

UPDATE FROM [APRIL] **Gale A. Brewer** MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

SAVE THE DATE!
MWBE Town Hall
11 am, May 4, 2016
Powell State
Office Bldg.

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Music classes return to Washington Heights high school.

The High School for Media and Communications at the George Washington H.S. complex in Washington Heights celebrated the return of instrumental music instruction at a concert on March 29, thanks to the work of my office and Amp Up NYC (a joint venture of the Boston-based Berklee College of Music and national nonprofit Little Kids Rock), and Principal Juan Villar.



Amp Up NYC trains teachers in “modern band”—a more contemporary curriculum—and then matches teachers with donations of new music instruments for their students. So the M&C’s music room, used for storage and exercise equipment until recently, is once again serving its intended purpose as students learn music from their newly-hired music teacher, Vince McCoy.

This is all part of my larger push for arts instruction in all public schools—because arts education enhances all kinds of learning. The discipline it takes to practice, the confidence it takes to perform, and the combination of math and creativity it takes to compose have immense value that translates beyond music. [Watch a NY1 report](#) on the instrument unveiling!

Diversity in theater grants available.

The [Theater Subdistrict Council](#) (of which I am a trustee member, along with the Mayor and Council Speaker) has announced a new program which will award up to \$2 million in grants to increase participation from people currently underrepresented in the

professional theater community.

The council is accepting applications until May 11, 2016 from producers or presenters of professional theater, or organizations that provide professional theater-related services, within the five boroughs. The grants—ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000—will fund non-performer fellowships, apprenticeships, or training positions, providing a path to a full-fledged career.

Find out more about the grant guidelines [here](#). and again, the deadline is May 11, 2016.

April 6: NYC Parks Dept. “scoping” session for Roosevelt Park.

The NYC Department of Parks & Recreation will hold a Public Scoping Meeting to take public comments on the reconfiguration of Theodore Roosevelt Park, the park surrounding the American Museum of Natural History, as a result of the Museum’s redesign and expansion of its Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation at the West 79th St. entrance. This public meeting is a required part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process to ensure that impacts and mitigation measures are considered. Environmental documents are available [here](#). Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 6:30 pm, American Museum of Natural History LeFrak Theater (enter at Weston Pavilion entrance, Columbus Ave. & W. 79th St).

Let’s make Earth Day Car-Free NYC day!

Manhattan is one of the most walkable urban environments on the planet, but making it car-free would yield a cleaner, safer city. That’s why on this year’s Earth Day, I’m supporting Council member Ydanis Rodriguez’ campaign to make Earth Day “Car-free NYC” day. I’ve signed the pledge to urge my staff—and all Manhattan workers—to avoid using their car on Earth Day, April 22. Learn more at facebook.com/CarFreeNYC.



Over 700 seniors joined me on Sunday, March 20, to learn more about older adults' brain function from leading neuroscientists. Attendees also had the chance to visit over a dozen exhibits and enjoy a Zumba or Tai Chi class. Watch a [short video recap!](#)

EVENTS

April 9: Animal Care Center's mobile adoption van in the West Village.

12 – 4pm, Zoomies, 434 Hudson St.

Animal Care Centers' Mobile Adoption Center, full of cats and dogs ready for adoption, will be at Zoomies in the West Village on Saturday, April 9. ACC animals include vaccinations, spay/neuter, a pre-registered microchip, an identification tag, a collar and a certificate for a free initial exam at a participating veterinarian.

April 16: Get your legal questions answered at Community Law Day.

11am – 4pm, Adam Clayton Powell State Office Bldg., 163 W. 125th St.

In partnership with the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, I'm delighted to co-sponsor a Community Law Day event. Residents will be able to obtain free legal information on a variety of topics, including criminal law, divorce and family law, immigration, wills & trusts, and landlord-tenant issues. Attendees interested in having their life-planning documents prepared onsite (such as health care proxies, living wills, and powers of attorney) should bring with them a government-issued ID and the full name and address of the individual to be named in the documents. If you have questions, please contact the MBBA hotline at

(212) 964-1645 or email communityservice@mbbanyc.org.

April 20: Learn more about child welfare at an ACS roundtable.

5 – 7pm, 431 W. 125th St.

April is Child Welfare Month and the Child Welfare Program within the Manhattan Division of Child Protection of the NYC Administration for Children’s Services agency and my Northern Manhattan Office invite you to their first roundtable where you may ask questions and obtain information on child and parent well-being. RSVP at (212) 531-1609.

April 22 & 23: Hell’s Kitchen Farm Project movie night and Spring kickoff.

Metro Baptist Church, 410 W. 40th Street (bet. 9th Ave. & Dyer Ave.)

The Hell’s Kitchen Farm Project (HKFP) is an urban agriculture project that grows produce on the rooftop of the Metro Baptist Church in, naturally, Hell’s Kitchen. In addition to supplying fresh vegetables for a local food pantry, they provide nutritional education, and sponsor a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

On Earth Day, April 22, HKFP will host a reception (at 6pm) and screening (at 7:30pm) of the documentary “Plant This Movie,” which explores urban farming around the world and in the U.S. Then, on Saturday, April 23, from 10am – 1pm, HKFP will launch its 6th growing season. All ages are welcome to visit for farm tours, planting, kids activities and refreshments—and for volunteer and CSA signups.

HKFP will need volunteers to help in all aspects of its rooftop farm: planting seeds and seedlings, maintaining the plants, harvesting, watering and composting. No prior experience required, and supervision will be provided by experienced volunteers. Volunteer sessions are Thursday and Saturday mornings, from 10 am - 1 pm, from April to late fall.

By joining their CSA project, area residents can enjoy fresh, locally grown produce harvested from a nearby farm, either weekly (\$550) or biweekly (\$275). Subsidized shares and payment plans are available and SNAP/food stamps accepted; 22 weeks of deliveries (for a full share) begin in early June. All events at Metro Baptist Church, 410 W. 40th Street (between 9th Ave. & Dyer Ave.). For more information: visit the [HKFP website](#) or email info@hellskitchenfarmproject.org.

April 28: Access Manhattan’s utility rights legal clinic at my NMO.

6 – 8 pm, 431 West 125th St.

My Northern Manhattan Office will partner with the Public Utility Law Project for a Utility Rights Legal Clinic for constituents who are faced with loss of essential light or heat, excessive arrears, and final termination notices—or are bullied by energy service companies (ESCOs) into high-rate schemes they can’t afford. The clinic will explain the processes, updates and options for families with an opportunity for Q&A.

In the gallery: Jane Freeman, “The Painted Novel” on display all month.

1 Centre St, 19th Floor

Jane Freeman’s exhibit, “The Painted Novel,” is her response to the pioneering Charlotte Brontë novel, *Jane Eyre*. Freeman has long been inspired to make art based on Brontë’s work, which led her to also interpret scenes from *Frankenstein*, *Silas Marner*, *Persuasion*, and *Wuthering Heights*. The reception for the show will be held on April 21st, the 200th anniversary of Charlotte Brontë’s birth. Find out more at www.janefreemanart.com and come visit this fascinating show during normal business hours through April 30.