding New York's transit system to make it faster, better, and more affordable.



April 4

NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

ABNY welcomed back Governor Cuomo, who provided an overview of the State budget and an explanation of congestion pricing.



April 18

Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Rick Cotton

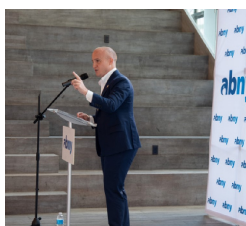
Executive Director of the Port Authority Rick Cotton took the ABNY stage to update members on the area's regional and international airports.



May 29

Post-Amazon Panel: What's Next for Economic Development in NYC?

ABNY convened a discussion on the future of employment and economic development opportunities in NYC with Jonathan Bowles, Center for an Urban Future; Purnima Kapur, formerly of DCP; Gail Mellow, LaGuardia Community College; Seth Pinsky, RXR Realty; and NYC Council Member Ritchie Torres.



June 6

Congressman Max Rose

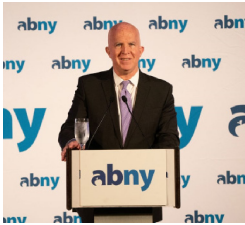
Congressman Rose joined ABNY for the first time to discuss his vision and priorities for Staten Island and the rest of New York City.



July 9

End of Legislative Session Recap

ABNY gathered policy experts to break down the impact of the 2019 legislative session on NYC. Topics and speakers were: climate change with Miles Farmer, NRDC; micro-mobility with Assemblymember Nily Rozic; prevailing wage with Zachary Steinberg, REBNY; sports betting with Katharine Neer, Greenberg Traurig; drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants with Steve Choi, New York Immigration Coalition; and decriminalization of marijuana with Daliah Heller, Vital Strategies.



September 19

New York City Police Department Commissioner James P. O'Neill

Commissioner James P. O'Neill highlighted the challenges in sustaining the city's historic crime reductions amid an evolving political climate and examined public safety as a responsibility shared by everyone who lives and works in the nation's safest big city.



September 25

Charter Revision Proposals

ABNY examined the Charter Revision proposals put forth on the November ballot. Gail Benjamin, Chair of the NYC Charter Revision Commission and Carl Weisbrod, Charter Revision Commissioner and Senior Advisor of HR&A, led a discussion moderated by Jennifer Jones Austin, CEO of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies.



October 15

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Public Advocate Williams took the ABNY stage for the first time as Public Advocate. He shared his priorities for the City and his vision for how the Public Advocate's Office can help accomplish those goals for residents.



November 12

Assessing Storefront Vacancy in NYC

Sulin Carling, Senior Planner in Economic Development and Real Estate at DCP, presented on recent retail trends and storefront vacancies across the city in the context of shifting technology, economic forces, and consumer preferences.



November 22

The Met at 150

In partnership with The Metropolitan Museum of Art, ABNY hosted an event to celebrate the world renowned museum's 150th anniversary. President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Weiss addressed the museum's successes, its role as a global cultural institution, and its approach to navigating the challenges of evolving responsibilities in philanthropy. He then participated in a discussion with Errol Louis, NY1 Political Anchor.



December 18

The Geography of Jobs

Carolyn Grossman Meagher, Director of Regional Planning at DCP, presented the "Geography of Jobs" report analyzing regional growth constraints as the economy expands faster than the housing supply. A panel discussion followed with Jonathan Bowles, Center for an Urban Future; Laura Curran, Nassau County Executive; Rubén Díaz Jr., Bronx Borough President; Ingrid Gould Ellen, NYU; Jose Ortiz, Jr., NYC Employment and Training Coalition; and Seth Pinsky, RXR Realty.



Power Breakfast with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams on October 15, 2019.

Young Professionals Events

ABNY's Young Professionals Network continued to grow steadily in 2019, and today includes nearly 4,000 members. Below is a listing of the unique events and offerings ABNY hosted last year.



January 9

What's on Tap? with NYC Parks Department Commissioner Mitchell Silver

NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver discussed his personal and professional journey, his current position of overseeing nearly 30,000 acres of parkland, and his vision for New York.



January 22

ABNY Talks: Parks and Broadband

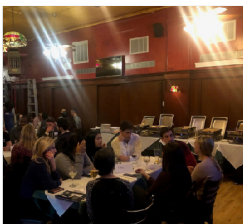
Adrian Benepe, Senior Vice President and Director of National Programs for the Trust for Public Land, and former commissioner of the NYC Parks Department, presented on public-private partnerships as a means to revive parks and communities in cities. Chris Levendos, Vice President of Network Engineering and Operations at Crown Castle, followed with a presentation on mobile broadband infrastructure.



February 6

ABNY University: Digital Campaigns

For this installment of the ABNY University series, Michael Aaron McKenna Miller, Senior Advisor at Assemble, political consultant, and digital marketing expert, outlined successful campaign strategies as applied to political and grassroots lobbying campaigns.



February 11

Dinner Dialogue on Amazon HQ2

ABNY hosted a lively discussion between Young Professionals (YPs) who debated the merits and drawbacks of the Amazon HQ2 deal in Long Island City. Group discussions were facilitated by experts Maria Doulis, Citizens Budget Commission; Purnima Kapur, formerly of the Department of City Planning (DCP); Regina Myer, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership; Sami Naim, Lyft; and Matthew Washington, Manhattan Deputy Borough President.



February 21

Boardroom Breakfast with Frances Bronet, President, Pratt Institute

The YPs joined Frances Bronet, President of Pratt Institute, at the Manhattan campus where she discussed her career, Pratt's mission and current initiatives, and her insight into civic engagement and leadership.



February 28

Boardroom Breakfast with Jeff Barker, New York State President, Bank of America

Jeff Barker, Metro Segment Executive and New York State President for Bank of America, shared his journey to his current role and provided the YPs with insight into life at Bank of America.



March 6

Boardroom Breakfast with David Van Zandt, President, The New School

YPs were invited to join David Van Zandt, President of the New School, to discuss the university's distinctive vision to use its 100-year legacy of "new" to respond to dramatic shifts in the education landscape.



March 19

What's on Tap? with NYC Planning Chair Marisa Lago

Director of DCP and Chair of the City Planning Commission Marisa Lago held a candid conversation on her career path and experience as the City Planning Commission Chair.



April 2

Boardroom Breakfast with Harry Macklowe, Chairman, Macklowe Properties

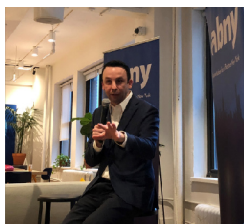
Real estate developer Harry Macklowe offered ABNY YPs the unique opportunity to view and to discuss his proposal for a new building which would be the tallest in Midtown Manhattan.



April 9

Policy Brief: The New York State Budget

Patrick Orecki of the Citizens Budget Commission provided an analysis of the New York State budget process and an update on the fiscal year 2020 budget.



April 24

What's on Tap? with City Council Member Keith Powers

Council Member Powers discussed his path to public service and his legislative vision for New York City and his district comprising the East Side and Midtown Manhattan.



April 27

ABNY Volunteers at Hudson River Park

In honor of Earth Day, YPs worked with Hudson River Park Friends Green Team to participate in gardening and maintenance projects. Volunteers engaged in a team-building activity to connect to the park and nearby communities.



May 8

Knock Down the House Viewing Party

YPs gathered to watch the Netflix documentary, *Knock Down the House*, featuring four women running for Congress in the 2018 elections. Viewers then participated in a lively discussion after the film.



May 13

Policy Brief: Rent Regulations

Jessica Yager, former Executive Director of NYU's Furman Center and current Vice President of Policy and Planning at Women In Need, led an informational discussion regarding State rent regulations and proposals to change current laws.



May 23

ABNY Volunteers at Generation Citizen Civics Day

Generation Citizen hosted "Civics Day" where students from public high schools citywide presented their action projects to YPs and other community leaders.



May 30

Dinner Dialogue on NYC Specialized High Schools

YPs participated in a guided debate on proposals to change the current NYC specialized high schools admissions policy. Small group discussions were facilitated by Micah Lasher, Sidewalk Labs; Jeanette Moy, Public Health Solutions; Gitte Peng, Queens Public Library; and Dennis Walcott, Queens Public Library.



June 13

What's on Tap? with Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr.

Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. spoke about his path into office, vision for the Bronx, and his plans for making that vision a reality.



June 22

Hudson River Park Games

YPs participated in the Hudson River Park Games, a day celebrating sports and supporting the park.



June 25

What's on Tap? with New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes

State Senator Andrew Gounardes joined YPs to discuss his journey to elected office and the significant legislation he worked to pass in 2019.



June 26

Boardroom Breakfast with Bradley Tusk, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Tusk Strategies

Bradley Tusk joined YPs to discuss his career path, approach to political change, and the evolving political landscape in New York City.



July 1

Policy Brief: 2019 Changes to Rent Regulations

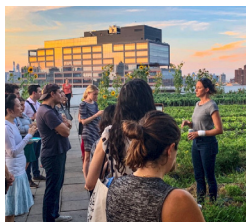
Moses Gates, Vice President for Housing and Neighborhood Planning at RPA and Angela Pinsky, Executive Director at ABNY, talked about the recent legislative changes to rent regulations and implications for New Yorkers.



August 7

Tour of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Museum and Gold Vault

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York invited YPs on an exclusive tour to learn more about the bank's roles and responsibilities in the public and private sectors and to catch a glimpse of the world's largest accumulation of gold.



August 12

Tour of Brooklyn Grange

The YPs toured the Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farm and spoke with Gwen Schantz, Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer, about the farm's development and how to promote sustainable living and local ecology through food, education, and events.



August 23

Tour of Governors Island

Governors Island's Vice President of Public Affairs, Sarah Krautheim, and Director of Operations Planning and Sustainability, Mollie McGinnis, led a tour of the one-time military base. They shared the island's history, from its transformation into one of NYC's top summer destinations to its plan to keep the island open year round.



September 9

What's On Tap? with NYC Department of Small Business Services Commissioner Gregg Bishop

NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) Commissioner Gregg Bishop discussed his experiences in government, the path to his current position, and some of SBS's ongoing initiatives.



September 12

Boardroom Breakfast with Alaina Gilligo, First Deputy Comptroller, Office of the NYC Comptroller

First Deputy Comptroller Alaina Gilligo provided an inside look at the Comptroller's office. She explained how the office safeguards the city's fiscal health, roots out waste, fraud, and abuse in local governments, and ensures that municipal agencies serve the needs of all New Yorkers.



September 26

Policy Brief: NYC Administration for Children's Services with Commissioner David A. Hansell

Commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), David A. Hansell, outlined the functions of ACS and the efforts to bring the child welfare system into the 21st Century.



October 4

Boardroom Breakfast with MaryAnne Gilmartin, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, L&L MAG

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of L&L MAG MaryAnne Gilmartin discussed her career path, her high-profile real estate projects, and her vision for NYC development.



October 16

Policy Brief: Ranked Choice Voting

In partnership with the NYC Campaign Finance Board, ABNY held a policy brief to explain Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Dr. Carlo Prato, assistant professor of Political Science at Columbia University, and Susan Lerner, Executive Director of Common Cause New York, helped the YPs better understand how RCV works.



October 17

Tour of Silvercup Studios with Chief Executive Officer Alan Suna

Silvercup Studios offered ABNY an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour with Chief Executive Officer Alan Suna. Mr. Suna led the ABNY Members and YPs through various soundstages and discussed the future of the film industry in NYC.



October 23

Tour of NYC Ferry, operated by Hornblower

YPs rode the NYC Ferry from Wall Street to Bay Ridge, with Anastasija Kuprijanova, Manager of Business Development at Hornblower. Ms. Kuprijanova talked about the features and amenities offered, as well as the management and launch of the NYC Ferry service.



October 28

What's on Tap? with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams discussed his path to office and how his personal experiences shaped his perspective on issues such as health, education, and public safety.



October 30

Tour of Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Marine Terminal

ABNY held an exclusive tour of the Port Authority's New Jersey Marine Terminal. Michael Bozza, General Manager of the New Jersey Marine Terminal, gave a "Port 101" explanation and guided tour of the facilities.



November 4

Info Session: The David Prize

Along with Tech:NYC and RPA, ABNY held a presentation to announce The David Prize, a monetary prize for five visionary New Yorkers working to create a better and brighter city. Executive Director for The David Prize, Erika Boll, explained the application process and criteria of the prize.



November 6

Panel Discussion: Sustainable Investing and Finance

Panelists explained Environmental, Social, and Governance investing and finance, institutions' goals on these key themes, and the current regulatory environment and its implications. Vicki Cerullo, Bloomberg LP, moderated the conversation with Michael Garland, Office of the New York City Comptroller; Mark Hays, J.P. Morgan Asset Management; and Valerie Smith, Citi.



YPs at Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farm on August 12, 2019.

Working Women's Network

Founded in 2016, the Working Women's Network serves to not only bolster civic engagement, but also to provide an opportunity for professional women to network, build relationships, and foster cross-industry discussions. The unique programming offered sparks thoughtful conversation, encourages positive discourse, and creates a venue to share personal experiences with the goal of guiding others.



May 15

Grace Rauh, Political Reporter, NY1 News

NY1's Grace Rauh gave insight into New York City politics. Through her lens as a journalist, she led a discussion on issues facing women in the workplace and in positions of leadership.



June 25

Kathy Hochul, NYS Lieutenant Governor

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul reflected on her experiences leading up to becoming Lieutenant Governor, the challenges of being a working and traveling mother, and balancing it all.



September 17

Dr. Sian Beilock, President, Barnard College

Barnard College President Sian Beilock discussed her critically acclaimed book, *Choke: What the Secrets of the Brain Reveal About Getting it Right When You Have To*. She showed attendees what happens to our brains when we experience performance anxiety and provided tips for how to combat it.

Census 2020 for A Better New York

In an effort to help New York City and New York State achieve the most accurate Census count possible, ABNY implemented a two-year strategic plan to ensure a fair and accurate Census count. To accomplish this, ABNY has worked with government and private partners to achieve the primary goals of maximizing the Census self-response rate, helping New Yorkers understand how to complete the form, and ensuring confidentiality and privacy protections under Title 13.

The ABNY Work Plan is based on the understanding that ABNY's role is to support and supplement Census efforts underway by the U.S. Census Bureau, the State of New York, and the City of New York, informed by the advocacy and organizing work of New York Counts 2020, and in coordination with all Census 2020 stakeholders.



Hunter College President Jennifer Raab at the New Yorkers Count: Jobs for New Yorkers in the 2020 Census event on December 12, 2019.



Steven Rubenstein, Melva Miller, Jennifer Jones Austin, Corey Johnson, and Steve Choi at the NYC Census Summit on November 21, 2019.

Census 2020 for A Better New York

Over the past year, ABNY convened organizations and individuals to learn about what is at stake in the 2020 Census and how to engage communities throughout New York City and New York State to ensure a fair and accurate count.



November 21

New York City Census Summit 2019

ABNY with New York Counts 2020 and in partnership with Labor Counts! hosted the NYC Census Summit 2019 which brought together nearly 400 leaders and organizers from community-based organizations, government, and the private sector, all working to get out the count.

NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson, NYC Census Director Julie Menin, Council Member Carlina Rivera of the Council's 2020 Census Task Force, and Assemblymember Robert J. Rodriguez joined Dr. Steven J. Corwin from NewYork-Presbyterian, Dennis Walcott from Queens Public Library, Sonum Nerurkar from The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Vinny Alvarez from the NYC Central Labor Council, and many more for a series of conversations about what is at stake for our communities.



December 9

2020 Census and Business

ABNY Executive Vice President Melva Miller presented a one-pager to help the borough Chambers of Commerce to engage their membership around the 2020 Census and outlined a series of actions businesses can take, including everything from posting on social media to designating Census Days to encourage participation. Attendees learned how businesses not only stand to benefit from a complete Census count, but in fact are crucial players in communicating the importance and opportunity of the Census to community members, their customers, and their associates.



December 12

New Yorkers Count: Jobs for New Yorkers in the 2020 Census

ABNY and the NYC Employment and Training Coalition co-hosted an event at Hunter College to highlight how City and business leaders can come together to raise awareness about the Census job application process, requirements, and training. Workforce development leaders who attended the program received additional information on positions available to job seekers in their communities and networks for the 2020 Census.

Census 2020 Organizing and Action Committee



Darren Walker

President, Ford Foundation, *Co-Chair*

Carl Weisbrod

Senior Advisor, HR&A Advisors, Inc.
Former Chairman, New York City Planning
Commission, *Co-Chair*

Steven Rubenstein

President, RUBENSTEIN, *Co-Chair*
ABNY Chairman

32BJ SEIU

Jennifer Jones Austin

CEO & Executive Director, Federation of Protestant
Welfare Agencies

Steve Choi

Executive Director, New York Immigration Coalition

Dr. Steven Corwin

President & CEO, NewYork-Presbyterian

Shaun Donovan

Former Director, U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Patrick Gaspard

President, Open Society Foundation
Former U.S. Ambassador

Alicia Glen

Former Deputy Mayor of Housing and Economic
Development, City of New York

Eric Goldstein

CEO, UJA-Federation of New York

Sharon Greenberger

President & CEO, YMCA of Greater New York

Hope Knight

President & CEO, Greater Jamaica
Development Corporation

Michael Mulgrew

President, United Federation of Teachers

Jennifer Raab

President, Hunter College

Bill Rudin

CEO, Rudin Management Company
REBNY Chairman

Jon Silvan

Founding Partner & CEO, Global Strategy Group

Lorie Slutsky

President, New York Community Trust

Monsignor Kevin Sullivan

CEO, Catholic Charities of the
Archdiocese of New York

Kathy Wylde

President & CEO, Partnership for NYC

Spirit of ABNY 2019

The ABNY Foundation welcomed hundreds of distinguished guests, ABNY members, and public officials on Monday, May 6 at its 13th annual Spirit of ABNY Awards cocktail reception at the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center. The ABNY Foundation honored the commitment of leaders and organizations who keep New Yorkers and the City moving forward through advocacy and civic leadership. The recipients of the Spirit of ABNY Awards and The Lew Rudin Founder's Award continue to demonstrate their commitment to New York City through their dedication to their professions and to their communities.

Honorees



LEW RUDIN FOUNDER'S AWARD

Congressman Jerry Nadler



The Honorable
Mayor David Dinkins



Melissa DeRosa
Secretary to the Governor



Héctor Figueroa
President, 32BJ SEIU



Central Synagogue
Accepted by Rabbi Angela Buchdahl

ABNY remembers fondly the life and legacy of
Héctor Figueroa (1962-2019).

Advocacy Topics



At ABNY we have always been advocates for making New York City a better place to live, work, and visit. Listed below is a sample of ABNY's advocacy work in 2019.

Development Projects

ABNY submitted testimony in support of the following projects to Community Boards, Borough Presidents, the City Council, the Board of Standards and Appeals, the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the City Planning Commission.

- **One Penn Plaza:** Proposed renovations and modernization of privately owned public spaces (POPS) and structural improvements to the commercial area near Penn Station.
- **12 Franklin Street:** Proposed mixed-use development bringing commercial and manufacturing space to the neighborhood and improvements to retail and pedestrian corridors across from the planned Bushwick Inlet Park.
- **60 Norfolk Street/Go Broome:** Proposed redevelopment and incorporation of the remains of the Beth Hamedrash Hagadol Synagogue into a new mixed-use development to serve as a cultural center for the Lower East Side.
- **250 11th Avenue, 550 West 27th Street & 549 West 26th Street:** Proposed mixed-use development for vacant lot and renovation of facades in West Chelsea Historic District.
- **503 Broadway:** Special permit application for Zara expanded retail space in SoHo.
- **550 Madison Avenue:** Proposed restoration and preservation of the facade and architectural characteristics and redesign of POPS in East Midtown.
- **760 Madison Avenue:** Proposed renovation and reconstruction to retain the flagship Giorgio Armani retail store and to add residential to the neighborhood.
- **1640 Flatbush Avenue:** Proposed mixed-use development, including permanently affordable residential units on site of former gas station in Midwood, Brooklyn.
- **Terminal Warehouse:** Proposed adaptive reuse of the storied building in the West Chelsea Historic District to allow for new commercial space.
- **Waldorf-Astoria:** Proposed redevelopment and refurbishment of the Waldorf-Astoria's rooftop.

BQX Light Rail

ABNY testified before the City Council in support of fixing current transportation infrastructure and expanding rail service through the development of the Brooklyn Queens Connector.

Commercial Waste Zones

ABNY testified before the Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Committee of the City Council in support of a commercial waste zone structure designed to reduce the number of truck trips and improve driver and worker conditions, while maintaining a reasonable amount of choice and competition to keep costs practical for haulers.

Food Delivery Economy

ABNY testified before the City Council Committee on Small Business to encourage economic development for all City workers and a measured approach to regulating an emerging industry.

Pursuit Application to Workforce Development Planning, 21st Century Jobs Request for Expressions of Interest

ABNY submitted a letter of support to the NYC Economic Development Corporation to back Pursuit as an ideal applicant for available microgrants.

T-Mobile/Sprint Merger


ABNY submitted a letter to the NYS Public Service Commission in support of the merger between the two telecommunications providers.

United Airlines Application to USDOT

ABNY submitted a letter of support to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao for United Airlines' application to expand service to Tokyo Haneda, Japan.

Coalition Participation

ABNY participated in working group meetings, press conferences, and public hearings as members of various groups including A Better Way to LGA, the Better Buses Advisory Group to the NYC Department of Transportation, and the Build Gateway Now Coalition.



**For membership information or to get involved,
please email us at info@abny.org.**

Steven Rubenstein
Chairman

CARROLL AND
MILTON PETRIE
EUROPEAN
Laura Colacurcio
Acting Executive Director

Melva Miller
Executive Vice President

Sarah Samuels
Communications and
Programs Manager

John Napisa
Special Events Coordinator

Madeline McCormack
Membership and Events Manager

Aliya Bhatia
Census 2020 Manager

Kristan Roehrs
Census 2020 Intern

**In fond memory of longtime ABNY Board Member and champion of New York City,
Jay Kriegel (1940-2019).**