

Quarterly Update - Winter 2011

In This Issue

Seniors:

[Mayor Bloomberg Announces Eight Providers Selected to Develop the City's First "Innovative Senior Centers"](#)

Read about these new centers.

Community and Cultural Development:

[Mayor Bloomberg and Empire State Development Corporation Announce \\$17 Million in Funding to Community and Cultural Nonprofits in Lower Manhattan](#)

Learn about the grants awarded to nonprofit organizations in Lower Manhattan.

Domestic Violence:

[Mayor Bloomberg, Technology Commissioner Post, Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Jimenez, and Private Sector Partners Launch "NYC Steps" Program](#)

Read about this successful pilot at the Queens Family Justice Center.

[Put It in Your Calendar!](#)

Discover new organizations and events through our Events Calendar.

[In Other News](#)

Events, Awards, and Updates of Interest

[About the NYC Commission on Women's Issues](#)

Learn more about what the Commission is doing for you.

[Make a Suggestion](#)

What would you like to see in the next issue?

Mayor Bloomberg Announces Eight Providers Selected to Develop the City's First "Innovative Senior Centers"

Mayor Bloomberg, along with Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Linda Gibbs and Department for the Aging Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli announced the eight community-based service providers selected to create New York City's first Innovative Senior Centers. Opening in January, the centers will offer an array of services including one catered to adults with vision problems, and the first center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) seniors in the nation. The Innovative Senior Center model is a product of a partnership with the Council

of Senior Centers and Services, and is working to make New York City a more livable city for its growing senior population under the Age-Friendly NYC initiative launched in August.

While the needs of the diverse and active 1.3 million New York City senior population are rising, these centers will use public and private funds to provide grants to organizations providing seniors with access to health and wellness programs, arts and cultural programs, as well as technology and volunteer opportunities. Programs seek to educate older adults on the topics of nutrition and methods for chronic disease management, and will offer fitness and recreation activities including swimming and community gardening. The centers plan to best serve each community by offering extended hours and transportation options, as well as flexible meal times and meal vouchers.

Providers for the Innovative Senior Centers were chosen selectively on the basis of long-standing experience, organizational capacity, and fiscal soundness. The sponsors include: Lenox Hill (Manhattan), YMYWHA (Manhattan), Bronxworks (Bronx), Selfhelp Ben Rosenthal (Queens), SNAP (Queens), JCC of Staten Island, and two citywide organizations, Visions and SAGE.

[Learn more about New York City's new senior centers.](#)

[Back to top](#)

Mayor Bloomberg and Empire State Development Corporation Announce \$17 Million in Funding to Community and Cultural Nonprofits in Lower Manhattan

Mayor Bloomberg and the Empire State Development Corporation announced that the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) is awarding \$17 million in Community and Cultural Enhancement Fund Grants to nonprofit organizations in Lower Manhattan. A total of 38 grants have been awarded to not-for-profit organizations in the areas of youth, senior, and social services, health care, education, recreation, and cultural initiatives. The grants will fund crucial projects, programs, services, and facilities that will continue the ongoing transformation of Lower Manhattan for residents, workers, and visitors.

Funding allocations were based on adherence to the Community and Cultural Enhancement Guidelines established by the LMDC Board and released last year. The guidelines include the capacity of a project or program to spur long-term Lower Manhattan revitalization, build audiences, and encourage collaboration to strengthen the quality of life in the neighborhood; to enhance existing infrastructure or create new infrastructure, or to sustain multilayer programs; and, to create and sustain jobs in Lower Manhattan's distinct and diverse communities.

[Find out more about this new initiative.](#)

[Back to top](#)

Mayor Bloomberg, Technology Commissioner Post, Mayor's Office to

Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Jimenez, and Private Sector Partners Launch “NYC Steps” Program

Mayor Bloomberg, Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) Commission Carole Post, and Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence Commission Yolanda Jimenez announced the launch of the New York City Support Training and Employment Preparation Services (NYC STEPS) program in August 2011. Working along with NetApp, NYC Steps provides free workplace and computer skills training for entry-level jobs in the technology field. The first NYC STEPS participants will be clients of the New York City Family Justice Center – victims of domestic violence who want to break the cycles of violence and dependency by preparing themselves for self-sufficiency, rewarding jobs, and financial independence.

The pilot program consisted of 13 participants from 11 countries, ranging in ages from 28 to 53, who attended weekly classes at the Queens Family Justice Center. The site offered a safe environment equipped with childcare, classroom space, and accessible Internet and laptops for each student. DoITT and NetApp are working together to provide in-kind donations of laptop computers, software, and volunteer instructors. NYC Service is also helping to coordinate high-profile guest instructors, while the Department of Small Business Services’ Workforce 1 program will strengthen candidates’ employment prospects.

A graduation reception was held for the inaugural class on Friday, October 28th, 2011 at the Queens Family Justice Center.

[Read more on the NYC STEPS program.](#)

[Back to top](#)

In Other News:

Mayor Bloomberg Receives National Ally for Equity Award from the Human Rights Campaign for Advocacy on Marriage Equality in New York State

During the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner at the Walter E. Washington Contention Center in Washington, D.C., Mayor Bloomberg received the National Ally for Equity Award from the Human Rights Campaign for Advocacy on Marriage Equality in New York State. The Mayor delivered acceptance remarks highlighted by his emphasis on freedom and equal rights in New York City and in the country.

[Back to top](#)

Mayor Bloomberg, Deputy Mayor Gibbs, Commissioners Farley and Doar, Food Policy Coordinator Kessler Celebrate First Annual Food Day

As part of this nationwide celebration of eating real and healthy food, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Linda I.

Gibbs, [Department of Health](#) Commissioner Thomas A. Farley, [Human Resources Administration](#) Commissioner Robert Doar, President of the New York Apple Association Jim Allen, and Food Policy Coordinator Kim Kessler today launched New York City's participation in the first annual Food Day. Mayor Bloomberg distributed New York State apples to New Yorkers in Queens and declared the day "Eat an Apple" Day, telling New Yorkers that eating an apple is an easy, inexpensive way to eat healthy.

[Back to top](#)

About the NYC Commission on Women's Issues

The New York City Commission on Women's Issues (formerly the Commission on the Status of Women) was established by Mayoral Executive Order in 1975 as an advisory body to the Mayor on matters impacting the lives of New York City women. Currently, the Commission serves as an important vehicle through which women and families can connect with City services that support and address their needs.

We hope this newsletter will be an extension of this work. Not only will we share the newest initiatives and programs coming out of the City, but we will also help you understand how these efforts affect you as a woman.

For more information on our key programs such as the NYC Women's Resource Network, the Mentor it Forward, and the NYC Ladders for Leaders program, please visit www.nyc.gov/women to find out how you could benefit and/or participate today!

[Back to top](#)

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