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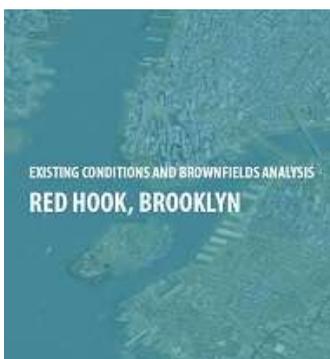
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**OER Launches Affordable Housing Cleanup Fund;
Issues First Loan and Grant**

*Grants and Loans are Now Available for
Affordable and Supportive Housing Projects*

On September 22, NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) Director Daniel Walsh announced the launch of the NYC Affordable Housing Cleanup Fund to provide direct cleanup funding for supportive and affordable housing projects in the NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program. This funding is available in the form of both direct grants and no-interest loans and is available to projects that are receiving financial support from City, State or Federal affordable housing agencies. The first loan in this new program was issued in the amount of \$300,000 to the Urban Pathways supportive housing development at 316 E. 162nd Street in the Bronx. The first affordable housing project to receive a grant of \$80,000 will be Praxis's development at Loring Place North in the Bronx. Initial funding for the program was provided by brownfield grants from US EPA. For more information contact OER General Counsel Mark McIntyre at 212-788-3015.



**OER Issues First Community Brownfield Planning
Report**

Existing Conditions and Brownfield Study of Red Hook, Brooklyn is the first of Eleven Community Brownfield Planning Support Reports to be Issued

On September 23, OER Director Daniel Walsh announced the publication of OER's first community brownfield planning study in a series that will cover eleven low-income communities over the next 12 months. This represents the pilot stage of a new program designed to provide expanded city support for community planning activities in low-income neighborhoods. The study of existing conditions and potential brownfield sites in Red Hook was performed for Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation and was conducted by NYC Department of City Planning under contract with OER. The study was funded by New York State Department of State under the Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) Program. For more information on the program, contact OER's Chief of Planning Lee Ilan at 212-788-2929.



**OER Begins Development of *EPIC COMMUNITY*
Online Application to Support Community
Brownfield Planning**

On September 24, OER Director Daniel Walsh announced the start of development of *EPIC*

COMMUNITY, a new online tool that will help community brownfield planners in NYC. The new application will provide a direct means for community planners to communicate and share information with their peers and with city agencies. EPIC Community will also have a digital library for community planning reports and government reports on a broad range of topics relevant to planners, such as resilience and sustainability. *EPIC COMMUNITY* will also offer direct links to OER's new *EPIC ENVIRONMENT*, OER's brownfield cleanup project database now in development, and [SPEED](#) OER's online environmental mapping tool and research engine. For more information on *EPIC COMMUNITY*, contact OER Associate Director Hannah Moore at 212-442-6372.



EPA Awards OER \$400,000 in Grants for Environmental Investigations in Low-Income Areas

OER To Perform Environmental Investigations on Community-Directed Projects in Five Boroughs

On May 28, US EPA announced the award of \$400,000 in new assessment grant funding to OER. This funding will be used to perform environmental investigations on properties with emerging development projects that have strong support from local community organizations, including community designated 'priority projects', affordable and supportive housing projects, community facilities, and open space. Using this award, OER will finance and perform up to \$200,000 for projects with substantial petroleum releases and an equal amount for projects with suspected hazardous substances. For more information, contact OER Assistant Director Cavy Chu at 212-788-3774.



OER Director to Deliver Keynote Address at National Conference on the Importance of Social Equity Programs to Combat Brownfields in Low Income Communities

Address at RTM/NALGEP Conference in Philadelphia on October 7

OER Director Daniel Walsh will deliver a keynote panel address the need for cities to take a more active leadership role to overcome the social inequality caused by vacant and blighted brownfields that occur disproportionately in low income urban communities. The address will be delivered at the upcoming RTM/NALGEP national conference on Sustainable Property Transactions in Philadelphia on October 7-9, 2014. Dr. Walsh will describe NYC's work to support community-led brownfield planning in over 30 neighborhoods and three dozen new programs designed to achieve social equity in low income neighborhoods, achieving goals such as eliminating public health impacts from brownfields, creating local green job opportunities and overcoming displacement of local residents. The conference is intended to provide educational sessions and networking to enable attendees to stay up-to-date on the latest developments in brownfield redevelopment, sustainability, and property transactions that minimize environmental risk. For more information on the conference or to get a discounted registration rate, contact OER Chief of Planning Lee Ilan at 212-788-2929.



Jody Kass Honored at 2014 Big Apple Brownfield Awards

The New York City Brownfield Partnership honored Jody Kass, Executive Director and co-founder of New Partners for Community Revitalization, for over 20 years of exemplary service to revitalize brownfields in low income communities and communities of color at their sixth annual Big Apple Brownfield Awards (BABAs) held earlier this year at New York Law School. Approximately 200 attendees included developers, consultants, and attorneys as well as representatives from the non-profit and government sectors. In addition to honoring Jody Kass, the awards recognized six exceptional New York City redevelopment projects, the 2014 Abbey Duncan Brownfield Scholars and the 2013-2014 Brownfield Interns. The keynote address was delivered by John Gearrity, Assistant Commissioner, New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development (NYCHPD).



NPCR Honors Elizabeth Yeampierre and UPROSE for Community Planning in Sunset Park, Brooklyn

On June 2, 2014, New Partners for Community Revitalization honored UPROSE Executive Director Elizabeth Yeampierre for her remarkable community planning work in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The award was presented by NPCR Executive Director Jody Kass and NPCR Board Chair Jim Tripp at a press conference in the State Capitol Building in Albany prior to the NPCR 8th Annual Brownfield Summit. Yeampierre, the Executive Director of UPROSE, has used grants from the NY State Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) program and the City's Brownfield Incentive Grant Program to complete a BOA nomination study and examine particular brownfield sites for their redevelopment potential. UPROSE leveraged the vision that emerged from their BOA study into support for the NYC DOT receiving a grant from the NY State Regional Economic Development Council to facilitate a community driven effort to design an upland connector that will connect the working waterfront inland using climate adaptation methodologies.



OER Now Performing Free Climate Change Resilience Surveys for Redevelopment Projects in the NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program

OER to Issue Resilience Report Summarizing Findings in 2015

To minimize the effect of climate change on brownfield development projects performed in the NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program, OER is now performing free Climate Change Resilience Surveys. The first two surveys are now complete and four new surveys are in development. OER plans to conduct 20 resilience surveys and compile the results in a published report that will be made available in 2015 to all brownfield developers in NYC. The goal is to increase awareness of steps that can be taken to improve sustainability and resilience and minimize the future impact from factors such as sea level rise and more frequent and heightened tidal storm surges.

For questions, comments, or to be removed from our mailing list, contact us at:

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