



## Speaking Up and Speaking Out



We recently traveled to Albany with our fellow settlement houses to advocate for increased funding for our programs and meet with our elected officials, including Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou (second from left).

Dear Friends,

In today's increasingly unstable political climate, it's more important than ever for us to advocate on behalf of our neighbors, as well as help them build their capacity to advocate for themselves. For instance, we've recently met with some of our elected officials, including City Council Members Margaret Chin and Carlina Rivera and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's office about

ways we can work with them to further expand our programming across the city.

In addition, here are just a few of the recent initiatives that are being spearheaded by Emily Lederman, Manager of Advocacy and Community Engagement:

- New York State Senator Brian Kavanagh and Assembly Member Yuh-Line Niou have been huge advocates of ours. At the state level, they are helping us fight for funding for the Settlement House Program (which funds our Single Stop program) and NORCs (naturally occurring retirement communities).
- The Youth Development Institute is working with a team of our program directors and community organizers to plan trainings for our youth council members.
- Our early childhood staff is working with groups such as Make the Road, the Migrant Center, and KIND to support our immigrant families.
- Our GEM advocates are working with our Rutgers and Lafayette Gardens Community Centers on LGBTQIA+ advocacy.
- The Older Adults Strengthening Communities team recently held a cultural integration event and will hold another one in March.

I look forward to sharing more of our successes with you in the future, and to working together to support our neighbors on the Lower East Side and in Brooklyn.

Best Regards,

Robert Cordero, Executive Director

## Happening Now

### **BOLD INITIATIVES**

Our staff recently rallied at City Hall to advocate for the mayor to reinstate funding for summer programming for middle schoolers.

### **GRAND STRATEGY**

GrandLo Cafe will be holding a Community Week on March 12-16 from 8am-1pm. Please stop by 178 Broome Street for a \$3 coffee and pastry special!

### **INSPIRED WORK**

Our Williamsburg Community Center recently hosted an MTA Canarsie Tunnel Open House where community members learned more about the upcoming L train shutdown.

## Moments of the Month



### **Learning Opportunity**

Columbia University's Center for the Aging presented findings from its community assessment to our staff and senior participants. Their findings will help shape the programming at

our community center at Essex Crossing. Contact [Lauren Santorso](#) if you'd like to read the full report.

### Empowering Our Youth

Our SONYC program at St. Brigid School recently hosted a student empowerment fair where young people learned from each other about topics such as sports, finance, hygiene, and relationships.



### Year of the Dog

Our seniors at 80 Pitt Street celebrated the Lunar New Year with rousing musical and dance

performances!

### Making Connections

Two of the NYPD's Neighborhood Coordination Officers visited the seniors in our NORC program to dance and celebrate Valentine's Day.



### Across Generations

Participants from our Early Head Start program and Grand Coalition of Seniors enjoyed each other's company at a recent intergenerational event.

## Hitting the Runway

The urban dance crew at Williamsburg Community Center recently organized a fashion show to show off their style.



## Congrats, Mikey!

Our very own Mikey Pizarro, Program Director at St. Brigid, recently completed PASE's Emerging Leaders in Nonprofit Management program. Check out his [capstone project](#) here!

A Very Happy New Year

Our Head Start participants rang in the Lunar New Year with a fun art project!



Want to highlight your favorite moments in the newsletter or social media? Send a description and Instagram-worthy pictures to:

[ewong@grandsettlement.org](mailto:ewong@grandsettlement.org)



Our Williamsburg Community Center recently hosted the Annual DYCD Step It Up Competition where dance teams showed off their skills!

## Grand St. Shoutouts

**Happy Birthday** to Parvin Begum, Altagracia Cabrera, Marisol Cortes, Jason Das, Angel Delgado, Jie Ding, William Fager, Gley Garcia, Martha Gonzembach, Chahney Hinds, Joanna Huang, Maria Huertas, Emily Lederman, Shu Ying Liao, Claudia Michue, Danielle Morris-McBayne, India Mosley, Shanese Narcisse, Tonia Parker-Gordon, Samantha Payne, Edward Perez, Jose Perez, Kevin Rios, Francisco Rivera III, Tabatha Rodriguez, Widnel Rondon, Palwasha Sharwani, Josephine Southerton, Gabriela Torres, James Winns, and Meron Woldemariam.

**Happy Anniversary** to Wendy Ashby, Terell Blake, Sophia Brown, Marcial Cruz, Piedad Cruz, Jason Das, Michelle Guerrero, Paula Jaimez, Reneida Juarbe, Monica Martinez, Cheryl Mery, Christopher Militano, Yves Nguyen, Franklin Perez, Celine Prescod, Jasmin Rivera, and Eufemia Vargas.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the communities of the Lower East Side and Brooklyn.



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