



**ABNYTalks**  
**NYC's Growing Green Economy**  
**(Speaker Bios)**

**Vincent Alvarez**

Vincent Alvarez was elected as the NYCCLC's first full-time President and first Latino President in 2011, and was re-elected in 2015, 2019, and 2023. He had previously served as Assistant Legislative Director of the NYS AFL-CIO, spearheading various worker-related policy initiatives throughout the state. From 2007-2009, Vinny was Assistant to the Executive Director and then Chief of Staff of the NYCCLC.

A member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) since 1990, Vinny began his career with IBEW Local 3 in Flushing, New York, serving on numerous political campaigns, grassroots initiatives, and negotiating committees. During this time, he also coordinated hundreds of labor mobilization and campaign events on behalf of the NYCCLC's affiliates and was the lead organizer and Marshal of the NYC Labor Day Parade, the nation's oldest and largest worker parade.

Vinny is a Class C Director and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; a Vice President of the Consortium for Worker Education; a Principal Officer of Climate Jobs NY and a Director of the Climate Jobs National Resource Center. He serves on the Boards of the Association for a Better New York (ABNY); the New York Building Congress; the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust; the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition; the Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America; and the Catholic Labor Network. He is a member of the National AFL-CIO State Federation and Central Labor Council Advisory Board, as well as a member of the Advisory Board of the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies and Cornell University's Worker Institute Advisory Council.

Vinny is a graduate of the State University of New York at Oneonta, where he majored in business economics.

**Andrew Kimball**

Andrew Kimball is President & CEO of New York City Economic Development Corporation, where he leads NYCEDC's work growing an innovative and inclusive economy for all New Yorkers. Prior to his appointment in 2022, Andrew served as the CEO of Industry City, where he directed the transformation of the long-underutilized



industrial facility in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Under his leadership, Industry City invested over \$450 million in infrastructure and place-making initiatives, and grew thousands of jobs and hundreds of businesses, ranging from startups to Fortune 500 companies.

Andrew previously served as President and CEO of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, overseeing the transformation of the 300-acre former Naval ship-building facility into a national model for the creation of innovation-economy jobs, sustainability, and community partnerships.

Prior to his time at the Navy Yard, Andrew served as director of operations for NYC2012, the privately funded bid to bring the 2012 Olympic Games to New York City, and as vice president of the New York Public Library.

Up until his appointment to NYCEDC, Andrew sat on numerous boards, including the Coro New York Leadership Center, where he served as chair; Prospect Park Alliance; Gowanus Canal Conservancy; Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce; Citizens Budget Commission; and the NYS Regional Economic Development Council.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College and is a graduate of the Coro Public Affairs Fellowship program. A life-long New Yorker, Andrew lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn with his wife, Sarah Williams, and two children.

### **Clare Newman**

Clare Newman serves as Chief of Staff and Executive Vice President of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC). As Chief of Staff, Newman oversees the Planning, Development, External Affairs, Transportation and Design & Construction departments and works on strategic initiatives. Newman's focus has been on implementing projects that, together, will bring 10,000 jobs to the Yard by 2020, and on planning for future development. Newman previously worked at Bloomberg Philanthropies where she was a senior leader on the Government Innovation team. In that role she led the Mayors Challenge, an international competition to inspire and incentivize cities to generate innovative ideas to solve major urban challenges. Prior to joining Bloomberg Philanthropies, Newman was a Vice President at New York City Economic Development Corporation's Real Estate division. There she worked with government, not-for-profit, and private sector partners to lead development projects and other City initiatives. In her over five years at NYCEDC, Clare executed projects throughout the five boroughs, including the restoration of the Loews Kings Theatre in Flatbush, Brooklyn, the City's bike share program, and the Applied Sciences tech-campus initiative.



Newman received a Masters of Urban Planning from the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University and a B.A. with honors in Political Economy from Williams College. She is a member of the board of TransitCenter and a member of New York Women Executives in Real Estate.

### **Stephen Hammer**

Dr. Stephen Hammer was selected as the Founding CEO of The New York Climate Exchange in November of 2023. As CEO, Dr. Hammer will lead a first-of-its-kind collaborative model for accelerating climate change solutions for New York City and beyond.

As one of the world's leading experts on both local and global climate policy matters, Dr. Hammer brings more than thirty years of experience to this role. Prior to joining The Exchange, Dr. Hammer spent a decade at the World Bank where he served as Senior Policy Advisor on urban scale climate solutions and global climate policy and finance issues. He spearheaded much of the Bank's early work on urban climate resilience, the modeling of low carbon development, and capacity building, and supported the rollout of efforts to mainstream climate change into all facets of the Bank's lending operations. As a strategic advisor to senior management, he oversaw many of the Bank's key climate partnerships with the UNFCCC, the UN Secretary General's team, and the G20. Dr. Hammer regularly represented the Bank in international forums, most recently supporting the work of the UNFCCC's Transitional Committee charged with establishing the new global fund on Loss and Damage that was a key outcome at COP27.

Before joining the World Bank, Dr. Hammer was a professor at MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP), where he taught courses and conducted research on a variety of urban energy and climate policy topics including local energy policymaking, urban energy systems, distributed generation, and the impacts of climate change on local and regional energy networks. Prior to that, he taught climate courses in New York City at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and at the Pratt Institute.

Dr. Hammer co-founded and co-directed the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN), an international consortium of researchers interested in climate change from an urban perspective. He was also a member of the Energy Policy Task Force advising then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg on PlaNYC, the City's long-term growth and sustainability initiative. He is an Advisory Board Member for the American Geophysical



Union task force on Ethical Framework for Climate Interventions and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

Dr. Hammer holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, an MPP from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a B.S. in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning from the University of California at Davis. He is thrilled to return to New York, where he previously lived for over 25 years, to spearhead the vision of The Exchange.

### **Gbenga Dawodu**

Gbenga is the Chief Real Estate Officer and EVP for the Brooklyn Navy Yard. In this role, he is charged with oversight of the development, design & construction, leasing, planning & transportation and external affairs departments and provides strategic direction for the Yard's 300+ acres of real estate.

“As I am a believer that it takes a village, I am excited to join a tremendous team of people working to continuously transform this former naval campus into a standard bearer for public-private partnership and urban manufacturing job creation”.

Gbenga has over 20+ years of real estate development experience across various asset classes working in the private, not-for-profit and public sectors. Prior to joining the Brooklyn Navy Yard, he served as Senior Vice President in the Real Estate Transaction Services group at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), where he was responsible for providing strategic direction and project management on a portfolio of projects in furtherance of City objectives to create more affordable housing and jobs in technology, life science and manufacturing sectors of the City's economy.

Gbenga is a graduate of Wesleyan University and the London School of Economics & Political Science.