

# PYLON

PUBLICATION OF  
AIA BROOKLYN

SPRING / SUMMER  
2022





# SPRING / SUMMER 2022

**f** AIA Brooklyn  
**@** aiabrooklyn

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Sarah G. Drake, AIA

## EDITORIAL SUPPORT

Nicky Martin  
 Lindsay Smilow

## COVER

"Then and Now"  
 View of buildings from Brooklyn past and present. Photo by Silvia Saponaro

## DESIGN

KUDOS Design Collaboratory™

For future issues, we welcome submissions from our members that further our goals to educate and support our community. Articles and notices may be submitted to the editor at [vp@aiabrooklyn.org](mailto:vp@aiabrooklyn.org). Material printed in Pylon is for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as legal opinion or advice.

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### ANGELA KRAVTCHENKO

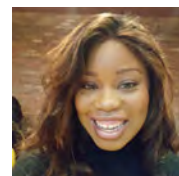
has been an employee of Peter Marino Architect for over 20 years. She is Ukrainian born and raised. Her Alma Mater is a Kharkiv Institute of Architecture. She has been living in Brooklyn for almost 30 years now. Coney Island is Angela's home. She is a founder of several environmental grassroots organizations and an active advocate for noise mitigation and local sustainable programs. Currently, she is



### JANE MCGROARTY

has had over thirty years of experience in architecture and historic preservation. She is the Treasurer & Chair of the Urban Design Committee of AIA Brooklyn

and Principal of Jane McGroarty Architect. Jane has also taught design at NY Institute of Technology and the NJ School of Architecture. She has researched and created various walking tours of Brooklyn and is an avid writer.



### MICHELLE DUNCAN

is a Trinidad-born design enthusiast and story-lover who has called Brooklyn her home for over a decade. Michelle holds a master's degree in Historic

Preservation from the Pratt Institute and was previously the Media Coordinator at Robert A.M. Stern Architects. Intrigued by stories of design in its many forms, Michelle is especially taken by narratives involving the convergence of history, the built environment, and the human experience, all within a cultural and social context.



### MICHAEL D. BURRIDGE

is the Director of Government Affairs for AIA New York State. Prior to his service with AIANY, Mike was the Legislative Director for a New York

State Assemblymember representing portions of Brooklyn. He is a volunteer leader for the Empire State Society of Association Executives (ESSAE), serving as the Vice-Chair for the Government Affairs Committee. Mike graduated from the College of Saint Rose with honors and is a life-long resident of the Capital Region.

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McGroarty



## Emerge, bloom, open, renew, rejuvenate, revive



These are words I could use every year at this time to describe a sense of anticipation of what's to come in the following months, and especially this year, as winter turns into spring, COVID diminishes and restrictions are lifted. The usual relief and pleasure of greeting warmer weather is tempered by Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine and a subway shooting in our own city. My plans and expectations are hopeful, but I know they are also fragile and could quickly change. This applies to my work and projects, when work is delayed due to a contractor having to quarantine, when lead times for building materials increase exponentially, and when events at AIA Brooklyn are suddenly changed from in-person to Zoom or are canceled altogether.

This pandemic experience seems like one of those things people will discuss years from now and ask, where were you, and what were you doing? Two years ago on March 8th, I left for an AIA sponsored week-long tour in Cuba. The group of us used hand sanitizer frequently, but the virus at that time was an important thing happening somewhere else. The trip was cut short following President Trump's March 13th announcement that traveling to the States from abroad would not be permitted. On March 14th I returned to a Brooklyn very different from the one I had left just days before with no one else in the airport customs hall and nothing on the grocery store shelves usually stocked with paper goods and household cleaners. If you've heard me speak to the Chapter before, you've probably heard me say that I have felt welcomed and supported by the people of AIA Brooklyn, and this was especially so for the last two years during which the people I most frequently contacted (via Zoom) were my two staff members, my family and the AIA Brooklyn Chapter. I attended monthly Board meetings and discussion panels, DOB Industry Meetings and weekly Continuing Ed webinars. Quite simply, the work and mission of the chapter never stopped. AIA Brooklyn adapted for its members then, and it is adapting again now.

As the new editor of Pylon, I want to convey to my fellow members more than ever that AIA Brooklyn has many resources to offer its over 900 members. They are as varied as the "What's Happening in Brooklyn" email announcements, the discussion panels at our monthly General meetings, CRAN and COTE events, the responses one gets to a request for a referral and the committee events/field trips. In this issue, we hear from our former Pylon editor and current chapter President, Talisha Sainvil. We will meet our new Executive Director, Lindsay Smilow. Our fellow member Angela Kravtchenko gives us a wake-up call about plans for a ferry to Coney Island. Jane McGroarty tells us about new buildings going up around us and about novels that feature Brooklyn as a main character.

From my own experience, I know that volunteering your time and joining a committee is a two-way street. The time I spend on chapter issues has had a direct and positive impact on my own professional practice. Most important are the connections and friendships I have formed with members and those from other New York AIA chapters and at AIA NY State. The more we utilize our resources together, the better and stronger those resources become. Next time we're at an in-person event, please introduce yourself to me. I will want to know who you are, what you're working on and thinking about, and I will ask you to contribute something to Pylon. Please say yes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Drake".

**SARAH G. DRAKE, AIA  
EDITOR**





## Dear Brooklyn,



A little over two years ago, I wrote my first letter as editor for Pylon. As I stepped into this completely new territory of changing our long-standing Chapter newsletter into a Membership magazine, I could sense it was the beginning of something good for AIA Brooklyn. With each issue, I was able to interact with so many Members in a way that I didn't foresee, but it became my motivation to keep going. Ultimately and with your help, Pylon became the realization of the essence of who we are as a Chapter and a vibrant community.

As I embark on this new journey of being the first Black president in the Chapter's 128-year history, I find myself at the beginning of a whole new challenge. I've got aspirations of the kind of community that I'd like to continue to build together with our members here at AIA Brooklyn. My mission is to create a stronger network where we can share ideas, educate ourselves and the public, have meaningful conversations and offer a sense of belonging. Being a life-long Brooklynite myself, I know firsthand about the rich history and culture that our borough has to offer. It is my goal to harness this energy to make AIA Brooklyn shine bright and I hope you will continue to feel the warmth from our glow.

As the world slowly starts to reawaken, ideas for what we can do to appreciate and celebrate being back together again are swirling in my head. As I have said to you before, I think starting anything new can sometimes be daunting and I'm sure getting our sea legs may take some time, but that never stops me from daring to try. I'm looking forward to meeting many more of you in the coming months and thanking you in person for allowing me the opportunity to continue to serve you. While we can't predict how the next couple of years is going to unfold, I'm excited to begin again with all of you in co-creating how AIA Brooklyn returns back to 'normal' and back to the foundation of what we are all about!

**"If you knew what was going to happen, if you knew everything that was going to happen next—if you knew in advance the consequences of your own actions—you'd be doomed. You'd be ruined as God. You'd be a stone. You'd never eat or drink or laugh or get out of bed in the morning. You'd never love anyone, ever again. You'd never dare to."**

— MARGARET ATWOOD

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Talisha L. Sainvil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'T' and 'S'.

**TALISHA L. SAINVIL, AIA  
PRESIDENT, AIA BROOKLYN**



Coney Island Tour, April 10th





## The Membership Committee asked AIA Brooklyn members to answer 10 questions in order to get to know them better. Here's what they had to say:



### ALYSSA CLAYBURN

#### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO CHOOSE THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE?

Versatility and the ability to work on design at different scales! I like to be able to work on multiple design elements from interiors to construction detailing and design development to urban design.

#### WHAT TYPE OF WORK ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN?

Design that interacts with social and environmental contexts.

#### WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES SINCE OBTAINING YOUR ARCHITECTURE DEGREE?

Balancing working at the office and studying for exams.

#### WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL?

Ability to receive a new prompt for a project every 3 months. I enjoyed the fast-paced conceptual design and production, with the ability to explore my own drawing language and representation.

#### ANY CRITICISMS OF THE ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE?

I believe there is a need for the inclusion of interdisciplinary courses with social science studies like sociology into the architecture curriculum.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS?

At the moment my main professional goal is to become a licensed architect.



Heydar Aliyev Centers  
Photo: Unsplash

#### WHO DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE ARCHITECTS?

Ricardo Bofill and Roy Sealey to name two.

#### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BUILDING OR CITY?

My favorite building is the Zaha Hadid Architect Heydar Aliyev Centers.

#### WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET OUT OF YOUR AIA BROOKLYN CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP?

I hope that with joining the community I will get the opportunity to connect with peers. Looking to get involved in groups focused on studying for licensure exams!





## AHMED ABDELGHAFAR

### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO CHOOSE THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE?

Since I was young, I loved drawing, especially drawing buildings. My hobby was discovering the installation of plastic and cardboard models, my father and mother encouraged me to do this hobby. That was in the nineties, and at the beginning of the millennium. I loved graphic design programs, starting with Photoshop, passing through AutoCAD and 3ds Max. This had a great impact on my choosing to study architecture.

### WHAT TYPE OF WORK ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN?

I prefer designing buildings rather than participating in the implementation process. I like graphic programs that rely on flexibility and easy tools such as SketchUp 3D.

### WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES SINCE OBTAINING YOUR ARCHITECTURE DEGREE?

The biggest challenge lied in accepting jobs as a junior architect offered to me at the beginning of my working life. Sometimes it does not go beyond working as a drafter who has no opinion, and draws sketches and accepts design ideas that they sometimes deem incorrect.

### WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL?

The best thing I liked was the history of architecture and theories course in addition to the architectural design course. I think they are the core courses of the successful architect's work in the future.

### ANY CRITICISMS OF THE ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE?

Of course, so far many architecture schools make students do projects on AutoCAD or ARCADE without going through drawing with their hands and learning to feel the drawing



Great Pyramid of Giza  
Photo: Pixabay

scales and studying architectural blocks and directions, so many students get addicted to copying and pasting from ready-made projects without feeling compatibility between architectural schools.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS?

I got my MBA with a CGPA, and my graduation project focused on Project Management. Now I'm about to finish the first term of my DBA (Doctor of Business Administration), and I will also choose a project management major to strengthen the part I'm missing in my professional life, which is business management itself not just its design.

### WHO DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE ARCHITECTS?

I prefer many architects, each according to his proficiency in his specialization. For example, I prefer Frank Lloyd Wright in Organic Architecture, Zaha Hadid in Deconstructive Architecture, and Hassan Fathi in Rural Architecture.

### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BUILDING OR CITY?

My favorite building is the Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt. With all its design and implementation deficiencies that we are still arguing about now, there is no theory that everyone agreed on. My favorite city is New York City with all its skyscrapers and ancient buildings.

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET OUT OF YOUR AIA BROOKLYN CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP?

I still do not have a license to practice the profession of architecture in New York, and although I am licensed to work in my country, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the procedures for licensing and obtaining a license in New York are the most complicated of all. I have completed the educational aspect and the AXP and I still have the licensing exams ahead of me, but I hope to finish them as soon as possible. I would love for AIA Brooklyn Chapter to do what it can to expand career opportunities for architects and develop their expertise.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED AND WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

October – March 2022

### NEWLY LICENSED

Nicholas Duch, AIA  
Daniel A. Garcia, AIA  
David P. Sidick, AIA  
Olga Whitmoyer, AIA  
Jonathan Y. Imani, AIA  
Maeghann Coleman, AIA

### NEW MEMBERS

Lauren Abbass  
Ahmed Abdelghafar  
Amer Alchama  
Aleiya Als  
Adalberto Angulo Sosa  
Rachel Apthorpe  
Christopher Betegon  
Lauren Bostick  
Laura Buck  
Robert Chapman  
Andrew Chee  
Stephen Christy  
Sanger Clark  
Alyssa Clayburn  
Chris Dorsey  
Clarisa Garcia-Fresco  
Nadege Giraudet  
Marleni Gomez  
Dongzoo Han  
Jordan Hanson  
Bryan Hardin  
Christine Harper  
Hollie Hastings  
Charles Hawkings  
Sean Higgins  
Jihoon Hyun  
Thomas Inzerillo  
Rebecca Iversen  
Youngseok Ju  
Nicole Kazakevich  
Olivia Knott  
Krithi Krishnan  
Lee Kuhn  
Yujin Lee  
Ariela Lenetsky  
Michael Licht  
Christopher Longman  
Thuan Lu  
Erick Maldonado  
Kenneth Azaria Marburg  
Ami Mehta  
Vardhan Mehta  
Smiti Modi  
David Musa  
Suah Na  
Alsharif Khaled Nahas  
Aoife O'Leary  
Tamara Panaccio  
Galen Pardee  
Barbara Parker  
Vaishali Patel-Vertes  
Jared Payne  
Marilyn Pena  
Anna Perelman  
Jasmine Perez  
Jonathan Pharis  
Luis Miguel Pizano  
Ilya Pulyaev  
Chris Robie  
Heidi Schmitt  
Corey Schneider  
Susana Simonpietri  
Stephanie Tager  
Tracy Tam  
Vadim Tarnovsky  
Soraya Theodore  
Chi Victoria Ting  
Jubin Titus  
Charlie Verni  
Rayon Walcott  
Zach White  
Alexander Wolkow  
Yen-Jung Wu  
Jisu Yang  
Jiteng Yang  
Vickie Yuen  
Yulia Zdrueva  
Xiaofeng Zhang  
Jodie Zhang



## JORDAN HANSON

### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO CHOOSE THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE?

Since I was a child, I always wanted to build and change the environment around me. Architecture became a way I could manifest my ideas into real objects.

### WHAT TYPE OF WORK ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN?

All of it! With a focus on facades.

### WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES SINCE OBTAINING YOUR ARCHITECTURE DEGREE?

Learning the business side of our practice and that it's not just about what we design and how we design it, but how do we get those projects, keep clients and make an office function.

### WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL?

I loved the freedom of creative exploration.

### ANY CRITICISMS OF THE ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE?

I think the greatest criticism is that our field views ourselves too highly, often overlooking other people and communities to create something that we think is best.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS?

To make a positive impact.

### WHO DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE ARCHITECTS?

Louis Kahn.

### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BUILDING OR CITY?

New York City! It's why I moved here.

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET OUT OF YOUR AIA BROOKLYN CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP?

Connections.



Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, Louis Kahn, 1951-53.  
Photo: Elizabeth Felicella





## COLIN M. CATHCART

### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO CHOOSE THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE?

I liked maps. Also, I was equally good at math, art, science, history, and English, and architecture seemed the only field that used all these fields equally.

### WHAT TYPE OF WORK ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN?

Designing, building and mentoring.

### WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES SINCE OBTAINING YOUR ARCHITECTURE DEGREE?

People and jobs coming and going. The biggest headache has been keeping a steady income for myself and for the firm.

### WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL?

The studio environment.

### ANY CRITICISMS OF THE ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE?

None whatsoever.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS?

To retire quietly (...kidding!). Actually, my present goal is to semi-retire, somewhat noisily.

### WHO DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE ARCHITECTS?

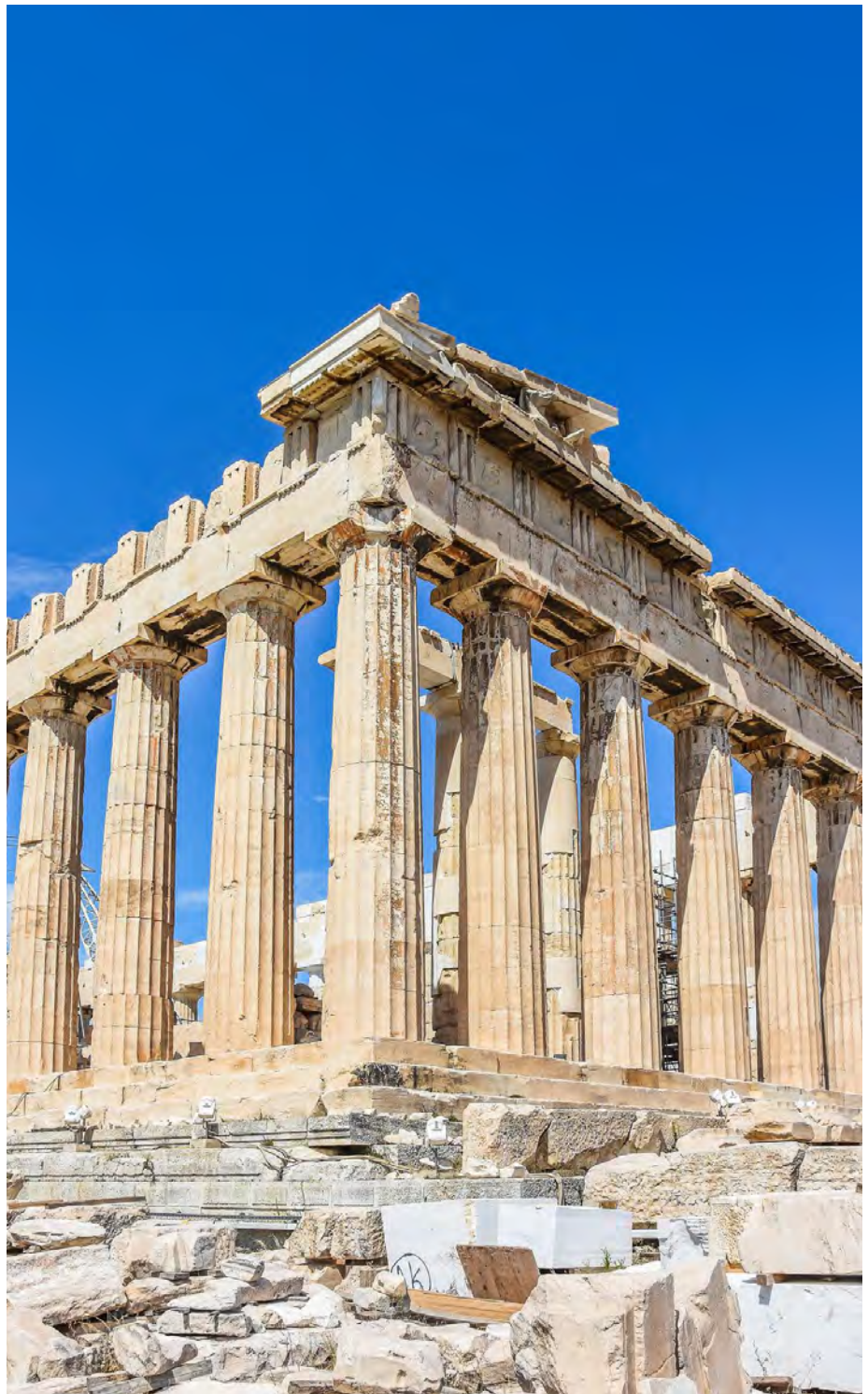
Le Corbusier. Iktinos and Kallikrates.

### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BUILDING OR CITY?

Yes.

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET OUT OF YOUR AIA BROOKLYN CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP?

Maybe some good networking.



Parthenon  
Photo: Pixabay



## SIU TAM

### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO CHOOSE THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE?

I've always been interested in designing our environment. Through civil engineering to environmental/urban and architecture.

### WHAT TYPE OF WORK ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN?

Science technology, Healthcare, and Transportation projects.

### WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES SINCE OBTAINING YOUR ARCHITECTURE DEGREE?

Finding a reasonable work life balance.

### WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL?

The relationships I developed with my classmates.

### ANY CRITICISMS OF THE ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE?

There was no emphasis on how broad the working environment is in the field of architecture.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS?

Advancing my knowledge in the building types I work on and improving the environments people use and operate in.

### WHO DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE ARCHITECTS?

I.M.Pei and Louis Kahn.

### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BUILDING OR CITY?

Tokyo.

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET OUT OF YOUR AIA BROOKLYN CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP?

Meeting and networking with fellow architects in my local county.



Tokyo  
Photo: Pixabay



Gowanus Canal Conservancy Tour, May 14th





# JAN 26

## Materials and Innovation

**In this program, a materials researcher, COTE advocate and healthier building products professional consider the present and future of building materials.**

See virtual discussion panel video

[aiabrooklyn.org/aia-brooklyn-virtual-panel-discussions-2022](https://aiabrooklyn.org/aia-brooklyn-virtual-panel-discussions-2022)



**Simona Fischer**

*MSR Design Associate, Co-chair AIA Minnesota Committee on the Environment (COTE)*

A registered architect, sustainable design professional, Passive House designer (PHIUS CPHC), and associate with MSR Design, Simona develops and tests processes to integrate sustainable design seamlessly into the workflow of architectural practice. A self-avowed materials nerd, her experience includes project management, Living Building Challenge documentation, and firmwide sustainable design implementation. Simona has presented at national conferences and lectures regularly at the University of Minnesota. She serves on the Healthy Building Network HomeFree Champions advisory group, which works to build momentum in the use of healthier building materials. She currently co-chairs the AIA Minnesota Committee on the Environment (COTE).



**Blaine Brownell**

*Director School of Architecture UNC Charlotte, Author of Transmaterial*

Blaine Brownell is Professor and Director of the School of Architecture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and an architect and researcher of emergent materials and applications. A former Fulbright scholar to Japan, he has authored eight books on advanced and sustainable materials for architecture and design, including *Matter in the Floating World*, *Material Strategies*, and the four-volume *Transmaterial* series. He writes the Mind & Matter column for *Architect* magazine, and his work has been published in over 70 architecture, design, science, and news journals including *Nature*. Brownell was elevated to the American Institute of Architects' College of Fellows in 2020.



**Bill Walsh**

*Founder & Strategic Advisor, Healthy Building Network (HBN)*

Bill Walsh is the Founder and now serves as Strategic Advisor to the Healthy Building Network (HBN). Since 2000 HBN has been defining the leading edge of healthy building practices that increase transparency in the building products industry, reduce human exposures to chemicals in building materials, and create market incentives for healthier innovations in manufacturing. He has been Visiting Professor at Parsons The New School for Design, is a Fellow of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts, and a founding board member of the Health Product Declaration (HPD) Collaborative. Bill and HBN have been awarded the Design for Humanity Award by the American Society of Interior Designers (2019); WEAFT for Environmental Justice Leadership Award (2018); Healthy Schools Network Hero (2013); US Green Building Council's Leadership In Advocacy Award (2012). Previously he served as a national campaign director at Greenpeace USA, and held staff attorney positions with the US Public Interest Research Group and the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown University Law Center. He holds a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law and LLM in Public Interest Advocacy from Georgetown University.



# FEB 24

## Anti-Racist Hot Dog

**This program nurtured a culture of inclusivity with thought-provoking discussion topics to create a shame-free environment for transformative discussion around race.**

See virtual discussion panel video

[antiracisthotdog.com](https://antiracisthotdog.com)



**Wandile Mthiyane**

*CEO of social impact architecture firm, Ubuntu Design Group*

Wandile Mthiyane is an Obama Leader, dynamic speaker, equity and inclusion thought leader, adjunct professor, and architect who holds a master's in architecture from Andrews University in Michigan. He is a Resolution Fellow, One Young World ambassador, and the CEO of social impact architecture firm Ubuntu Design Group, the Anti-Racist Hotdog, and Ubuntu Architecture Summer Abroad Design Justice school. As a result of his upbringing and life experiences, diversity and inclusion are core themes for Mthiyane in serving his purpose as an architect and DEI guide. He was born during apartheid South Africa, attended high school in Zimbabwe, and then went on to complete his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in architecture at the most ethnically diverse university in the United States: Andrews University in the state of Michigan. These diverse experiences around the world have shaped his understanding of the different environments around him and the importance of inclusion, which embraces the cultural roots that different communities are drawn to.



**Stephen Erich**

*Spiritual Life Advisor, Columbia and NYU*

Stephen Erich is a chaplain, activist, and business strategist. He serves as a spiritual life advisor at Columbia and NYU where he co-chairs a committee for anti-racism as a spiritual practice. He holds an MA in Religion from Yale Divinity School, where he organized an interfaith conference on mass incarceration and edited the *Yale Journal of International Affairs*. He also holds an MBA from Andrews University, where he has lectured on accounting and economics in addition to organizing multiple summits on social issues. Erich has spoken on religion and human rights in over five countries and 15 U.S. states.



The Resolution Project

# MAR 24

## The Impact of Preservation

**This program considered the many layers of impact that preservation of historic districts have in urban areas, specifically in Brooklyn.**

See virtual discussion panel video

[aiabrooklyn.org/aia-brooklyn-virtual-panel-discussion-the-impact-of-preservation/](http://aiabrooklyn.org/aia-brooklyn-virtual-panel-discussion-the-impact-of-preservation/)



**Angel Ayón, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB, NOMA**

*Principal, AYON Studio Architecture*

Angel Ayón is the Principal of AYON Studio Architecture Preservation, P.C. (AYON Studio) in New York City, which provides integrated professional services in the fields of Architecture and Historic Preservation. He is a Preservation advocate in New York City, and specifically in Harlem. He is also the author of *Reglazing Modernism – Intervention Strategies for 20th-Century Icons* (Birkhäuser, 2019), which was the recipient of the 2021 Lee Nelson Book Award bestowed by the Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) to “the most outstanding and influential book-length work on preservation technology.” Mr. Ayón holds a professional degree as an Architect and a M.Sc. in Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Built Heritage from the Higher Polytechnic Institute “José Antonio Echeverría” in his native Havana, Cuba, and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Conservation of Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites from Columbia University in New York.



**Claudette Brady**

*Former Landmarks Chair CB3, Community Activist*

Claudette Brady is a co-founder of The Bedford Stuyvesant Society for Historic Preservation. She and other local community activists are responsible for the landmark designation of the Bedford Historic District and the Stuyvesant Heights Historic District expansion. Claudette was a member of Brooklyn Community Board 3 and served on the Landmarks, Land-use and Parks Committees. She previously served on the advisory board for Historic Districts Council.



**Andrea Goldwyn**

*Director of Public Policy, The New York Landmarks Conservancy*

Andrea Goldwyn has been at the New York Landmarks Conservancy since 1998 and has served as Director of Public Policy since 2008. Prior to that, she was a project manager for the Conservancy’s Historic Properties Fund. She is on the Board of Preservation Action and previously worked at Heritage Trails New York and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She has an MS in Historic Preservation and a BA in History from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Tiffani Simple**

*Principal and Owner, Simple Design Studio-Architects*

Tiffani is the principal and owner of Simple Design Studio-Architects, specializing in the preservation, adaptive reuse, repair and rehabilitation of existing buildings and sites. She has a Bachelor of Architecture from Rensselaer and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. Tiffani is an active member in several professional organizations including the Association of Preservation Technology, the National Organization of Minority Architects, and the International Council on Monuments and Sites.



# APR 20

## Invest in our Planet

**In celebration of Earth Month, this program looked at the ways in which we can repair damage to the earth and moving forward, how we might do less harm.**

See virtual discussion panel video

[aiabrooklyn.org/aia-brooklyn-virtual-discussion-panel-invest-in-our-planet/](https://aiabrooklyn.org/aia-brooklyn-virtual-discussion-panel-invest-in-our-planet/)



Film still from "Saving Private Ryan"



**George Duke, Esq.,**  
*Board Member, NYC Brownfield Partnership*

Mr. Duke focuses his practice on helping businesses navigate complex environmental and land use laws and regulations pertaining to corporate and real property transactions, mine expansions, land development and permitting projects, and brownfield redevelopment projects. He regularly assists business clients in matters of site acquisition and due diligence, construction and related project development agreements, project financing, and tax mitigation and development incentives.



**Fátima Olivieri-Martínez, AIA, LEED AP BD+C,**  
*Principal, KieranTimberlake*

In nearly a decade at Kieran Timberlake, Fátima has been involved with a variety of projects, including the award-winning renovation of Harvard University's historic River Houses. She currently leads design and construction for the major public spaces including a 350 seat theater at 181 Mercer, a large mixed-use building for New York University.

Fátima has been an influential mentor to new hires at the firm and as an educator at Temple University and elsewhere. Fátima helped formalize KTCI, the firm's Community Involvement group that offers pro bono design services. She also spearheaded a collaboration to create a graduate-level design studio focused on designing a visionary school in Puerto Rico, where she is from, to build resiliency following the devastation of Hurricane Maria. Fátima received the 2019 Young Architect Award from AIA Philadelphia, which recognizes a registered architect between the ages of 25 and 39 for remarkable contributions in leadership, practice, and service.

APRIL	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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JUNE	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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26	27	28	29	30			

EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY, 6:00 – 8:00PM  
HYBRID MEETINGS

## Discussion Panel + General Meeting

AIA Brooklyn convenes monthly (except July and August) around a topic of discussion with invited expert guests. Panel is followed by a membership meeting.

EVERY 2ND FRIDAY, 12:00 – 1:00PM  
VIRTUAL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

## COTE Monthly Meeting

The AIA Brooklyn Committee on the Environment (COTE) is an AIA Knowledge Community working for architects, allied professionals, and the public to achieve climate action and climate justice through design.

To get involved, please contact  
AIA Brooklyn COTE Chair Michelle Todd,  
michelle@mtoddarchitects.com

EVERY 1ST THURSDAY, 6:00 – 7:30PM  
ZOOM INFO AT AIA BROOKLYN.ORG

## CRAN Monthly Meeting

The AIA Brooklyn Custom Residential Architects Network (CRAN) is a Knowledge Community of architects in Brooklyn practicing residential architecture. CRAN members rotate hosting meetings in their office spaces or meet – virtually – on Zoom.

To get involved, please contact AIA Brooklyn CRAN Co-Chairs: David Cunningham | david@dcapny.com and Cortney Walleston | cortney@cwallarchitecture.com

WEBINARS  
SELECT THURSDAYS  
VISIT [WWW.AIABROOKLYN.ORG](http://WWW.AIABROOKLYN.ORG) FOR  
CURRENT OFFERINGS

## On The Menu

AIA Brooklyn invites manufacturer/vendor partners to present 1-hour AIA accredited presentations, offered virtually at lunchtime to our membership. Non-AIA members are welcome to attend and learn.

PAST

## Coney Island Tour

April 10, 2022



PAST

## Gowanus Canal Conservancy Tour

May 14, 2022



JUNE 9, 2022

## Cooper Recycling Tour

Coordinated by AIA Brooklyn's Committee on the Environment, join a behind the scenes tour of the largest construction and demolition debris recycling facility in NYC.

JUNE 20, 2022

WESTLIGHT BAR AT THE WILLIAM VALE  
HOTEL, WILLIAMSBURG

## Celebrate Summer with AIA Brooklyn Emerging Professionals

Celebrate Summer with architect members and colleagues in the field over great drinks and food; connect with representatives from Duravit, Fisher & Paykel, Julien, Sherwin-Williams and TILEBAR – the sponsors who made the event possible.

JUNE 18, 2022

IN COLLABORATION WITH AIA QUEENS  
AND AIA LONG ISLAND

## “Back to the Future” Tour + Ballgame at CitiField

Join an exclusive Panorama tour at the Queens Museum and feedback session to inform the model's upgrade; then, enjoy a ballgame with your AIA colleagues!



# *Back to the Future*

## TOUR and BALLGAME

Saturday, June 18, 2022

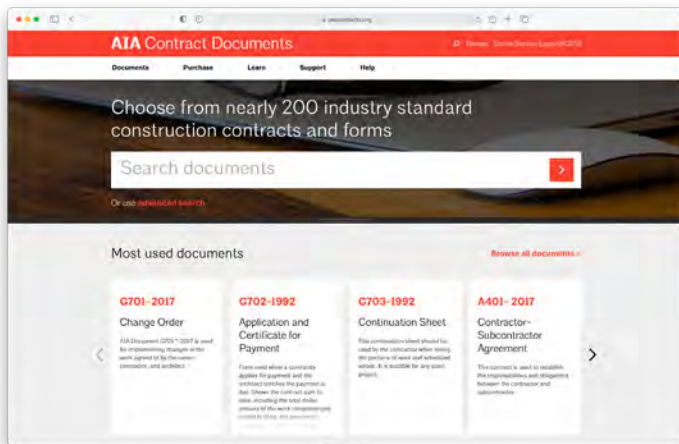


### TOUR

12:30 – 2:30 PM

### BALLGAME

04:00 – 7:00 PM



## Tackling Mental Health in Architectural Practice

June 15, 2022 – Webinar/Course

2:30–4:30pm

Hosted by AIA Women's Leadership Summit

To achieve a state of positive mental and physical wellbeing, the architecture industry must evaluate its culture of work, which historically has demanded creative perfectionism, employs tough critical reviews, and requires long hours. In a 2021 study of the architecture industry by Monograph, 96.9% of the respondents indicated that they experience burnout. Working overtime, inefficient processes, inflexible work options, and lack of support are just some of the reasons outlined for causes of burnout. Join us in a discussion with our panelists who will outline ways that employees can achieve greater rejuvenation and satisfaction with work, and how employers can implement more supportive systems.



Learn More at

<https://www.aia.org/events/6508491-tackling-mental...>

## Women in Architecture Workshop

Part 3 – Storytelling for your brands

June 15, 2022 – Virtual

Hosted by AIA Northern Virginia

Telling the story of a brand is just as important as the brand itself. Through coaching and practice exercises, attendees will explore and assess ways to tell the story of their brand, whether personal or company, in a way that is meaningful and makes an impact. Participants will review how storytelling connects people and ideas and how those connections can amplify and connect their brand to the desired target of either potential employers or clients.



Learn More at

<https://www.aia.org/events/6497773-women-in...>

## The Legacy of Whitney Young: Riding The Vortex

Jun 22, 2022 – Webinar

2:00–3:00pm

Associated with Housing and Community Development

Named for civil rights leader Whitney M. Young Jr., this award distinguishes an architect or architectural organization that embodies social responsibility and actively addresses a relevant issue, such as affordable housing, inclusiveness, or universal access. This session features the winner of the 2022 Whitney M. Young Jr. Award, RIDING THE VORTEX (VORTEX). For more than a decade, VORTEX, a collaboration of African-American women representing the entire spectrum of practice, had endeavored to increase the number of people of color licensed to practice architecture in the U.S. This session highlights the work of VORTEX and its impact on the increased number of African-American women architects.



Learn More at

<https://network.aia.org/events/event-description?...>

## Analyzing The 15-Minute City: Smart Cities and Infrastructure

3rd Panel Discussion – Webinar

July 14, 2022 – 12:00pm

Hosted by AIA Regional and Urban Design Committee

Cities are becoming increasingly less affordable for residents, and the wealth gap between the social classes in urban communities is widening. Many designers are looking for more equitable and sustainable solutions to bridge this gap and develop more densely populated cities that have the well-distributed resources available for all communities. This panel seeks to reframe how the infrastructure of cities is more than investment in traditional structures such as bridges or sewer systems, but can be expanded to access systems of food, transit, jobs, housing, education, healthcare, etc. This discussion will explore the framework of 15-Minute City and its opportunities and limitations in creating more connected, accessible, and sustainable communities for all.



Learn More at

<https://www.aia.org/events/6510414-analyzing-the-15...>



# AIA NYS Advocacy Update

BY MICHAEL BURRIDGE, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, AIA NEW YORK STATE



On the heels of passing a record \$220 billion New York State budget, the State Legislature will now turn its attention toward hundreds of bills aimed at addressing affordable housing, public protection, criminal justice reform, and environmentally themed initiatives. The 2022 primary and general elections will

loom large over the final weeks of Legislative Session, as New York voters will go to the polls in November to elect candidates for State Assembly, State Senate, U.S. Congress, Governor, Attorney General and the State Comptroller.

Grabbing the attention of lawmakers in this politically charged atmosphere will present challenges for many advocates pushing for legislative victories. To overcome these challenges and rise above the fray, AIANYS plans to focus on priority policy initiatives with a thematic correlation to the Legislature's priorities.

## THE CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT

A significant legislative victory was secured with the inclusion of the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act in this year's State budget. AIANYS joined a broad coalition of various environmental, agricultural, conservationist, and design and construction organizations to support the Bond Act. If approved by New York State voters in November, the \$4.2 billion Bond will go toward investing in climate change mitigation projects, water quality and resilient infrastructure, restoration and flood risk reduction, and open space conservation and recreation. A report by AECOM estimates the Bond will support at least 38,000 jobs across the state, and if fully leveraged with federal funds, could expand to some 84,000 jobs. At least \$400 million will be set aside for wsustainable and resilient upgrades for State-owned buildings, public schools, SUNY/CUNY campuses, and other public spaces.

## CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL DRAFT SCOPING PLAN

If you haven't heard about the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the Climate Action Council (CAC), or the Council's Draft Scoping Plan, you wouldn't be alone. However, as leaders in the built environment, it is imperative for architects to understand the immense importance of this law and the recommendations put forth in the CAC Draft Scoping Plan, as the implementation of the plan will mark a major paradigm shift in how buildings are designed, built, and powered. Recommendations to completely phase-out the use of fossil fuels in new construction, reduce embodied carbon in building materials, adopt advanced building codes, and incentivize density and Transit Oriented Development (TOD), are just some of the recommendations included in the 800-plus page Draft Scoping Plan.

AIANYS has been sending out information to members about the CAC Draft Scoping Plan since January and will continue to raise awareness and encourage comments and feedback. An executive summary focused on the buildings sector section of the Draft Scoping Plan will also be sent to members for review. Additionally, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be providing an exclusive webinar to AIANYS members on Monday, May 9th from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Members should be on the look out for AIANYS communications promoting this event, which will include information on how to participate.

Moving forward, AIANYS plans to submit testimony to the CAC on the Draft Scoping Plan as part of the public comment period, which ends June 10th. AIANYS will also begin laying the groundwork with State legislators and other government leaders on the need to collaborate and partner to identify the resources needed to advance the State's climate goals over the next decade and into the future. The architectural community must be engaged in the development and adoption of advanced building codes, sustainable and resilient design best practices, and the creation and expansion of financial incentives to ensure the benefits of the clean-energy transition are within reach for all New Yorkers.

## A BALANCED LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Beyond action on climate, AIANYS continues to pursue a balanced legislative agenda aimed at meeting various needs across a broad spectrum of member interests. These legislative priorities include liability reform in the public and private sectors, advancing universal acceptance and use of qualifications-based selection (QBS) in public procurement, making coming sense changes to the onerous and punitive measures employed by the NYC Department of Buildings, making our schools safer through design best practices, protecting licensed design professionals who volunteer during declared emergencies on behalf of their communities, and fighting against legislation aimed at eroding and infringing upon the architectural scope of practice.

Member feedback is crucial to the development of AIANYS legislative and policy priorities. At the national level, environmental and climate issues continue to rank at the top of members' concerns. A Siena survey commissioned by AIANYS in 2020 ranks liability exposure, maintaining profitability, and strengthening the architect's traditional leadership role as the top issues. To better assist and inform AIANYS in its advocacy efforts, and to facilitate actionable and substantive change, members are encouraged to provide specifics on how the current regulatory environment affects their professional lives.

## ADVOCACY 365

The continued preference for virtual meetings among legislators has allowed AIANYS to become more agile in its approach to advocacy. Last year, AIANYS facilitated dozens of meetings between legislators and members of local chapters around the state. These local virtual meetings enhanced the probability of meeting with a legislator, as they were scheduled outside of Session days when they were in their community offices. The virtual meeting model will continue until legislators become more comfortable with a return to in-person meetings, and AIANYS will continue to take advantage of this option with a new round of local advocacy meetings throughout the year.

While holding an annual Advocacy Day in Albany is important for visibility purposes, strict COVID-19 protocols have complicated and disrupted these events for many advocacy groups. Year-round grassroots advocacy keeps the messaging fresh and builds capacity and depth of expertise within the organization. New York State government has experienced significant change at all levels, with the inauguration of a new governor and a Legislature facing a slew of retirements and flipped seats due to competitive primary and general electoral contests. Visibility and the establishment and re-establishment of relevance must continue unabated to keep pace with the turnover rate. AIANYS will continue to communicate the values and policy priorities of its members, while refining the tools and training necessary to facilitate advocacy at the grassroots level.

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# Meet AIA Brooklyn's NYS Board Member 2022-2023 Mi Zhang



Mi Zhang, the NYS Board Member from AIA Brooklyn, met with the AIANYS Board for the first time this past May and attended a well organized Excelsior Awards night, celebrating impressive publicly funded projects and celebrated their successes. Due to limited access and rise of Covid rates, Advocacy Day was canceled this year.

## FUN FACT

The AIANYS Government Advocacy Committee monitors 500 bills that impact the design and construction industry and/or the built environment in some way.

For more information or to get involved, please reach out to the chapter and get connected with Mi: [info@aiabrooklyn.org](mailto:info@aiabrooklyn.org).



# Brooklyn Community Board

We encourage you to get involved in your local Community Boards and that's why we've listed all 18 Community Boards that serve Brooklyn right here.

Visit their websites, office locations, send them an email or give them a call to find out when the next meeting is or to learn more about how you can serve your Community. Don't forget to let us know if there is something we'd be interested in going on in your neighborhood!

**SARAH DRAKE, AIA**

## COMMUNITY BOARD #1

Flushing Ave., Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Northside & Southside

bk01@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 389-0009  
www.nyc.gov/brooklyncb1

435 Graham Ave.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #2

Boerum Hill, Bridge Plaza, Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Clinton Hill, Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO, Farragut, Fort Greene, Vinegar Hill & Wallabout

bk02@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 596-5410  
www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb2/index.page

350 Jay St., 8th fl.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #3

Bedford Stuyvesant

bk03@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 622-6601  
www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb3/index.page

Restoration Plz., 1360 Fulton St., 2nd fl.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #4

Bushwick

bk04@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 628-8400  
www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb4/index.page

1420 Bushwick Ave., Suite 370

## COMMUNITY BOARD #5

East New York, Cypress Hills, Highland Park, New Lots, City Line, Starrett City & Ridgewood

bk05@cb.nyc.gov  
(929) 221-8261  
www.brooklyncb5.org

404 Pine St., 3rd fl.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #6

Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Park Slope, Gowanus & Cobble Hill

info@brooklyncb6.org  
(718) 643-3027  
www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb6/index.page

250 Baltic St.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #7

Sunset Park & Windsor Terrace

bk07@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 854-0003  
www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb7/index.page

4201 4th Ave.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #8

Crown Heights, Prospect Heights & Weeksville

brooklyncb8@gmail.com  
(718) 467-5574  
www.brooklyncb8.org

1291 St. Marks Ave.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #9

Crown Heights, Prospect Lefferts Garden & Wingate

bk09-1@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 778-9279  
www.communitybrd9bklyn.org

890 Nostrand Ave.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #10

Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights & Fort Hamilton

bk10@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 745-6827  
www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb10/index.page

8119 5th Ave.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #11

Bath Beach, Gravesend, Mapleton & Bensonhurst

bk11@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 266-8800  
www.brooklyncb11.org

2214 Bath Ave.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #12

Boro Park, Kensington, Ocean Pkwy & Midwood

bk12@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 851-0800  
twitter.com/BrooklynCB12

5910 13th Ave.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #13

Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Bensonhurst, Gravesend & Seagate

edmark@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 266-3001  
www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb13/index.page

1201 Surf Ave., 3rd fl.

## COMMUNITY BOARD #14

Flatbush, Midwood, Kensington & Ocean Parkway

info@cb14brooklyn.com  
(718) 859-6357  
www.cb14brooklyn.com

810 East 16th St.

**COMMUNITY BOARD #15**

Sheepshead Bay, Manhattan Beach,  
Kings Bay, Gerritsen Beach, Kings  
Highway, East Gravesend, Madison,  
Homecrest & Plum Beach

bklcb15@verizon.net  
(718) 332-3008  
[www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb15/index.  
page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb15/index.page)

Kingsboro Community College, 2001  
Oriental Blvd, C Cluster, Rm C124

**COMMUNITY BOARD #16**

Brownsville and Ocean Hill

bkl6@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 385-0323  
[www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb16/index.  
page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyncb16/index.page)

444 Thomas Boyland St., Rm. 103

**COMMUNITY BOARD #17**

East Flatbush, Remsen Village, Farragut,  
Rugby, Erasmus & Ditmas Village

bkl7@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 434-3461  
[www.cbl7brooklyn.org](http://www.cbl7brooklyn.org)

4112 Farragut Rd.

**COMMUNITY BOARD #18**

Canarsie, Bergen Beach, Mill Basin,  
Flatlands, Marine Park, Georgetown & Mill  
Island

bkl8@cb.nyc.gov  
(718) 241-0422

1097 Bergen Ave.

# NYC Agencies

## New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (NYC LPC)

[www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/index.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/index.page)

General Information – Front Desk (212) 669-7855

1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North  
David N. Dinkins Municipal Building  
New York, NY 10007

## New York City Department of Buildings (NYC DOB)

[www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/index.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/index.page)

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH OFFICE**

Customer Service (718) 802-3675

210 Joralemon Street, 8th Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**QUEENS BOROUGH OFFICE**

Customer Service (718) 286-7620

120-55 Queens Boulevard  
Kew Gardens, NY 11424

**STATEN ISLAND BOROUGH  
OFFICE**

Customer Service (718) 420-5400

Borough Hall  
10 Richmond Terrace, 2nd Floor  
Staten Island, NY 10301

**MANHATTAN BOROUGH OFFICE**

Customer Service (212) 393-2614

280 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10007

**BRONX BOROUGH OFFICE**

Customer Service (718) 960-4710

1932 Arthur Avenue, 5th Floor  
Bronx, NY 10457



# Podcasts

## General Architecture

### EP ARCHITALK

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-eparchitalk-74817098>

Join Talisha Sainvil, AIA each month as she and a guest address a specific topic affecting Emerging Professionals in the world of Architecture.

### ARCHINECT SESSIONS

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/archinect-sessions/id928222819>

A biweekly discussion of pressing architecture news and issues, hosted by Paul Petrunia, Donna Sink and Ken Koense.

### AIA – TRACING ARCHITECTURE

<https://tracingarchitecture.org>

A podcast that explores the layers of architecture as a profession and passion.

### LIFE OF AN ARCHITECT

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/life-of-an-architect/id1399009172>

It responds to the public curiosity and common misunderstanding about what architects do and how it is relevant to people's lives, engaging a wide demographic of people in a meaningful way without requiring an understanding of the jargon or knowledge of the history of the profession.

### BUILDINGS ON AIR

<http://www.kdunn.info/buildings-on-air-audio>

Buildings on Air is a monthly FM radio show that demystifies architecture through wild speculation, good conversation, a healthy dose of lefty political perspective, and lots of skepticism about the 'power of design.' Each show features guests from the many different facets of the architecture world in Chicago and beyond.

### THE BUSINESS OF ARCHITECTURE

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/business-of-architecture-podcast/id588987926?mt=2>

Discover strategies, tips and secrets for running a fun, flexible and profitable architecture practice. The focus here is simple: discussion of ways for architects to create a dream architecture practice: design what you want, when you want, and get paid well for it.

### ARCHITECTURE TALK

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/256-architecturetalk-30950788>

Designed around an engaging conversation, Architecture Talk explores issues in contemporary architecture and architectural thinking. It is hosted by Vikram Prakash, Professor of Architecture at the University of Washington in Seattle.

### ABOUT BUILDINGS + CITIES

<https://aboutbuildingsandcities.org>

A podcast about buildings and cities, from the distant past to the present day. In-depth exploration of architectural history and culture, with detours into film, fiction, comics, and the dimly imagined future.

### ARCHITECTURAL RECORD – DESIGN: ED PODCAST

<https://www.architecturalrecord.com/designed-podcast>

Every other week, the podcast will feature guests from top firms all over the world, working at every scale, and sharing their professional highs and lows, as well as lessons learned throughout their careers.

### ARCHITECT – THE ARCHITECT PODCAST NETWORK

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/architect/id1101866758>

The Architect Podcast Network is a production of ARCHITECT, the journal of the American Institute of Architects. Here, we talk with the innovators working at the cutting edge of design, technology, and practice in architecture.

### ARCHITECTURAL RECORD – SPONSORED AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PODCASTS

<https://continuingeducation.bnppmedia.com/library.php?S=P>

### ARCHISPEAK

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/archispeak/id599491778>

What's it really like to work in architecture? The hosts of Archispeak know, and they're here to share real-life experiences. Since 2012 architects Evan Troxel and Cormac Phalen have been podcasting their brand of real talk on everything from design, tools, and work/life balance to generational differences, mentoring, job hunting, and more. Probing questions, revelatory interviews, and unique insights have grown their audience and become a weekly ritual for students and seasoned professionals alike.

### BLACK SPECTACLES: ARE LIVE

<https://go.blackspectacles.com/podcast>

Chosen by ArchDaily as one of the best podcasts for architects, ARE Live is where you come for help with passing the ARE. Featuring discussions and exercises including ARE division topics and NCARB objectives led by distinguished architects and industry experts, ARE Live comes to you monthly, and it's on the house. Yes, it's free, and like the name says – live! Write in during the live broadcast to have your questions answered, kind of like the good ole days of calling in to request songs on the radio.

### ARCAT – DETAILED

<https://www.arcad.com/podcast>

Along the process of design and construction, incredible stories of conflict and triumph emerge in pursuit of the broad vision for a building. Detailed is a series that features architects, engineers, builders, and manufacturers who share their insight and expertise as they highlight some of the most complex, interesting, and oddest building conditions that they have encountered, and the ingenuity it took to solve them. Join host, Cherise Lakeside, aka CSI Kraken, a Senior Specification Writer at RDH Building Science, as she uncovers lessons learned to help you navigate similar challenges that may arise in your next project.

**AMERICAN BUILDING PODCAST**

<https://americanbuildingpodcast.com>

A podcast about how iconic buildings came together from the perspective of their designers and developers. Hosted by award-winning architect turned developer Atif Z. Qadir, AIA, and sponsored by world-renowned Michael Graves Architecture & Design and the real estate technology company REDIST.

**THE ARC PODCAST**

<https://www.sciarc.edu/institution/the-arc-podcast>

Hosted by History + Theory Coordinator Marrikka Trotter, each themed episode juxtaposes discussions with thought leaders in architecture with interviews with experts and intellectuals from a wide range of other fields, including astrophysics, politics, fine art, set design, journalism, and genetics, among others. The lively dialogue that emerges between the discipline of architecture and other forms of knowledge aims to provoke fresh ways to engage our world.

**ENTRE ARCHITECT**

<https://entrearchitect.com/podcast>

A community for small firm entrepreneur architects. The Podcast explores leadership skills and the business of architecture; an aspect design and architectural school's miss out to include along with divulging into the intimate details of everyday life of an architect. The show currently accounts for over 300 episodes hosted by Architect Mark. R Lepage with interviews from people running big to small firm studios and companies to understand the business strategies an architect must take that includes financial management, productivity, profit, marketing and planning.

**DESIGN VOICE PODCAST**

<https://www.designvoicepodcast.com>

Conversations with Women Who Shape the Built Environment. The Design Voice Podcast seeks to evaluate and amplify the voices of women in the architecture, engineering and construction professions. Each episode features honest conversations with those who shape the built environment. By telling their stories, this podcast hopes to serve as a source of education, inspiration and empowerment.

**DESIGN-BUILD DELIVERS**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/design-build-delivers/id1327042154>

This is a show about the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) industry's fastest growing delivery method... design-build. We'll talk to design-build pros, Owners and successful teams about the best ways to harness the power of design-build to deliver the nation's most innovative, collaborative, time and cost-efficient projects. We know America's infrastructure is a mess. Design-build can help lead us to a national infrastructure renaissance, one community and one project at a time.

**THE YOUNG ARCHITECT**

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/256-the-young-architect-podcas-30944645>

Discussing the future of Architecture with leaders in the profession.

**SCAFFOLD**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/scaffold/id1345689462>

Interviews with architects, artists and designers. Produced by the Architecture Foundation and hosted by Matthew Blunderfield.

**HDR INC – SPEAKING OF DESIGN**

<https://www.hdrinc.com/speaking-design-podcast>

There's a story behind every structure in our world. Meet the engineers and architects who are changing communities through imagination and innovation. Speaking of Design makes you part of the experience as they transform the world, one project at a time.

**SHAPING CITIES – BY TICCO**

<https://go-ticco.co/podcast>

Ticco's mission is to enable people who shape cities to embrace each other and collaborate as they usher urban areas into the future.

An official podcast series for members and non-members alike: for people who work with cities, communities and the built environment.

**INSIDE THE FIRM PODCAST**

<https://www.insidethefirmpodcast.com>

A raw look into the inner workings of an Architecture firm. Posted every Friday afternoon, the podcast covers the nitty gritty issues of how to start, run, and maintain your firm, to dealing with clients, codes issues, Revit tips and tricks, and more.

**BOWERBIRD ARCHITECTURE PODCAST**

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/256-the-young-architect-podcas-30944645>

How to get your architecture published. 17- part series presented by the co-founders of BowerBird.io, architectural photographer Nic Granleese, and design journalist Ben Morgan.

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

<https://www.audible.com/pd/Built-Environment-Matters-Podcast/B08K57NYP4>

Welcome to Built Environment Matters. A monthly podcast brought to you by Bryden Wood, an international company of technologists, designers, architects, engineers and analysts working for a better built environment. Bryden Wood believe in design to value to cut carbon, drive efficiency, save time, make beautiful places and build a better future.

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## New York Architecture

**THE GOTHAM CENTER FOR NEW YORK CITY HISTORY**

<https://www.gothamcenter.org/podcasts/ohny-weekend-podcasts>

Site and Sounds: Open House New York:

A podcast featuring scholars and experts talking about NYC's most important historical sites and organizations for Open House New York Weekend.

**OCULUS QUICK TAKE PODCAST**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/oculus-quick-take/id1003406304>



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The Center for Architecture is a leading cultural venue for architecture and the built environment in New York City, informed by the complexity of the City's urban fabric and in dialogue with the global community.

**THE UNITED NATIONS – THE LID IS ON – FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE, ONE BUILDING AT A TIME – INDIVIDUAL EPISODE**

<https://news.un.org/en/audio/2021/02/1084472>

The role that buildings have to play in climate change rarely gets the same level of attention as issues such as energy production or transport, but they are a significant part of the problem.

In New York, home to UN Headquarters, these techniques are now being put into practice, and older buildings are being “retrofitted” with the latest materials, for the benefit of residents, and the environment.

**ELGL: ENGAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS: GOVLOV PODCAST****GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS AND RECRUITING ARCHITECTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH FARAH AHMAD – INDIVIDUAL EPISODE**

<https://elgl.org/podcast-green-building-standards-and-recruiting-architects-to-local-government-with-farah-ahmad>

Sustainable design. Farah Ahmad, Sustainable Design Architect for the City of New York, joined the podcast to talk about green building standards and sustainability. She shared some of the trends in the architecture and design fields as well as initial steps into implementing sustainable building design. She also shared her career path into local government and how organizations can do a better job recruiting architects.

**ANTIQUITY IN GOTHAM**

<https://ancientarchny.commons.gc.cuny.edu/podcasts-antiquity-in-gotham>

Discussion of the influence of Classical and Ancient art and architecture in New York City's visual and material culture.

**CULTURE NOW – MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS: THE PODCAST PROJECT: NYC ART, ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC REALM**

[https://culturenow.org/podcast/project\\_nyc](https://culturenow.org/podcast/project_nyc)

For several years cultureNOW has been collecting oral histories by artists, architects, historians, planners, and curators. Here is the large (and growing) collection of podcasts and videos about the city and by New York City based artists and architects.

**ELGL: ENGAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS: GOVLOV PODCAST****HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN BROOKLYN WITH REBECCA BELLAN – INDIVIDUAL EPISODE**

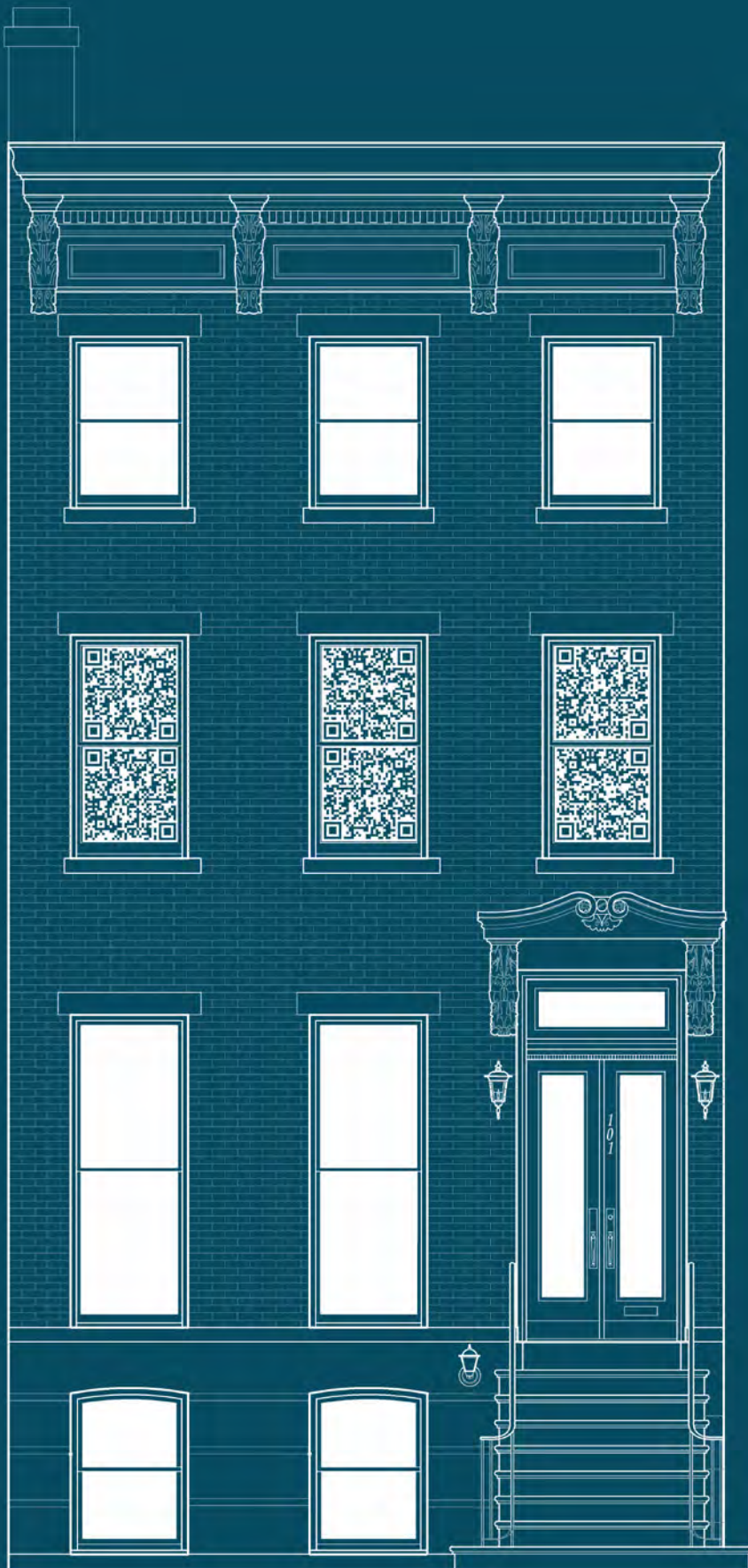
<https://elgl.org/podcast-historic-preservation-in-brooklyn-with-rebecca-bellan>

Rebecca Bellan, freelance reporter for Forbes and CityLab tells the story of 227 Duffield in Brooklyn.



Photo: New York City Department of Buildings

Drawing by Sarah Drake



BUILDING HEIGHT  
ELEVATION 40'-0"

THIRD FLOOR  
ELEVATION 28'-10"

FOLLOW THE QR  
CODES IN THE  
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WORK TO PYLON

SECOND FLOOR  
ELEVATION 18'-9"

FIRST FLOOR  
ELEVATION 6'-6"

SIDEWALK  
ELEVATION 0'-0"



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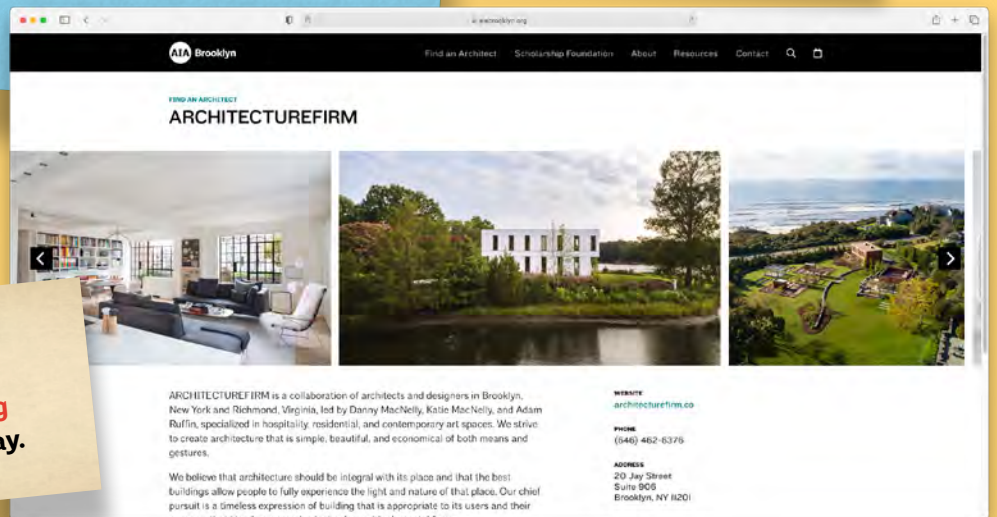
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# COTE Committee On The Environment

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and advocate**

**for design practices that integrate  
built and natural systems and  
enhance both the design quality and  
environmental performance of the  
built environment.**



Gowanus Canal Conservancy

## **THE COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY EXPLORING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

*The Gowanus Canal Conservancy* is an organization dedicated to facilitating the development of an open space network centered on the canal. This organization advocates and cares for ecologically sustainable parks and public spaces in the Gowanus lowlands while empowering a community of stewards.

Operating in Brooklyn since 1986, *Cooper Recycling* is NYC's premiere recycler of construction debris. With over a mile of conveyor belts connecting more than one hundred pieces of machinery, the company's state-of-the-art sorting line can process 2,000 tons of debris per day. As a proud member of the US Green Building Council, Cooper Recycling is the only facility in NY certified by the Recycling Certification Institute.

Virtual Presentations from: *The New School Parsons, Healthy Materials Lab* — dedicated to raising awareness about toxic chemicals in building products and creating resources for the next generation of architects and designers to make healthier places for all to live and from *Brownfield Partnership* — dedicated to providing leadership to the NYC brownfield community while serving as a primary resource for information on brownfields and brownfields redevelopment in NYC.

Chair: Michelle Todd,  
[michelle@mtoddarchitects.com](mailto:michelle@mtoddarchitects.com)

# W.I.M.B.Y. What's In **M**y **B**ack **Y**ard

BY JANE MCGROARTY, AIA

## Is Covid Diminishing & Weakening?

**It's probably too soon to tell but the fact that the newer variants are weaker may be a positive sign. Even though the pandemic slowed down most construction projects; the high end of the real estate market is currently booming.**

Rendering: Help One affordable housing  
Curtis+Ginsburg Architects  
Photo: Curtis+Ginsburg Architects

Projects, such as 11 Hoyt (Jeanne Gang Studio) and One Clinton (Marvel Architects), and in 85 Jay (Morris Adjimi) in Downtown Brooklyn and Dumbo are marketing apartments in the \$1600–1800 per square foot. There are also plenty of new buildings starting or





Rendering: 589  
Fulton Street The  
tall slender building  
at the bottom right  
Beyer Blinder  
Belle Architects  
Photo: Beyer  
Blinder Belle



under construction, such as 9 Dekalb, Brooklyn's first supertall (ShoP Architects), 80 Flatbush (Alloy Development), and a second supertall at 589 Fulton Street redesigned by Beyer Blinder Bell. Nearing completion at 30 Front Street (Hill West Architects) in Dumbo is the Olympia in the shape of a giant sail with spectacular views overlooking the East River. The asking prices of \$2200 to \$3900 per square foot seem almost aspirational, especially as interest rates are rising.

The Gowanus Rezoning plan was approved in November of 2021 and is slated to provide 8000 new housing units, as well as provide funds for rehabilitation of NYCHA housing in the area. Already there are many applications for new building projects being filed. In March 2022 two local activist groups (Voice of Gowanus and FROGG – Friends and Resident of Great Gowanus) filed a lawsuit alleging that the Gowanus rezoning violates state and federal law. The suit claims the FEIS did not adequately address elements like future flooding, CSO discharges, and the impacts of wet weather, especially if large parts of the rezoning are completed before the city finishes the construction of two federally mandated CSO retention tanks. Stay tuned.

We are also seeing many new affordable units coming on the market. Too many of them are at the 130% of AMI (Area Median Income) in neighborhoods where the actual median income is much lower. On a positive note, WIMBY is happy to give a shout-out to an affordable housing complex that broke ground in early this year in East New York. The project is called HELP ONE and was designed by Curtis+Ginsberg, and, when complete it will have 225 units of affordable and supportive housing. The bad news is that the MIH (Mandatory Inclusionary Housing) zoning change championed by Bill DeBlasio during his bid for Mayor in 2013, has done little to address the lack of affordable housing in the city. MIH was intended to provide affordable housing in new projects being built in areas that were rezoned to permit more housing. Eric Kober, a retired director at NYC Department of Planning and current fellow at the Manhattan Institute, produced a paper titled, DE BLASIO'S MANDATORY INCLUSIONARY HOUSING PROGRAM: What Is Wrong, and How It Can Be Made Right (2020). Kober contends that the concept of creating below market rate housing "by capturing some of the added economic value that rezoning creates for private

developers and directing it toward the city's housing goals" was unsuccessful. The promise of capturing future economic value has seemed to WIMBY to be a bit of a shell game.

Since MIH was adopted in 2016 only 2065 affordable MIH units have been approved in a city of 8.4 million residents. The VIH (Voluntary Inclusionary Housing) program begun by Mayor Bloomberg continued to operate under DeBlasio and resulted in 8,476 permanently affordable housing units, more than four times the number under MIH. According to Kober, the NYC Zoning Resolution District Maps simply do not allow for the amount of housing needed in NYC, and rezoning has been divisive in many communities, most recently in Gowanus. With a new Mayor and a new City Council in place, we must hold our breath to see if this administration can get a handle on this complicated subject.

# AIA Brooklyn Membership

BY ZIPCODE



Downtown Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO, Carroll Gardens, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights, Park Slope



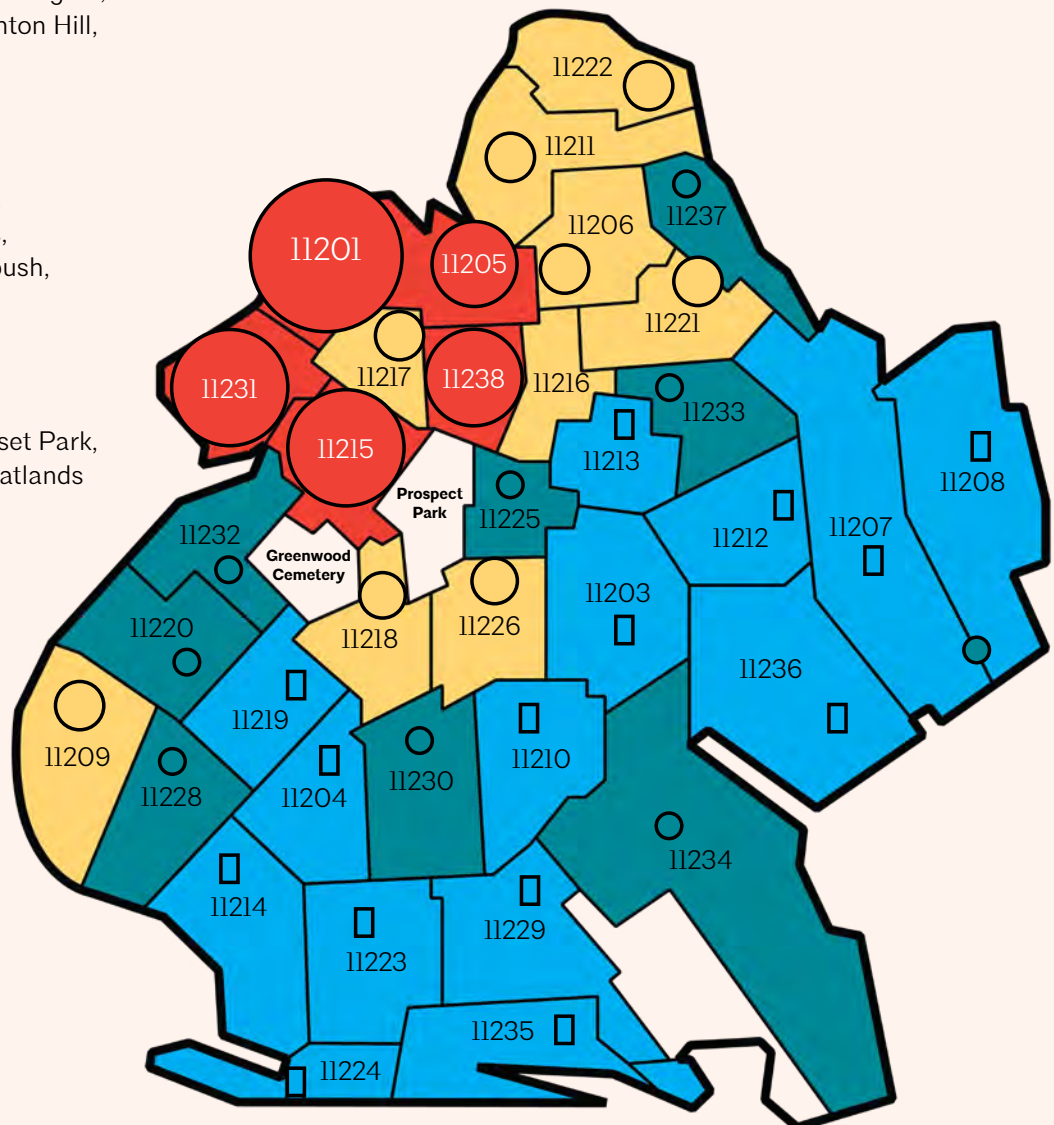
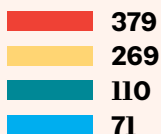
Boerum Hill, Windsor Terrace, Kensington, Prospect Lefferts, Bed-Stuy, Williamsburg, Flatbush, Bay Ridge, Greenpoint



Dyker Heights, Midwood, Sunset Park, Crowne Heights, Bushwick, Flatlands



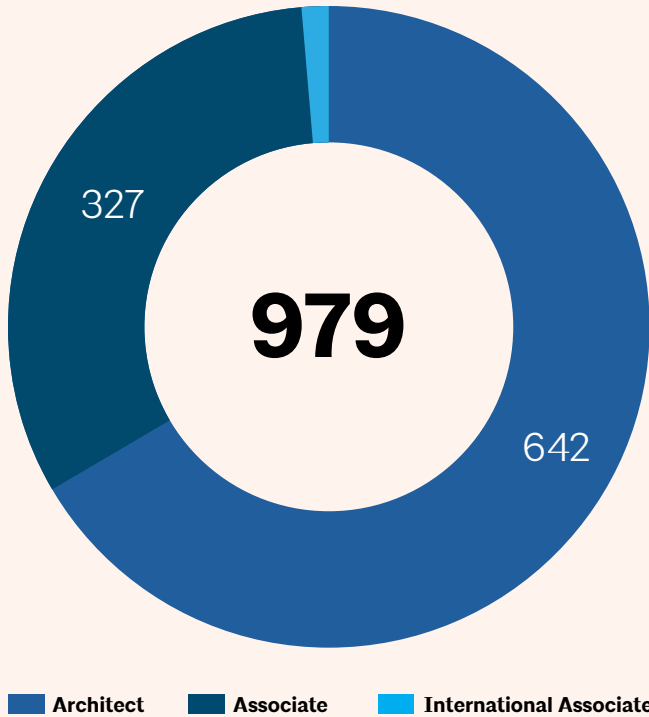
Boro Park, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, Gravesend, Coney Island, Sea Gate, Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach, Sheepshead Bay, Gerritsen Beach, Marine Park, East Flatbush, Brownsville, Canarsie, Cypress Hills, East New York





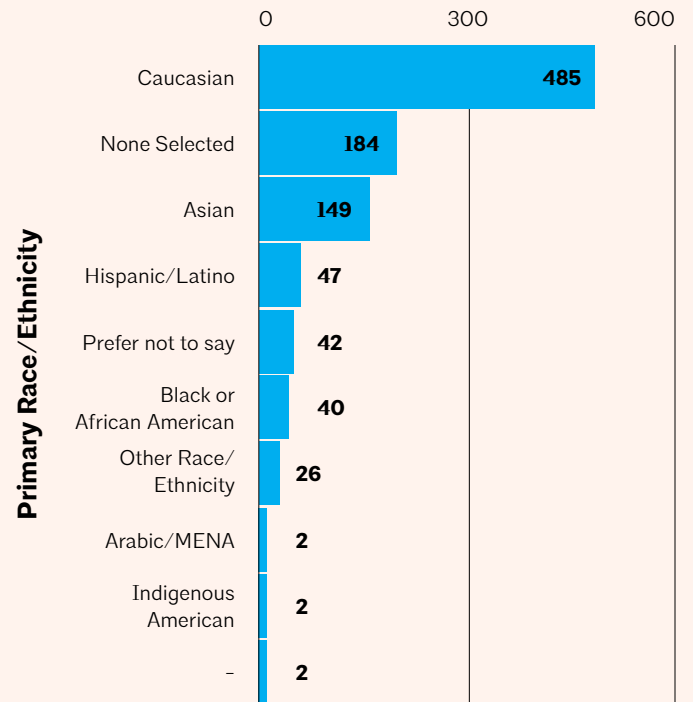
## Membership by Type

Record Count

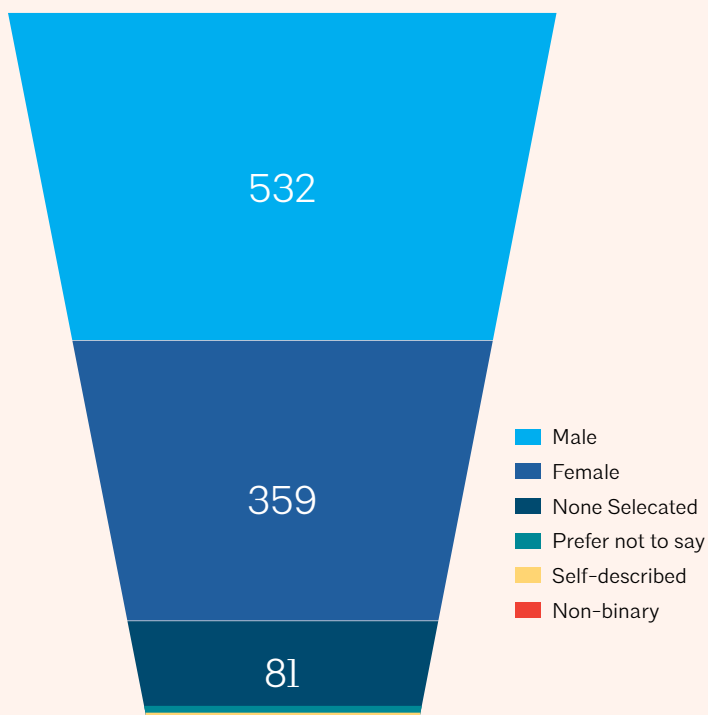


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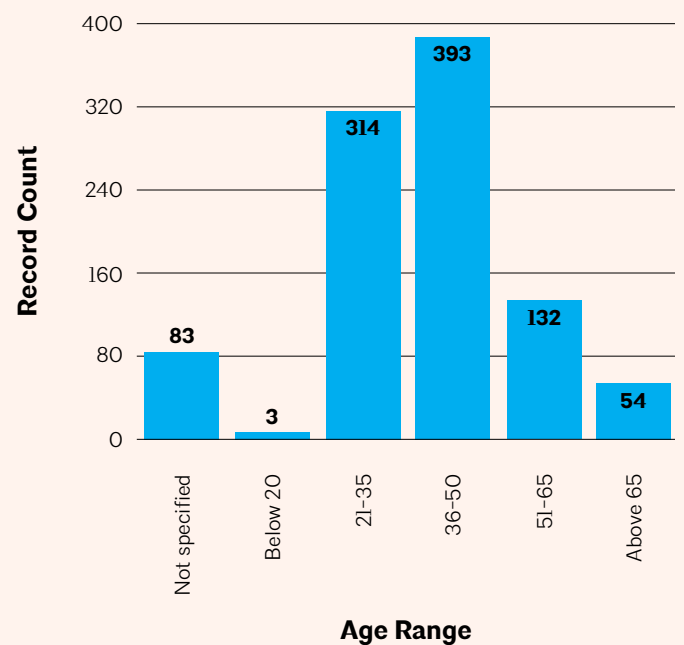
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## Membership by Gender/Identity



## Membership by Age



# **CRAN**

## **Custom Residential**

## **Architecture Network**

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### **Current Issues**

**On March 10th, CRAN featured a show and tell session by a group of panelists entitled “Current Issues in Residential Architecture.” A select number of panelists shared stories about specific projects, including successes and challenges they encountered, and lessons they learned during the process:**

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#### **ROBINSON + GRISARU ARCHITECTURE PC**

described a case study of inserting a mechanical system into a landmarked apartment building. The architects were restricted from placing the heat pump system’s outdoor air-cooled condensing unit on the roof or any other exterior space, so they constructed an interior mechanical room, successfully addressing the technical issues of exterior air-exchange along with waterproofing and soundproofing to meet both their client’s and the building’s requirements for a quiet high-performing system.

#### **ERIC LIFTIN OF MESH ARCHITECTURES**

gave an audio-visual overview of MESH’s 4-year-long process of acquiring a site, designing, obtaining approval and ultimately constructing a six-story mass timber building in Park Slope Brooklyn. Scheduled to be completed this month, it will be the first mass timber condominium building in NYC.



## BEN CARR OF ALL HANDS ARCHITECTURE



Ben Carr, All Hands Architecture

presented The Annex Apartments, a four-story affordable housing complex that will be the first mass timber affordable housing building in the Northwest. Near completion, the building will provide uplifting housing to the vulnerable and growing population currently experiencing homelessness in Portland.

## FERNANDO FISBEIN ARCHITECT



Tamsen House

showed the Tamsen House located in Southampton, NY. This project highlights a design approach focused on resiliency in a flood prone area. The sustainable approach toward the minimal disturbance of the existing ground, resilient constructive system and materials, and maximization of pre-fabrication, investigates the potential of establishing a larger framework of ecological decision – making and a prototype for positively contributing to the built environment.

## OTHER PRESENTERS AND THEIR PROJECTS

### Lynn Gaffney

A country retreat/guest house designed for a repeat client.

### David Johnson

The structural challenges of expanding a wood frame house.

### Kimberly Neuhaus

The renovation and expansion of a carriage house in a historic district.

### Marshall Schuster

Interiors developed for common spaces and apartments in a large apartment building.

# Devil in the Details

**On April 7th, CRAN featured Jane Sanders and her approach to exterior wall assemblies for existing structures:**

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1) Outline energy code compliance paths / options for exterior wall assemblies (R value of insulation vs U value of entire wall assembly).
- 2) Review recommended wall assembly (7.125" thick) for townhouse based on dense pack cellulose insulation layer.
- 3) Review recommended wall assembly (4.5" thick) for apartment buildings based on rockwool insulation layer.
- 4) Outline different approaches to air + vapor membranes (liquid applied vs sheet applied).

## SUMMARY OF WALL LAYERS (OUTSIDE/IN)

- Existing brick masonry
- Parge coat (type O with high lime content) to create smooth surface
- Liquid air barrier (sto gold coat)
- Insulation layer (2" rockwool or 5" dense pack cellulose installed on metal insulation pins)
- Vapor smart membrane (intello)
- Service cavity (1 5/8" studs with additional insulation optional)
- Gypsum board finish



## GUEST

### Jane Sanders, Henson Architecture

Jane Sanders is the Director of Sustainability at Henson Architecture, and has been a certified Passive House Designer since 2011. She specializes in Passive House retrofits of historic buildings and phased building upgrades to comply with Local Law 97. Before joining Henson, she had her own urban residential practice where she completed 3 EnerPHit certified Passive House rowhouse retrofits. Prior to that, she specialized in historic preservation and adaptive reuse at Jan Hird Pokorny Associates. Jane was recently elected as a Board Member of New York Passive House. In 2019, she was selected by the Department of Buildings to serve as a member of the NYCECC Residential Advisory Committee. In addition to Brooklyn CRAN, Jane is a member of the AIA NY Committee on the Environment, the AIA NY Historic Buildings Committee, the Association for Preservation Technology, and the Zero Net Carbon Collaboration for Existing & Historic Buildings.



# GAC Government Affairs Committee

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## An opportunity for two-way feedback

AIA Brooklyn's Government Affairs Committee (AIABK GAC) advocates for AIA Brooklyn architect members, both staff and principles of small-and-big architecture firms, with elected New York City officials. The AIABK GAC provides two-way feedback between entities such as ACNY for AIA Brooklyn members to share their questions and concerns. The AIABK GAC will educate members about the benefits of civic-leadership to the practice of architecture and help members get more involved in their communities.

The AIABK GAC coordinates with the Architects Council of New York City, Inc (ACNY) and interfaces with the NYC DOB, DEP, Landmarks and Parks, DOF, and many more civic offices. Ray Peebles is Chair of the Government Affairs Committee. Please contact the chapter to get more involved, [info@aiabrooklyn.org](mailto:info@aiabrooklyn.org).





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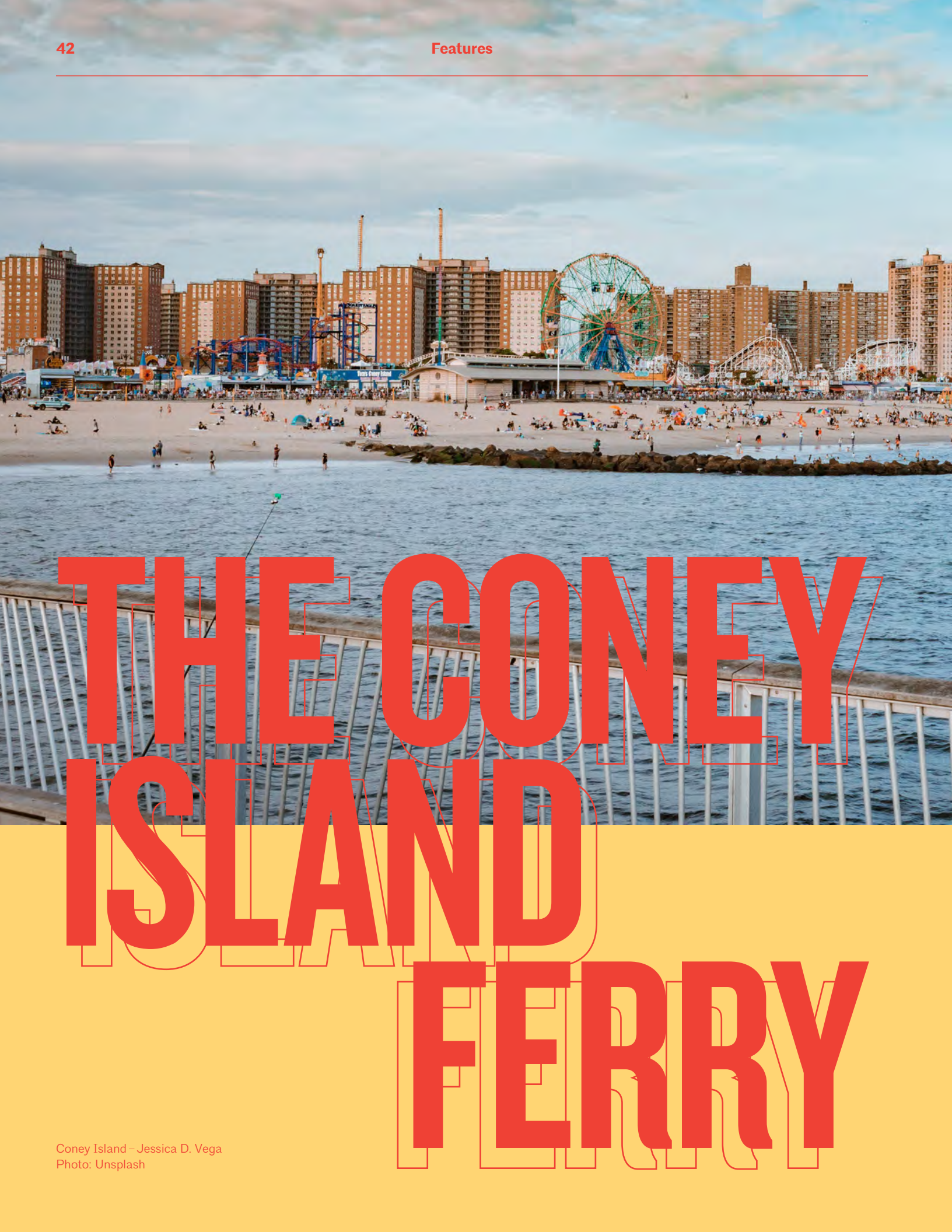
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# THE CONEY ISLAND FERRY

Coney Island – Jessica D. Vega  
Photo: Unsplash



COAUTHORED BY ANGELA KRAVTCHENKO AND IDA SANOFF

# As a long time resident of Coney Island, I can say, it's not for everyone.

**Despite being close to the big city, we are a very provincial, working class neighborhood with 50 percent of us being born outside of the US.**

I am one of them. Born and raised in Ukraine, I chose Coney Island to be my home. This is where I was raised, and this is where we plan to retire. I love it and enjoy every season. Being an architect and community activist, I can't turn away from the opportunity to make an improvement. From a number of important issues, I would like to bring attention to the future Coney Island Ferry and the environmental problems the current plans for it would bring. Long time Coney Island resident and Natural Resources Protective Association Executive Director Ida Sanoff helped me to collect the photos and information provided below.

Coney Island has been a recreational destination for well over a hundred years. Coney Island used to be an actual island but over the decades, it was gradually connected to the rest of Brooklyn by landfill, especially for construction of the Belt Pkwy in the 1930's. It is now a peninsula, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on its south and Coney Island Creek on its north.

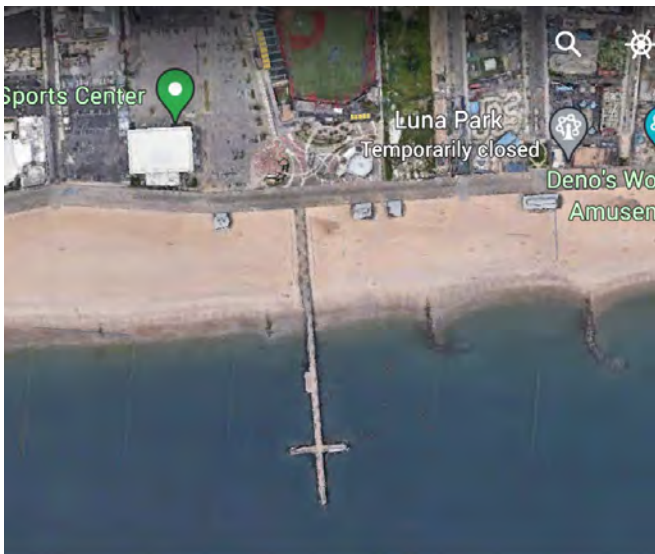
Before mass transit existed, Coney Island was reached by ferry, and there were at least three ferry terminals along the ocean side of the Coney Island peninsula. One of these, the old Iron Pier, was so large that a theater and restaurant were built upon it.

Today, the only pier that remains is Steeplechase Pier. It was heavily damaged by a storm in the 1990's and rebuilt in a "T" shape. When it was rebuilt in 1994, it was designed to accommodate ferries. It is located on the ocean facing side



of the peninsula, close to the amusement area. In 2011, NYC released the Comprehensive Citywide Ferry Study. It said that *“For visitors to Coney Island from Manhattan, a ferry landing at Steeplechase Pier would be most convenient... the Steeplechase Pier site fits most naturally with a commuter and recreational walk-on market based on the location of future development”* And in a 2012 presentation, the NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) looked at three locations for a ferry terminal including one in Coney Island Creek, But they concluded that “ferry service should be on the ocean side.”

The 2013 Citywide Ferry Study took a closer look at the Steeplechase Pier location and concluded that a special boarding ramp and float would be required for year round use:



**“THERE IS AN EXISTING 1,100-FOOT-LONG RECREATIONAL PIER, BUT NO FERRY LANDING CURRENTLY EXISTS AT THE SITE. SANDY BEACH EXTENDS IN EITHER DIRECTION OF THE PIER FOR AN APPRECIABLE DISTANCE. THE PIER IS A POPULAR FISHING LOCATION AND IS LOCATED ADJACENT TO A BOARDWALK AND AMUSEMENT PARK... BECAUSE OF THE EXPOSURE TO WAVES AT THE SITE, SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR INSTALLATION OF A FLOAT MAY BE REQUIRED—ESPECIALLY FOR YEAR ROUND USE. FOR THIS REASON, THE CONEY ISLAND FERRY FEASIBILITY STUDY SUGGESTED A SPECIAL BOARDING RAMP AT THE LANDING IN LIEU OF A CONVENTIONAL BOARDING FLOAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO ADDRESS THE OCEAN EXPOSURE OF THE SITE.”**

In the last 10 years, while ferry service expanded around NYC, there was no further mention of a ferry for Coney Island until the 2018/2019 NYC Ferry Feasibility Study was released.





In it, Steeplechase Pier was no longer considered as the prime site for a ferry terminal: *“Steeplechase Pier has been considered as a possible future ferry landing, but general conclusions below apply to the whole southern shoreline of Coney Island. Sitting a ferry landing on the southern shoreline of Coney Island is problematic. The primary concern is the exposure to ocean swells and strong southeast winds, which would lead to the landings being inoperable under certain weather and ocean conditions. Although some protection could be provided by an offshore wave attenuator structure, this has very large capital costs. Given these constraints an alternative site at Coney Island Creek, which is more protected from weather, is also being considered in this study.”*

The same study shifted the focus to constructing a terminal in Coney Island Creek. This was very surprising given the problems that were described for this location: *“The Creek is somewhat sheltered from weather-generated sea conditions... Placement of a landing needs careful consideration as shifting sands, fog, and high winds would be an ongoing challenge to maintaining safe and reliable*







*commuter ferry operations here... There are prominent and shifting sands in this area that have the potential to be an ongoing challenge to ferry operations... A landing at Coney Island Creek presents operational risks and is a challenge to design, likely requiring higher maintenance costs due to the dynamic coastal environment."*

Local residents know that a ferry terminal at Coney Island Creek would be a problem. So much sand migrates into the channel that it now covers at least three park benches and is halfway up the tree trunks. There have been attempts to stop the sand over the years, but they were ineffective. The sand continually returns. It is such a problem that the Parks Department periodically brings gigantic earth movers in from the Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island to push it back so it doesn't bury local streets.

In order to ensure sufficient water depth to accommodate a ferry, the bottom of the Creek would have to be repeatedly deepened. This process is called dredging.

This is where the problems really begin. Coney Island Creek has a complicated history. Over sixty years ago, its shorelines hosted many of the same businesses that lined the shoreline of the Gowanus Canal. The northern shoreline of the Creek, what is now Calvert Vaux Park, was created out of uncontrolled fill and toxic dumping.

All of these toxins accumulate in a silt layer that is called black mayonnaise. This photo was taken on the far eastern end of Coney Island Creek several years ago. It shows the black mayonnaise on a canoe paddl.

## WHY ARE CONEY ISLAND COMMUNITY LEADERS AND RESIDENTS SO AGAINST A FERRY LANDING BEING INSTALLED AT CONEY ISLAND CREEK?

The sand we see in earlier photos is slowly covering all of the toxic sediments in the Creek.

This natural remediation is burying the toxins with clean sand. The repeated dredging that would be required for a new ferry would continually expose the sediments that would then poison fish, birds and people who today swim in the Creek, eat its fish and play in its waters and on its shoreline. Almost 300 species of birds are found in this area!

This problem already has a solution — ferry service can and should be located on the ocean side of the Coney Island peninsula, where there was ferry service for at least 75 years. Restoring that service would greatly enhance the amusement area of Coney Island. It would also serve the many high rise buildings that are now going up near the amusement area. ■

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*Editor's Note: It was announced May 31st that plans to locate the ferry in the Coney Island Creek have been permanently abandoned, thanks to the efforts of community advocates such as Angela Kravchenko and others.*

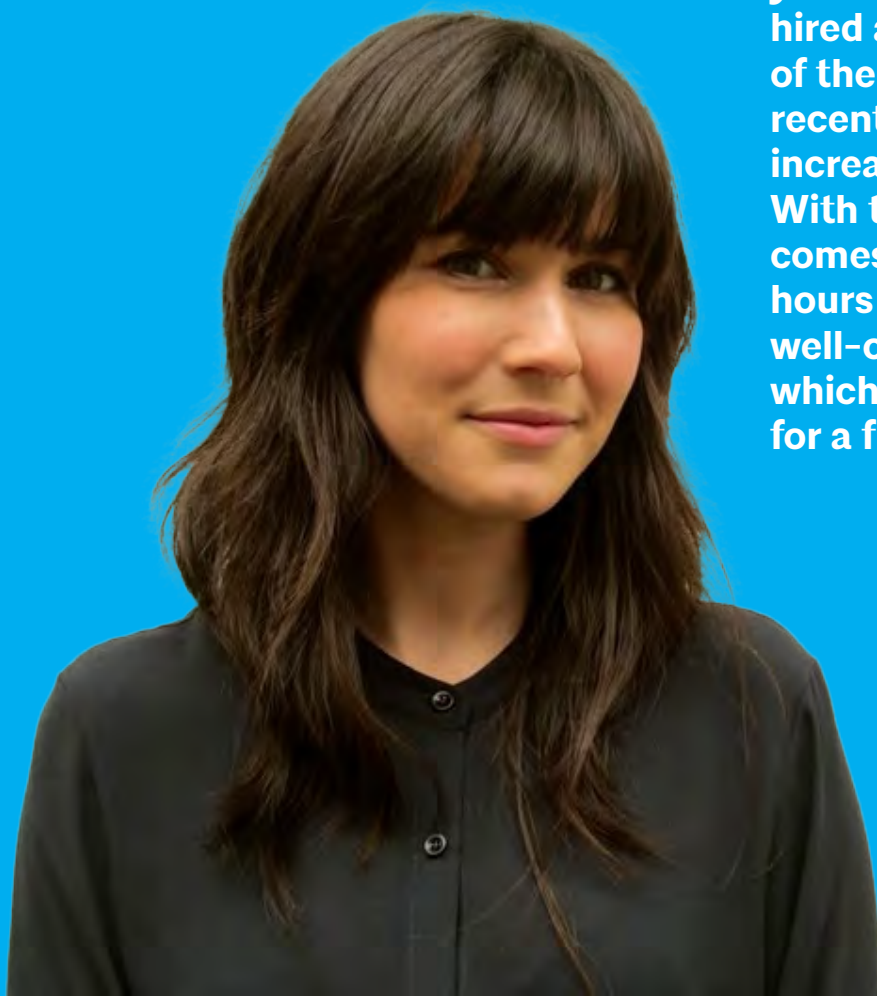






# MEET THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LINDSAY SMILOW

INTERVIEW BY MICHELLE DUNCAN



For the first time in our over 125-year history, AIA Brooklyn has hired an Executive Director. Many of the changes to the chapter in recent years have led to a welcomed increase in active membership. With the increase in numbers, comes an increase in the input of hours needed to make sure this well-oiled machine keeps running, which means AIA Brooklyn is ready for a full-time employee.





Left to right: Treasurer Jane McGroarty, AIA; Lindsay Smilow, Executive Director; Angela Kravchenko, AIA; President Talisha Sainvil, AIA

Coney Island Tour, April 10th

Enter Lindsay Smilow, the born-and-bred New Yorker who was hired in January of this year as the chapter's first ED. Lindsay, although new to the architecture world, is an Art Historian, Educator, and Nonprofit Administrator who is very excited about her new role. We chatted with her about her new position, how she intends to make sure AIA Brooklyn stays firing on all cylinders, and what her favorite city hangout spots are.

First up, we wanted Lindsay to talk to us about some of the goals the board has for the coming year and how she envisions their implementation.

**MD: I know communication and engagement are two big concerns...**

**LS:** For the past two and a half years, the chapter has been gathering digitally (and they [the board] pivoted beautifully to online programming). How do we now get out of the online bubble? I feel like we're standing on the edge of a cliff, saying to one another, 'Should we jump? We should jump right? Well, let's jump.' And jumping means figuring out the many ways in which people want to be together, and why they belong to the association. While what we offer is extremely important to the field (quality programming is top of mind), providing opportunities for people to be together is, too. How I'm planning to do that is to build on my background in programming, which is 15 years spent in museums and cultural spaces, creating programs for creative communities. I'm thrilled to support the board in their efforts.

**MD: Tell me a little bit more about your background and what you've done before coming to AIA Brooklyn.**

**LS:** My background is in art history, arts education, and museum and cultural programming. My first museum job was at the Queens Museum, facilitating education programs for nearly six years; after the Queens Museum, I was at the Guggenheim Museum for quite a while, also running and teaching education programs; I moved to smaller arts organizations in communications and fundraising roles, spent a handful of years working with artists and creatives in a production role, and helped establish multi-year programs and funding pipelines for Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts, a nonprofit in Long Island. So, my background really is in programming, fundraising, organizational strategy and management. This [AIABK] is the next phase in my trajectory – an opportunity to work for a growing organization with a national umbrella.

*We asked Lindsay what sort of programming she thinks would benefit the chapter and to share with us some upcoming plans.*

**LS:** The board and I are building out the programming calendar and tours are top of mind. We had a tour of Coney Island in April with a member and activist who lives in Coney Island. I'm really a keen believer in digging into the membership as resources; your experts are in your midst. As an organizational manager, my goal is to tap into the wealth of knowledge, the networks, the connections, and the interests of the membership.

*Lindsay holds on to a philosophy that "we're here in the world to connect with people" and that sees her forging deliberate relationships amongst folks, listening closely to what people have to say, and meeting up IRL (In Real Life).*

**LS:** One of my first, self-imposed tasks in this new role was to make spot calls to members just to introduce myself, to hear about people's interests. I can already tell that there are many members interested in local, Brooklyn-based issues. Sustainability, too, has been a major topic of discussion. I've been listening intently in Committee on the Environment meetings and learning more about their interests and what they want to spend time doing. Similarly, our Custom Residential Architecture Network had a

gas-versus-electric-in-homes debate and it was really fascinating, because that kind of debate is happening at a national level, but is extremely relevant to our city and the borough.

## I DO THINK THAT THE SOCIAL COMPONENT IS A CRUCIAL MEMBERSHIP FUNCTION BECAUSE YOU CAN'T CONNECT IN AND AROUND YOUR PROFESSION WITHOUT EVER SEEING PEOPLE IN 3-D. THOSE PARTICULAR CONNECTIONS CAN'T TRULY HAPPEN ON ZOOM.

Also, coming out of this pandemic-induced separation, I think that there's a strength to hosting some continuing education programming virtually, but one thing we're not going to be able to continue any longer is meeting up solely online. I think we absolutely need to be meeting in person. We're partnering with really great sponsors this coming year who want to meet our membership—there's a real appetite for that right now.

*Lindsay also mentioned upcoming partnerships with companies wanting to tap into the chapter's bank of professionals, like the Boston-based survey company, Existing Conditions. Their expertise is in building documentation using 3D laser scanning. AIA Brooklyn is working with Existing Conditions on engaging programming that will introduce their offerings to the chapter. Similar partnerships are forthcoming.*

*With everything that's going on, we wanted to know what Lindsay was personally most excited about.*

**LS:** I'm really excited to spend time in and around Brooklyn. There's just so much going on in Brooklyn! When I hear leaders in the chapter get excited about the programs they want to do, I'm just revved up to support and make that vision a reality.

*Lindsay also recognizes our younger architects, the chapter's growing numbers, and what all of that can mean for us on a national level.*

**LS:** I want to engage our younger members. The chapter is the second largest chapter in New York State and it's grown since January from eight hundred members all the way up to 988 (at the time of printing). What's really telling about this spike is there's clearly a high concentration of young architects that are finishing school and staying in the boroughs; that is to the chapter's benefit, because right now, whoever is an associate member has the opportunity to grow with the chapter for a long time. We're considered a midsize chapter because our membership is under 1000; however, we're sort of teetering on that number. And what does that mean for Brooklyn? Well, it means Brooklyn's a big player. And that can mean a whole lot for how Brooklyn architects can advocate for the profession [within the AIA] and the size of the seat at the table. I think this position suits Brooklyn, because Brooklyn is a borough of neighborhoods and is also known around the world; it's both local and global, small and big. It's a privilege to be able to steward the vision for the chapter that has been in the works for a very long time. I stand on the shoulders of decades of volunteers. It blows my mind to think about how many people volunteer so much of their time to make this the vibrant chapter it is.

*Lindsay recognizes the uniqueness of our chapter and did not hold back when acknowledging the kind of work she has to put in, and the accessibility of former and present chapter leaders.*

**LS:** I definitely feel a huge responsibility and I don't take it lightly.

What I've been trying to do is work with the incredible leadership from before my time and lean on all of the community builders who have the institutional knowledge—they have the history. I feel very fortunate that I can turn to almost everyone in the chapter and ask advice. I spoke to many past presidents, just to hear from them about why they got involved. What made them rise to leadership positions? Which [accomplishments] were they proud of during their time? It's really important for me to marry the past with the future. I'm from outside of the industry even though I come with lots of experience from the nonprofit sector.



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**MY ROLE IS NOT TO COME IN AND SAY, 'THIS IS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO CHANGE.' IT'S REALLY TO TAKE STOCK OF WHAT HAS WORKED, WHAT HASN'T WORKED, AND WHERE WE CAN IMPROVE, BY LEARNING FROM EVERYONE WHO MAKES THE ASSOCIATION WHAT IT IS TODAY.**

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**MD: As someone from outside the arch/design industry, what do you think you can bring to the organization?**

**LS:** As I mentioned, the membership was growing at such a rate that the board identified a need to bring on an Executive and Susana Honig, who had been fearlessly leading this ship for the last six years was also retiring; it was a meeting moment between these two conditions. Susana was the sole administrator for the chapter and impressively took on more work and responsibility which was very beneficial for the chapter—to learn that you can have staff and still keep it volunteer-run and intimate, even as it grew. How do you keep growing but stay tethered to the ground and maintain the kind of closeness and familiarity this size chapter has had? It's a priority for me to connect with people and I believe that connection is what makes AIA Brooklyn unique.

I spoke to a member a few weeks ago and asked, 'Why are you a part of AIA Brooklyn?' and he said to me, 'I've never gotten a call from any organization. This is the first time I've ever received a call. I think that's the reason I'm part of this.' And I thought at that moment, 'Oh, good, I'm doing something right.' An architectural association can surely be a place where you continue to get your credits, and you can have your accreditation at the end of your email signature, but why do you belong? Well, you continue to belong because it creates meaning for you.

**MD: Are you originally from New York?**

**LS:** I am. My grandmother's from BedStuy and then moved to the Bronx; the other side of my family immigrated to Manhattan in the 40s. My parents moved out to Long Island to give my brother and I some grass and I returned to the city, to the concrete, and lived in Queens (with some green) for several years. We've technically touched down on four boroughs plus Long Island, save for Staten Island. So, don't tell Staten Island.

**MD: And you've lived here all your life?**

**LS:** I was away for college—I went to University of Maryland College Park and I studied abroad and then returned to Brooklyn College for my Master's—but yeah, I'm a New Yorker through and through. I like my coffee strong and my walks fast.

**MD: What's your favorite part of Brooklyn? Is there a particular spot in either Brooklyn or all of New York City that you really enjoy?**

**LS:** Our parks are probably some of the greatest public spaces ever, but I am biased. Since life is so congested in New York, the parks feel like an incredible breath of fresh air. Also, you could be on one end of Prospect Park, walk all the way to the other side and feel like you traveled from one city to an entirely different one. That's the beauty of walking around New York. My other favorite part of New York is its cultural offerings. I can't get enough of it. There's endless things to do every single day and evening. You can visit a world-class encyclopedic museum during the day and see the most incredible musicians for \$5 at a bar like Barbés or Rockwood Music Hall—tiny little gems.

**MD: And what do you enjoy doing when you're off work?**

**LS:** I'm trying to think... I haven't been off work in a while. That's so terrible! *[Laughs out loud]* Well, I enjoy running along the water's edge in the warmer weather and laughing until I cry at a Comedy show. I'm a big fan of stand-up and used to frequent a show called Butterboy at Littlefield in Gowanus. ■



# BROOKLYN IN FICTION

Brooklyn has a special place  
in the minds of people.

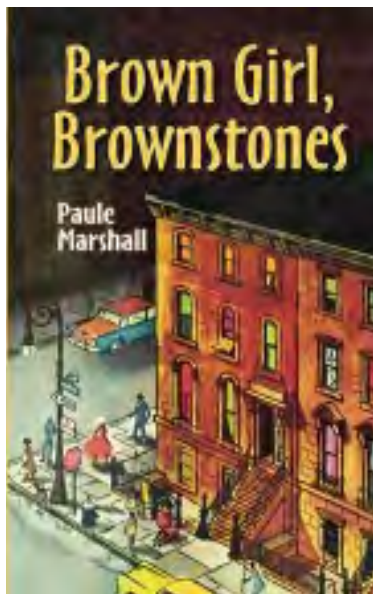


# In the 19th century Brooklyn grew rapidly from several quiet rural towns into a prosperous and powerful city.

**It was also the home of free and formerly enslaved black people since the 17th century. In 1898 when Brooklyn became a borough in the Consolidated City of New York, it continued to have a distinct character.**

By the twentieth century, Hollywood enshrined the Brooklyn accent in film characters with “Dees, dos, and dems” characterizing Brooklyn speak. Being from Brooklyn implied a toughness, especially to those superior Manhattanites (more than a few of whom were born in Brooklyn).

By the 1970’s and 80’s, Brooklyn had fallen on hard times. The entire city was in a severe fiscal crisis and many Brooklynites moved to the suburbs of Long Island and Westchester. However, over the past forty plus years, Brooklyn has undergone a renaissance fueled by immigration, neighborhood revitalization, new restaurants, and avant-garde and hip-hop culture. Authors, some native Brooklynites and others not, have chronicled the new Brooklyn. The following incomplete list is an attempt to highlight an assortment of fictional stories in which the essence of Brooklyn is an important ‘character’ in the book.

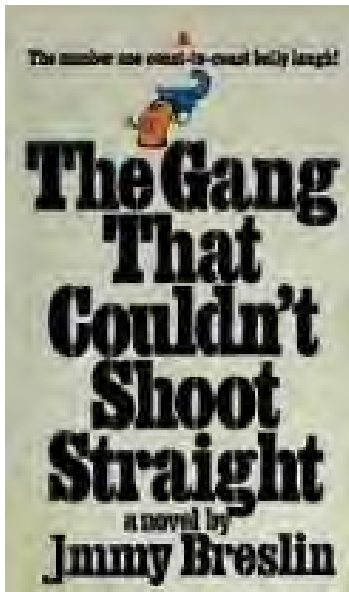


## BROWN GIRL, BROWNSTONES

**By Paule Marshall (1929–2019) 1959,  
Random House**

This tale of an immigrant couple from Barbados, Deighton and Silla Boyce and their daughter, Selina, takes place in Brooklyn before World War II. Selina is caught between her charming and unambitious father’s dreams of returning home to Barbados and her mother’s fierce determination to stay and make it in America. It is a coming-of-age story of Selina who struggles to be her own person, challenging her parent’s ideas of what she should be. The brownstone is their rented home, which they share with tenants. Selina’s mother works in a factory with the goal of saving money to buy the brownstone. Although this is Selina’s story, her mother is a tragic and dominating figure who was described as ‘one of the most complex black women characters in contemporary American literature.’

Paule Marshall was born in Brooklyn to Barbadian parents. She attended Hunter College and published her first book, *Brown Girl, Brownstones* in 1959. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a MacArthur Fellowship and taught writing at Yale University, the Iowa Writers Workshop and NYU, among others.

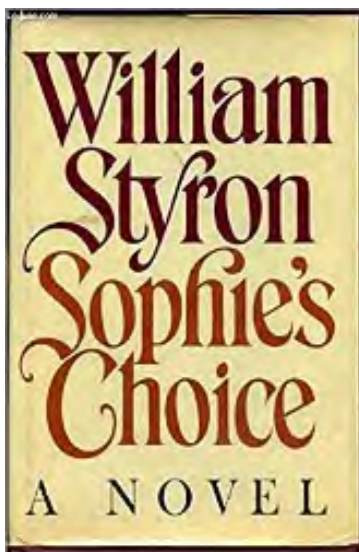


## THE GANG WHO COULDN'T SHOOT STRAIGHT

**By Jimmy Breslin (1928–2017) 1969, Little Brown and Company**

James (Jimmy) Breslin was known as a quintessential New York newspaper man. He also wrote a humorous satire novel about “Kid Sally” Palumbo, a bumbling wanna-be capo, a character loosely based upon the true-life mobster, Joey Gallo. Kid Sally was a guy who “couldn’t run a gas station at a profit even if he stole the customers’ cars.” Much of the book takes place on or near the Brooklyn waterfront district, now gentrified as the brownstone community of Carroll Gardens. The mob is not the only target of Breslin’s sharp wit. In an era when corruption in NYC was rampant, Breslin skewers the Mayor, the NYPD brass, a NY Times reporter, and an ambitious district attorney. The most despised characters are the “Protestants” — the shadowy white elites who look down on the rest of the city. This is an easy read, made possible with the help of Breslin’s hysterically funny prose.

Jimmy Breslin, a Queens born journalist, wrote for many of the important newspapers in New York City and was known as champion of the little guy. Described as “an intellectual disguised as a barroom primitive” he received a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 1986. Breslin also ran for President of the NY City Council together with Norman Mailer who was a candidate for NYC Mayor.



## SOPHIE'S CHOICE

**By William Styron (1925–2006) 1979, Random House**

Set in the Flatbush after World War II, William Styron wrote a novel that examines the Holocaust through an autobiographical lens. The narrator, Stingo, is a young southerner who came north to write his grand opus to be set in Virginia, as did Styron himself after he graduated from Duke University. Stingo takes up residence in Mrs. Zimmerman’s Brooklyn boarding house, where he befriends Nathan Landau, a young scientist and Sophie Zawistowska, a beautiful Polish Catholic woman who survived Auschwitz. Over one summer, they become fast friends, visit Coney Island, and picnic in Prospect Park together. Stingo is silently smitten with Sophie. However, things are not what they seem on the surface and Stingo becomes part of a convulsive drama about Sophie’s guilt and Nathan’s mental illness.

William Styron was an acclaimed novelist and essayist. He was born in Virginia where his first novel, *Lie Down in Darkness* takes place. Styron received criticism for his novel *The Confessions of Nat Turner* because he wrote as a white man about Nat Turner, an historical figure who led a slave rebellion. Likewise, many critics felt that he diminished the Holocaust by having a Polish Catholic victim, instead of a Jew.



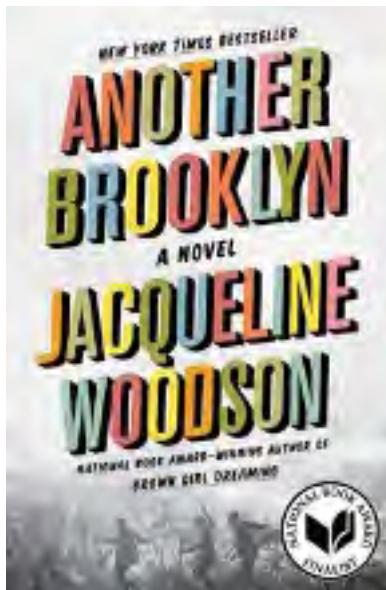


## MANHATTAN BEACH

**By Jennifer Egan (b.1962) 2017, Scribner**

Jennifer Egan admits that she before she begins a novel, she starts with a physical place. In this case, it is the various waterfronts that surround Brooklyn. Set in and around the Brooklyn Navy Yard during World War II, Egan weaves a suspenseful and convincing story of a fearless young woman, Anna Kerrigan, who is determined to live her life on her own terms. The book is full of surprises and a few plot twists while evoking the feel and the language of a bygone era in Brooklyn.

Jennifer Egan, a Brooklyn author, was born in Chicago and grew up in San Francisco. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 2011 for her novel, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*. Each of her books is unique in time, place, and theme.

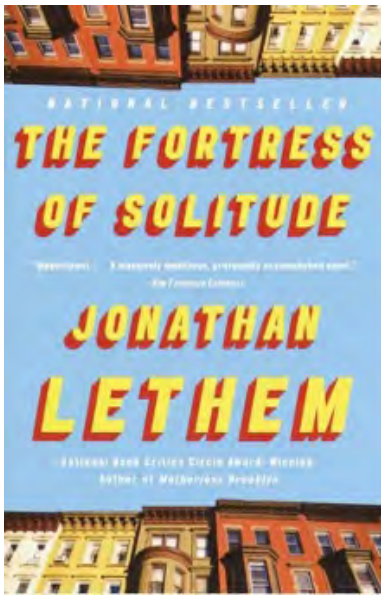


## ANOTHER BROOKLYN

**By Jacqueline Woodson (b.1963) 2016, Amistad (Harper Collins)**

*Another Brooklyn* is set in Bushwick in the 1970's. It is not directly autobiographical, but Jacqueline Woodson has mined some of her life to create a story of four young girls coming of age in Brooklyn. The narrator, August, comes to Brooklyn with her brother and father from Sweet Grove, Tennessee. Her mother, suffering from mental illness, stayed behind but the children thought she would join them as soon as she recovered. August eventually finds close friendship with some neighborhood girls who love and support one another as they navigate a culture in which they "were being watched." The girls' mothers are deceased or absent, heightening their connection as they reach adolescence while trying to hold on to their dreams. At one point August recalls, "On a different planet, we could have been Lois Lane or Jane or Mary Tyler Moore or Marlo Thomas." Woodson artfully captures the sights, smells, and sounds of the Brooklyn of her childhood.

Jacqueline Woodson is an author of books for children and adolescents. Her books have transformed children and young adult literature by expanding the demographic of her characters and including sexuality and interracial relationships. *Another Brooklyn* is Woodson's first adult novel in twenty years. Woodson's work has won numerous awards and in 2020 she was the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship.

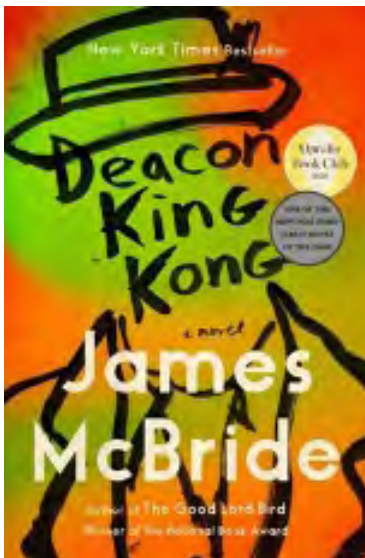


## THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE

**By Jonathan Lethem (b.1964) 2003, Doubleday**

Jonathan Lethem gives the reader a kaleidoscopic ride through the eyes of a young boy named Dylan growing up in Boerum Hill, Brooklyn in the 1970's. Dylan Ebdus is, of course, Lethem himself. He was only child of a bohemian couple who moved to (then) Gowanus because living space was cheap. The mother leaves town in the book, although in real life, Lethem's mother dies. His artist father is well meaning but not a functioning parent, and Dylan is left struggling to find his place as a 'whiteboy' in the local public school. He finds his soulmate in Mingus Rude, the son of a soul singer addicted to cocaine. The two form a close bond over comic books. When a homeless man gives Dylan a silver pinky ring, he and Mingus share the ring which they believe has magical powers that enable them to fly. On the way to growing up, the two pals smoke a lot of dope but life changes when Dylan goes off to college and Mingus goes to jail.

Jonathan Lethem is a novelist, essayist, and short story writer. In 1999 he published *Motherless Brooklyn*; a detective story set in Brooklyn. In 2004 he published *The Fortress of Solitude*. In 2005 Lethem received a MacArthur Fellowship and currently teaches creative writing at Pomona College.



## DEACON KING KONG

**By James McBride (b.1957) 2020, Riverhead Books**

James McBride grew up in NYCHA housing in Red Hook. A musician, journalist, and author, McBride's most recent book, *Deacon King Kong*, gives us a yarn about life in the Cause Houses (a stand-in for the Red Hook Houses of his childhood). It has mystery, murder, love, faith, drugs, and alcohol in a urban community populated by characters flawed and heroic. The book opens in the courtyard of the houses where Sportcoat, a Deacon at the Five Ends Baptist Church, shoots a young former baseball player who runs the drug trade in Cause Houses. In what feels like a leisurely walk, McBride's story unfolds through tragedy, loss, and humor to an unexpected and hopeful ending.

James McBride's first book, *The Color of Water* (1996) is a poignant tale of his twice-widowed white mother who raised twelve bi-racial children and managed to send all of them to college.



From my studio in Fort Greene, note to self – emerge, bloom, open, renew, rejuvenate, revive, create, try hard, fail, recuperate, try again. 2022, here now in Brooklyn, everything is completely different and everything is exactly the same.

– SARAH DRAKE


*Excerpt “From Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” by Walt Whitman:*

I loved well those cities;  
I loved well the stately and rapid river;  
The men and women I saw were all near to me;  
Others the same – others who look back on me,  
because I look’d forward to them;  
(The time will come, though I stop here to-day and  
to-night.)

What is it, then, between us?  
What is the count of the scores or hundreds of years  
between us?

Whatever it is, it avails not – distance avails not, and  
place avails not.

Neon signs outside the Barclays Center in Brooklyn  
Designed by Strachan, installed by the Joe and  
Clara Wu Tsai Foundation

A night-time photograph of the Chicago skyline. The Willis Tower is the most prominent building, with its spire reaching into the dark sky. Other skyscrapers are visible, some with lights on. In the foreground, there are older, more ornate buildings. A large, white, stylized 'A'22' is overlaid on the left side of the image. A thin, light blue arc is drawn over the skyline, starting from the left and curving towards the Willis Tower. A grid of small, light blue dots is overlaid on the right side of the image, extending from the Willis Tower towards the right edge. A solid yellow rectangle is positioned on the right side, partially overlapping the grid of dots.

# A'22

The architecture & design  
event of the year returns  
to Chicago June 22–25!

[conferenceonarchitecture.com](http://conferenceonarchitecture.com)