

Where to Locate Information on Community Boards and Districts

by Christine Bruzzese

Community Board publications. The City Hall Library maintains a collection of minutes and newsletters from various Community Boards. Minutes of Manhattan Community Planning Boards are available from the early 1960's to the 1980's. Queens and Brooklyn are from the 1960's and 1970's. There is nothing for the Bronx and Staten Island. A few Community Boards currently send newsletters.

Community District Needs. Published by the Office of Management and Budget, these are statements of priorities submitted by Community Boards to various city agencies. For example, the Board may ask the Police Department to provide more patrol officers for protection. In addition to information about community district concerns and needs, statistics on population, housing, income and land use are given for each district along with maps. This publication first appeared in 1982. Using this may prove helpful in learning more about community districts, their people and neighborhoods over an extended time period.

Handbook for Community Board Members. Last revised in 1985, this publication offers information on the Community Assistance Unit, the role of the community board and its relationship to city government.

Community Assistance Unit website. More recent information may be found at www.nyc.gov/cau, the website of the

Mayor's Community Assistance Unit. A current listing of Community Boards is posted here along with a description of the functions of the boards and district managers. There are also links to individual community board websites. Newsletters and meeting minutes of the last two to three years may be available on the individual board sites.

City Planning Publications. The Department of City Planning has prepared numerous reports on community board and district statistics. Among these are *Portfolio: an Information System for Community Districts*, published in 1979. Each Portfolio consists of a fact book about the community district and various chapters with information on statistics, education, social services and other aspects of life in the district. *Socioeconomic Profiles* brings together data from the 1980 and 1990 censuses by community district.

Community Board Budget Requests. *Register of Community Board Budget Requests* is published by Office of Management and Budget twice a year. The first edition appears in January for the preliminary budget. In July the final version is published reflecting the adopted budget. Various Community Boards throughout the city request funds from the government for projects in their districts that they believe deserve consideration. These might include construction of a new branch library, renovating a school building or providing programs for senior citizens. This publication is kept from fiscal 1983 to the present.