

UPDATE FROM [FEBRUARY]

# Gale A. Brewer

MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

LAST  
CHANCE!  
State of the  
Borough RSVP:  
[bit.ly/sotb2015](http://bit.ly/sotb2015)  
invite

  [galeabrewer](https://twitter.com/galeabrewer) | [www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov) | 1 Centre Street, 19th Fl., New York, NY 10007 | (212) 669-8300

### **Over 700 Community Board applications received!**

The application deadline for new and renewing Community Board appointees passed on Friday January 30, and I am delighted to report that over 700 applications were received! This surpasses the level we received last year and is a testament to the great work that Deputy Borough President Aldrin Bonilla and Community Affairs Director Lucille Songhai and their staff have been doing to enhance and enrich the membership process. Among the applications received were 30 from teens! Teen involvement in government has been a project of mine for years, and last year we finally succeeded in having Albany pass legislation permitting teens to serve on Community Boards.

### **Support for One Vanderbilt's Grand Central improvements.**

I announced my conditional support for the new One Vanderbilt tower proposed across from Grand Central Station, in the heart of East Midtown, after I negotiated additional benefits with the developer, S.L. Green. The favorable opinion was issued as part of my formal role in the Unified Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP).

The heritage of what we now know as East Midtown is rooted in the Grand Central Station transit hub, so it's only fitting that the redevelopment of One Vanderbilt is giving us the opportunity to achieve major, long-sought improvements for residents and commuters. This project is producing up-front commitments to both must-have and wish-list improvements, and I'm pleased that in working with the developer, we've been able to secure high-quality public benefits for everyone living, working, and passing through the magnificent Grand Central neighborhood.

The community benefits negotiated by my office include improvements to the new Public Plaza which will now occupy Vanderbilt Avenue itself (including a capital maintenance reserve fund seeded with a contribution from the developer); making the transit hall a true

passenger waiting area with benches and bathroom; making the 42nd Street/Vanderbilt corner's subway entrance more prominent and accessible, and creating a larger, livelier retail space at that junction; and insisting that the sustainability requirements must exceed best practices; and energy use must be significantly reduced over comparable buildings. More information on the One Vanderbilt land-use review process is available [on my website](#).

### **MBPO capital grant deadline is February 26!**

Every year the Manhattan Borough President provides capital grants to city agencies, nonprofit organizations, cultural institutions, and public schools who apply for support on projects serving a defined municipal purpose— such as acquisition of land, construction or reconstruction of a building, or purchase of equipment or other long-lasting goods. Applications for capital grants for fiscal year 2016 are due February 26th.

To be eligible for a capital grant, projects must meet certain criteria. Please visit my [capital grants webpage](#) for more details.

If you are applying, it is highly recommended that you meet with the MBPO budget staff to discuss your project before applying; please email [budget@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:budget@manhattanbp.nyc.gov) if you have not had such a meeting yet.

All city entities requesting funding for capital projects occurring on city property should complete the [Manhattan Borough President's Office City Capital Application](#). All not-for-profit organizations must complete the application on the [NYC CapGrants Portal](#).

If you have any questions regarding our capital grant process please contact Sam Levine, First Deputy Director of Budget, at [slevine@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:slevine@manhattanbp.nyc.gov) or 212-669-4814, or Luisa Gonzalez, Deputy Director of Budget, at [lgonzalez@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:lgonzalez@manhattanbp.nyc.gov) or 212-669-2969.

### **Mid-level nonprofit or community leader in Northern Manhattan? Become a Northern Manhattan Fellow.**

My office has been working with the [Jewish Community Relations Council](#) in planning the Northern Manhattan Leadership Fellowship, a program to help train the next generation of community leaders. Targeting non-profit, faith, government and community professionals serving Northern Manhattan, the program will meet twice a month for nine months and enhance development, fundraising, leadership, coalition building and overall not-for-profit

management skills. **Fill out the application** by the deadline on February 13, 2015.

## EVENTS

**Stay tuned...** We will be celebrating Black History Month by honoring African-American leaders in technology — the date and time for that event will be part of a special e-news blast shortly!

### **February 5 & 12: SNAP can help put food on the table—get free application assistance.**

The **Council of Senior Centers & Services** offers free, bilingual, one-on-one help for seniors applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP—once known as food stamps) in partnership with the **American Association of Retired Persons** (AARP). Two seminars are scheduled in February:

*~Feb. 5 at Morningside Hts. Library, 2900 Broadway, 10 am - 2 pm*

*~Feb. 12 at Casabe Senior Center, 150 E. 121st St., 10 am - 3 pm*

Please call 1-877-926-8300 to reserve a time slot. If you're unable to make these dates, please call CSCS's SNAP Outreach Office at 347-815-5930 or e-mail [snap@cscsny.org](mailto:snap@cscsny.org) for future seminar dates.

To make the most of your time, bring with you documents that verify the following: 1. Identity, 2. Total household income (Social Security award letter, income tax returns), 3. Housing expenses (lease/rent/mortgage) 4. Utility expenses, 5. Medical expenses (from past 90 days, whether paid or unpaid).

### **In the MBPO Gallery: CIVITAS “Reimagining the Waterfront”**

**CIVITAS** has been working for an improved East River Esplanade, and we are proud to be hosting their juried exhibit, “Reimagining the Waterfront” in my office this month. CIVITAS will also be distributing a final report prepared with Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects, summarizing Phase 1 of the CIVITAS East River Esplanade Master Planning Initiative. Please visit [their website](#) for more information.

### **In the MBPO Gallery: paintings by Ed Adler.**

“All the World’s a Stage” is the theatrical theme of Ed Adler’s recent paintings, on display in

the 19th floor Gallery from February 6 to 27. The works are on display during business hours. See more at [edadler.com](http://edadler.com).