



2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

Association for a Better New York



A vertical blue-tinted image on the left side of the page. It shows a city skyline with several skyscrapers, including one with a prominent spire, reflected in water. In the foreground, there is a wooden park bench with metal armrests.

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**View recordings and photos from ABNY's 2024 convenings on our YouTube and Flickr pages:**





# ABNY CONVENINGS

## Power Breakfasts

This year, we hosted eight of our signature ABNY Power Breakfasts with key executives in government from City Hall, Albany and D.C. Each gathering provided an opportunity for our members to hear directly from elected officials about new plans and priority areas that aim to move New York forward.



**January 26**

### **Power Breakfast with Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries**

ABNY was proud to host Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries for its first Power Breakfast of 2024. To a packed room, Leader Jeffries discussed his current work in the House and leading his party's delegation on the country's key issues, from immigration policy to foreign aid to reproductive freedom.



**March 11**

### **Power Breakfast with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer**

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer shared valuable insights on the many pressing issues he's leading on in D.C. In addition to updates on the current tax bill, foreign aid negotiations, historic infrastructure funding for New York, among other current needs, Senator Schumer also discussed his leadership in Congress in responding to Artificial Intelligence and developing comprehensive federal regulation for the rapidly evolving industry.



# Power Breakfasts

CONTINUED



**March 28**

## **Deputy Mayor for Economic Development & Housing Maria Torres Springer**

Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer delivered significant announcements in addressing the housing crises. She shared insights on the Adams administration's latest housing initiatives, supporting the need for increased production and affordability.



**April 16**

## **Mayor Eric Adams**

Mayor Eric Adams took to the ABNY stage to deliver an exciting new announcement on the 62-story skyline-shaping office tower aimed at bolstering the resurgence of Midtown Manhattan to the ABNY network while providing the latest update on the city's economy and ongoing efforts to support working-class New Yorkers.



**May 9**

## **Governor Kathy Hochul**

Governor Kathy Hochul provided ABNY members with the latest updates on her work in strengthening New York's economy, including the innovative Empire AI consortium and other important investments that are part of the recently approved budget.

# Power Breakfasts

CONTINUED



**September 19**

## **Comptroller Brad Lander**

New York City Comptroller Brad Lander took to the ABNY stage where he updated the membership on his role in managing the city's \$100B+ budget, assets, and fiscal health.



**October 28**

## **First Deputy Mayor Maria Torres Springer**

First Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer shared her key priorities and projects that she is leading in her new and expanded role, including transformational new housing production and economic development investments in life sciences and the green economy, and continued improvements to city service delivery and quality of life for New Yorkers.



**November 19**

## **Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins**

New York Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the first woman to lead the Senate and its longest-serving Democratic Majority Leader, discussed key issues, accomplishments, and priorities for the upcoming legislative session.



# ABNY Talks & Chats

ABNY hosted **2** ABNY Talks and **1** ABNY Chats, offering panel discussions and intimate “fireside” chats between leaders and experts that offer insights on key issues of the day and views on the ideas that keep New York City moving forward.



**February 21**

## **ABNYChats: Unlocking New Housing in the Budget**

Senator Brian Kavanaugh and Rafael Cestero, President and CEO of the Community Preservation Corporation discussed on the current state of New York’s housing crisis and the various housing policies that will be a focus during the State’s current budget negotiations. Beyond incentivizing new housing production, the Senator spoke about the pressing policy needs that will help keep New Yorkers in their homes and how to maintain that affordability.



**February 29**

## **ABNYTalks: Unemployment, Underemployment, and Gainful Employment: Ensuring the Pathway Forward for Black New Yorkers**

This panel explored the factors contributing to heightened unemployment, underemployment, and the lack of sufficient employment opportunities that too many Black New Yorkers face. The discussion included insights on understanding these challenges and the systems that create and sustain them, and what opportunities exist to respond to those challenges within the city’s workforce, education and training infrastructure, and job placement services.



# ABNY Talks & Chats

CONTINUED



**October 23**

## **ABNY Talks: NYC's Growing Green Economy**

ABNY hosted a discussion among experts focused on New York City's vital role and ongoing resilience in the green economy. As a global hub for business and economic opportunity, these experts outlined the key factors necessary for effectively tackling climate change and achieving substantial progress toward sustainability.

## ABNY Member Exclusive Events

Our by-invitation ABNY Inside series offers opportunities for members of the ABNY Network and ABNY Steering Committee to engage in dialogue with leaders in the public sector on key issues, challenges, and policy decisions. From public safety to market regulation, this past year's guests offered smaller group conversations that kept both our members and decision makers informed.

**April 2** – Jimmy Oddo, Commissioner, NYC Department of Buildings

**May 15** – Janno Lieber, Chair & CEO, MTA

**May 21** – John Williams, President, Federal Reserve Bank of NY

**June 20** – Alvin Bragg, Manhattan District Attorney

**October 1** – Dan Goldman, U.S. Representative

# ABNY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

We hosted over 30 events for our network of nearly 4,000 ABNY Young Professionals (YPs). These convenings provided opportunities for YPs to network and connect with key civic leaders at our signature events, such as Boardroom Breakfasts, YP Tours, and the popular What's on Tap? series.

## Boardroom Breakfasts



**March 5**

**Petra Messick, Amtrak**

Petra Messick, Amtrak's Senior Program Director of The Gateway Program presented on the Gateway Program's regional implications for transit service, ongoing initiatives, employment, and climate resilience for the future.

The discussion was hosted by YP Steering Committee Member Tyce Herrman of Ulama.



**October 24**

**Carson Hicks, Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity**

ABNY Young Professionals gained valuable insights from Carson Hicks, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity, on poverty reduction and equity initiatives. Carson discussed the office's crucial work, including the annual poverty measure report, essential for NYC's poverty reduction efforts!

The discussion was hosted by Julia Casey of FPWA.

# Boardroom Breakfasts

CONTINUED



**September 24**

**Nse Esema, NYCEDC**

ABNY Young Professionals enjoyed a Boardroom Breakfast with Nse Esema, SVP of the Green Economy team at NYCEDC! Nse provided updates on NYC's green economy growth and EDC's plans in this sector, including the newly released Green Economy Strategic Plan.

The discussion was hosted by YP Steering Committee Member Alina Surriel of Con Edison.



# Policy Briefs



**January 25**

## **Molly Schaeffer, NYC Office of Asylum Seeker Operations (OASO)**

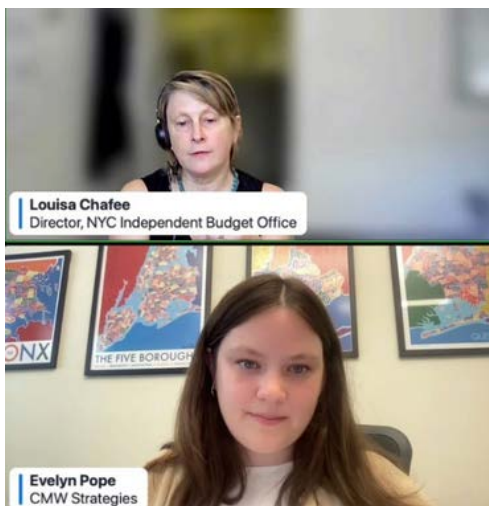
ABNY Young Professionals kicked off 2024 with a Policy Brief featuring OASO's Director Molly Schaeffer. The conversation provided a deeper understanding of the partnerships, inter-agency coordination, and logistical planning the City is leading to provide services to people who have newly arrived to the city from around the globe.



**April 5**

## **Ya-Ting Liu, NYC Chief Public Realm Officer**

Ya-Ting Liu, Chief Public Realm Officer, provided an insightful update on her inaugural year in this role, highlighting the various projects and initiatives she's spearheading across city government, community organizations, and the private sector to enhance public spaces citywide.



**June 20**

## **Louisa Chafee, NYC Independent Budget Office (IBO)**

Louisa Chafee, Director of NYC IBO, detailed NYC's budgeting process and shared insights into the vital role and responsibilities the Independent Budget Office plays in maintaining NYC's fiscal health and transparency.

# YP Tours



**February 21**

## **NYC Design Commission Archive**

ABNY Young Professionals had an enlightening tour of The Public Design Commission yesterday! Exploring projects dating back to 1902, spanning 7,000 sites across NYC. They uncovered the city's architectural heritage through original documents, drawings, and photographs housed in the Archive.



**April 30**

## **QueensWay**

ABNY Young Professionals embarked on an enlightening walking tour of the QueensWay, a transformative project converting an abandoned railway into a vibrant park and greenway. With key investments from Mayor Eric Adams and federal grants, the QueensWay promises to reconnect neighborhoods, enhance air quality, and support local businesses.



**May 14**

## **Welcome to Chinatown**

Leaders of the non-profit Welcome to Chinatown led YPs on a walking tour through the neighborhood, showcasing the small businesses their programs support and projects impacting the community, like the development of a new borough-based jail, that they are actively speaking on alongside community members.



# YP Tours

CONTINUED



**June 14**

## **Google, St. John's Terminal**

ABNY Young Professionals toured Google's new office at St. John's Terminal in Hudson Square. They explored the innovative workspace that hosts some of Google's 14,000 New York employees in the transformed former freight rail terminal along The High Line.



**June 14**

## **The Whitney**

ABNY Young Professionals enjoyed an amazing, guided after-hours exhibit tour of The Whitney Biennial 2024: Even Better Than The Real Thing! They explored the eighty-first edition of this longest-running survey of contemporary art in the U.S., featuring works from seventy-one artists and collectives.



**August 2**

## **LaGuardia Airport**

ABNY Young Professionals took an insightful guided tour by staff of the PANYNJ and Delta of LaGuardia Airport's award-winning Terminal B and the newly opened Terminal C! They explored the inspiring public art and sampled the iconic New York-based concessions.



# YP Tours

CONTINUED



**August 16**

## **Governors Island**

ABNY Young Professionals enjoyed a walking tour of Governor's Island! They explored the 172-acre island, which features an award-winning park, historic buildings, a vibrant arts and culture scene, and a 22-acre National Monument managed by the National Park Service.



**October 8**

## **New York Stem Cell Foundation**

ABNY YPs had a behind-the-scenes tour of the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF)'s automated robotics platform, which is revolutionizing stem cell production and its applications in biomedicine. They met with leading scientists and observed their cutting-edge research on a variety of degenerative diseases.

# What's On Tap?



**February 8**

## **Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President**

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. shared his accomplishments and initiatives since assuming office in 2021, shedding light on ongoing projects and priorities aimed at fostering prosperity and inclusivity in the World's Borough.

The conversation was led by YP Steering Committee member Alex Malescio of Urban Upbound.



**May 22**

## **Julie Samuels, President & CEO, Tech NYC**

Julie Samuels, Founder and CEO of Tech:NYC discussed how Tech:NYC fosters a dynamic, diverse, and creative tech ecosystem in NYC and shared insights on their efforts to support and grow the industry here amidst global competition.

The conversation was led by Chad Purkey, ABNY's Interim Executive Director.



**September 22**

## **Dan Garodnick, Director, NYC DCP**

The Chair and Director of the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) shared insights on his role at DCP, the City of Yes rezoning proposals aimed at improving climate resilience, economic opportunity, and housing production, along with career advice for the gathered Young Professionals.

The conversation was led by YP Steering Committee member Maura Avington of Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies.



# What's On Tap?

CONTINUED



**November 19**

## **Vanessa Gibson, Bronx Borough President**

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson shared her accomplishments and initiatives since assuming office in 2021, discussing the current projects and priorities she's currently focused on across the borough.

The conversation was led by YP Steering Committee member Chris Durosinmi of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

# YP Volunteers

ABNY Young Professionals also had the chance to give back to New York City by volunteering with non-profits across the city.



**January 19**

## **Rethink Food**

ABNY Young Professionals showcased their community spirit as they dedicated their time last week to volunteer with Rethink Food. They played a crucial role in supporting Rethink Food's mission of reducing food waste and providing nutritious meals to those in need.



**June 22**

## **Brooklyn Book Bodega**

ABNY Young Professionals had a fantastic time volunteering with Brooklyn Book Bodega, supporting their goal to provide 150,000 books to 30,000 readers this year.



**September 22**

## **Prospect Park**

ABNY Young Professionals volunteered with Prospect Park Alliance to celebrate National Public Lands Day.



**November 3**

## **NYC Marathon**

ABNY YPs had a fantastic time volunteering at the fluid station with New York Road Runners, cheering on the incredible participants.



# YP Associates Events



**August 27**

## **YP Associates Recruitment Event, featuring NYPL President Tony Marx**

ABNY Young Professionals hosted its annual Summer Meet Up, where YPs had the chance to learn about the ABNY YP Associates membership program and connect with fellow young professionals.



**August 2**

## **YP Associates Holiday Toast**

ABNY Young Professionals took an insightful guided tour of LaGuardia Airport's award-winning Terminal B and the newly opened Terminal C! They explored the inspiring public art and sampled the iconic New York-based concessions.

Generously supported by Con Edison.

# ABNY WOMEN

We hosted events for our ABNY Women network of professionals to connect, build relationships, and hear from influential leaders.



**March 26**

## **ABNY Women Women's History Month Cocktail Reception**

ABNY Women hosted its annual spring cocktail reception celebrating Women's History month with special guest, restaurateur, Melba Wilson.



**August 7**

## **ABNY Women Summer Social**

At the annual ABNY Women Summer Social attendees engaged in conversation with fellow members and new friends with remarks from Crystal Hudson, NYC Council Member, and Lindsay Greene, President & CEO of Brooklyn Navy Yard.



**December 3**

## **ABNY Women Leaders Luncheon**

ABNY hosted its first-ever Women Leaders Luncheon, featuring Jolie Hunt, CEO of Hunt & Gather. Jolie shared her incredible journey, offering valuable insights on leadership, innovation, and building meaningful connections.



# ABNY FOUNDATION

The ABNY Foundation was created in 1987 to provide funds for social, educational, and civic initiatives that enhance the quality of life in the five boroughs of New York City.



18TH ANNUAL

## Spirit of ABNY Awards

May 29, 2024 at The Rainbow Room

The ABNY Foundation created the Spirit of ABNY Award in 2007 to honor select New Yorkers who have provided a distinguished level of service to our great city.

The three honors were bestowed to civic leaders for their contributions and service to New York City:

- **Lew Rudin Founders Award** to Governor Kathy Hochul
- **Spirit of ABNY Award** to City Hall Leaders: First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright, Chief Advisor Ingrid Lewis Martin, and Chief of Staff Camille Joseph Varlack.
- **David N. Dinkins Lifetime Achievement Award** to Steven & Daryl Roth



# ABNY FOUNDATION

CONTINUED

## ABNY Foundation Grant Giving

The 2024 giving theme for the ABNY Foundation grant program was Strengthening Economic Opportunity and Livability for New Yorkers. Giving invested in the people, places, and industries of New York City through three priority areas: (1) Workforce Development, (2) Safe Communities, and (3) Small Business Support.

New York City non-profits receiving funding from the ABNY Foundation in 2024 included:

- A Better Jamaica
- Andromeda Community Initiatives
- Bangladeshi American Community Development and Youth Services (BACDYS)
- Center for Zero Waste Design
- Design Trust for Public Space
- Fort Greene Park Conservancy
- Green City Force
- Manhattan Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp (NMIC)
- Public Housing Community Fund
- Pursuit
- South Bronx United
- Street Vendor Project
- The Acceleration Project
- The Inspired Community Project
- The Trust for Governors Island
- Thrive For Life Prison Project
- Uptown Grand Central
- Urban Dove
- Welcome to Chinatown



# COALITIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

In partnership with our members and other civic leading organizations, ABNY advocates for projects and policies that will move New York forward by participating in coalitions and holding membership with peer organizations.

## Coalitions

- 5 Borough Housing Movement
- Alliance for Public Space Leadership
- Better Child Care NYC
- Build Gateway Now
- City of Yes Coalition
- Department of Financial Services Equity & Inclusion Council
- Governors Island Community Advisory Council
- Interorganizational Lifeguard Taskforce
- Joint Bidding Coalition
- Let's Connect NY
- New York City Election Consortium
- New York Climate Exchange Partners
- The New New York Panel
- NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban
- New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs
- Policy Advisory Board
- Queens Tech Council
- Redesign Penn Station Working Group
- Redesign 5th Avenue Working Group
- Save Small Business Coalition

## Memberships

- Broadway Association
- Bronx Chamber of Commerce
- Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
- Business Council of New York State
- Citizens Budget Commission
- Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association
- Downtown Brooklyn Partnership
- Human Services Council
- Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
- New York Building Congress
- Nonprofit New York
- New York City Employment and Training Coalition
- New York City Hospitality Alliance
- Queens Chamber of Commerce
- Regional Plan Association
- Riders Alliance
- Staten Island Chamber of Commerce
- Tech: NYC

# ABNY MEMBERS

The 200-plus organizations that comprise ABNY's Membership are those companies and non-profits who are committed to supporting New York's forward momentum.

## Corporate Sustaining Members

RUBENSTEIN

RUDIN

amazon

conEdison

CROWN  
CASTLE

DELTA

GSG  
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP

HOLLIS  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

kasirer

Meta

nationalgrid

NBCUniversal

OGDEN CAP  
PROPERTIES

PHILIP MORRIS  
INTERNATIONAL

TISHMAN SPEYER

- Abacus Federal Savings Bank
- ABS Partners Real Estate, LLC
- AECOM
- Allen & Company LLC
- Alliance for Downtown New York
- Altice
- Amazon
- Amtrak
- Anthem
- AO People Partners
- Astoria Generating Company, LP
- AT&T
- Avoq New York
- Bank of America
- Barowitz Advisory
- Baruch College-CUNY
- Battery Park City Authority, The
- Benenson Capital Partners, LLC
- Berlin Rosen
- Blackstone Group, LP
- Bloomberg
- BNY
- Boingo Wireless
- Boldyn Networks
- Bolton St. Johns
- Borough of Manhattan Community College-CUNY
- Broadway Association
- Bronx Chamber of Commerce
- Brookfield Properties Corp.
- Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
- Brown & Weinraub, PLLC
- Building & Construction Trades Council
- Bungalow Projects
- Business Council of New York State, The
- Capalino & Company
- Carol Kellermann
- CBRE Group Inc.
- Chapman Group
- Chelsea Piers
- Children's Aid Society
- Citi
- Citizens Budget Commission
- Citizens Committee for New York City
- Citymeals-on-Wheels
- Claudia Wagner
- CMW Strategies
- Colleague LLC
- College of Optometry-SUNY
- Columbia University
- Con Edison
- Constantinople & Vallone Consulting
- Cornell Tech
- Council of School Supervisors & Administrators
- Cozen O'Connor
- Crown Castle USA, Inc.
- CUNY
- DailyPay
- Dajia US
- DalyGonzalez
- Delta Air Lines
- Denham Wolf Real Estate Services
- Design Trust for Public Space
- Doe Fund, The
- DoorDash



# ABNY MEMBERS

CONTINUED

- Douglaston Development
- Downtown Brooklyn Partnership
- Downtown Lower Manhattan Association
- Dune Real Estate Partners
- Durst Organization, Inc.
- East Midtown Partnership
- Elmcot Youth & Adult Activities, Inc.
- Fairstead
- Fashion Institute of Technology-SUNY
- Federal Reserve Bank of New York
- Fisher Brothers Management
- Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership
- Four Freedoms Park Conservancy
- FPWA
- Friends of Hudson River Park
- General Contractors Association
- Georgetown Company, The
- GFP Real Estate
- Glenwood Management Company
- Global Strategy Group
- Goldfarb & Fleece LLP
- Google
- Gotham Park
- Grand Central Partnership
- Greater Jamaica Development Corporation
- Greater New York Hospital Association
- Greater New York LECET
- Greenberg Traurig LLP
- Greenwich House, Inc.
- Greenwich Village Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
- Gregg Bishop
- Help USA
- Hess Corporation
- High Line, The
- Hollis Public Affairs
- Hotel Association of New York City, Inc.
- Howard Hughes Corporation
- HR&A Advisors, Inc.
- Human Services Council
- Ichor Strategies LLC
- iMentor NYC
- Immortal Strategies
- Invemed Associates LLC
- Jack Resnick & Sons
- Jamestown Properties
- JetBlue Airways Corporation
- Karp Strategies, LLC
- Kasirer
- Kaufman Organization
- KPMG LLP
- LaGuardia Community College
- LaGuardia Gateway Partners
- LargaVista Companies
- League of Women Voters of the City of New York, Inc.
- Life Insurance Council of NY, Inc
- Lincoln Square BID
- LinkNYC
- LISC NYC
- Local 14-14B International Union of Operating Engineers
- Local 237 International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Local 3 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,
- LVMH
- Macy's/Bloomingdale's
- Madison Avenue Business Improvement District
- Madison Square Garden
- Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
- Manhattan Skyline Management Company
- MCC Productions
- McKissack & McKissack
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- Mercury
- Meringoff Properties
- Meta
- Metropolitan College of New York
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Monstarlab
- Muss Development LLC
- NAACP New York State Conference
- National Grid
- NBC Universal
- New School, The
- New York Building Congress
- New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- New York City Employment and Training Coalition
- New York Foundling
- New York Hall of Science
- New York-Presbyterian Hospital
- New York Public Library, The
- New York Stem Cell Foundation
- New York Tri-State Chapter of NAMC

# ABNY MEMBERS

CONTINUED

- New York University
- Nicholas & Lence Communications
- Nonprofit New York
- NYC Hospitality Alliance
- NY Jobs CEO Council
- Ogden Cap Properties, LLC
- Olnick Organization
- Pace University
- Parkside Group, The
- Park Tower Group
- Patrick B. Jenkins & Associates
- Patricia Lynch Associates Inc.
- Philip Morris International
- Phipps Houses
- Plaxall, Inc.
- Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
- Public Health Solutions
- Queensboro Dance Festival (QDF)
- Queens Chamber of Commerce
- RAL Development Services, LLC
- Real Estate Board of New York
- Regional Plan Association
- Related Companies
- Resorts World Casino
- Riders Alliance
- Risa Heller Communications LLC
- Rise Light & Power
- Robert Lehrman
- Rockefeller Group Development Corp.
- RUBENSTEIN
- Rudin Management Company, Inc.
- RXR Realty
- Saint John's University
- Savills
- Seaport Entertainment Group
- SEIU 32BJ
- Shawmut Design and Construction
- Shubert Organization, Inc.
- Silverstein Properties, Inc.
- Simons Foundation
- SJP Properties
- SL Green Realty Corp.
- Soloviev Group
- Southwest Airlines
- Staten Island Chamber of Commerce
- Sterling Equities, Inc.
- Target
- Tech:NYC
- Tiffany & Co.
- Time Equities, Inc.
- Times Square Alliance
- Tishman Speyer Properties, Inc.
- Tonio Burgos & Associates, Inc.
- Turner Construction Company
- TWU of Greater New York, Local 100
- UJA – Federation of New York
- Union Square Partnership
- United Airlines
- United Federation of Teachers
- Urban Strategies
- Venable LLP
- Verizon
- Walnut Hill Advisors
- Waymo
- Wells Fargo
- Whitney Museum of American Art
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- William Hubbard
- WPP
- WSA Waterfront LLC
- YMCA of Greater New York
- Yoswein



# BOARD & STAFF

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