

Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation Inc.



2023

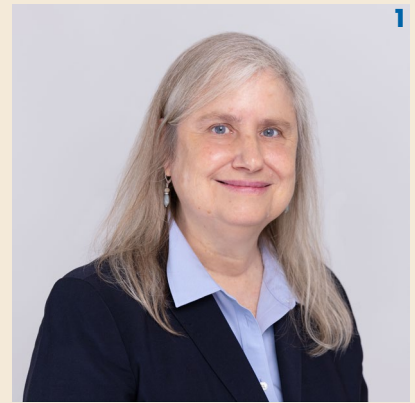


Annual Impact Report

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From Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of your support, advocacy, and service in the last year! We celebrated our 40th year anniversary in 2023 and are so proud of all our successes over the years. We built and preserved 700+ units of affordable housing, protected thousands of homeowners and tenants, provided academic and enrichment programs for hundreds of thousands of young people, creating a college and career pipeline in our neighborhood and organized with residents for housing, economic, educational and transit justice.

This past year, we realized our dream of creating a one stop service hub at the Cypress Hills East New York Community Center, bringing multiple opportunities and benefits from all of our programs under one roof. We served over 500 young people through recreational sports, music, and art classes. Our community center welcomed newcomers to our country, helped low income residents and brought resources into the community that we have long gone without. We are so grateful to our partners at Brooklyn Conservatory of Music and Kingsborough Community College for respectively establishing a Community Music Center at Chestnut Commons and a satellite college! We hosted numerous events and service fairs, including a Spring College Fair, East Brooklyn Banking Summit, an Immigrant/Asylum Seeker Resource Fair, a Halloween Movie Night, a Thanksgiving Dinner and several job fairs.

At the community center, we finally have room to grow and have used that room to expand our public benefits access services and job training programs and support more young people to enter and graduate from college. We offered opportunities for young adults to enter the workforce with knowledge, credentials, and certifications for jobs within the healthcare, construction, food and hospitality, technology, customer service, and transportation industries. Our after-school and summer camp/Summer Rising programs support the social/emotional development of young people throughout East New York and engage them in arts, literacy and STEM learning. Our initiative to make Cypress Hills and East New York greener and healthier places to live were bolstered by the Cypress Hills Farmstand with GrowNYC, our organizing around The Hole with the East New York Community Land Trust and our work to retrofit small homes with The Pratt Center.

Furthermore, our fight to protect East New Yorkers from displacement and gentrification has progressed with both our Housing Counseling, Community Development, and Community Organizing divisions. Our Housing Counseling team was responsible for saving homeowners and tenants from foreclosure and eviction, while securing home and apartment building repairs. Our Community Development team worked with local tenants on ways to save money in a year filled with inflation through accessing benefit programs. The East New York Coalition for Community Advancement has also worked with residents to advocate for better and more affordable housing and to make Broadway Junction ADA accessible and safe. Last but certainly not least, our youth organizers from Future of Tomorrow have made tremendous strides towards dismantling the school to prison pipeline, creating safe spaces for young people, and bridging generational gaps for community safety.

While we had a year full of accomplishments, we are excited and inspired by the work ahead. We invite you to join us in fighting displacement and advocating for justice in East New York, sharing your college/career experiences with our young people, making employment and internship opportunities available to residents, joining our Board of Directors and supporting the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation!

Sincerely,

Michelle Neugebauer
Executive Director
Cypress Hills Community Development Corporation

Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation

Board of Directors

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Building Community. Growing Leaders.

With community residents leading the way, the mission of CHLDC is to build a strong, equitable East New York, where youth and adults achieve educational and economic success, secure and preserve affordable housing, and develop leadership skills to transform their lives and community. We actively promote policies that advance racial equity.

11,000+
Residents Served

7,000+
Youth Served

99 Small
Homeowners
Assisted

713
SYEP
Participants



Interview Spotlight

Eva Hayden, a long-time resident of Cypress Hills and East New York, has a wealth of reasons why she loves the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, and we're thrilled to share her story with you.

"Around 27 years ago, I learned about Cypress Hills [CHLDC], hearing about their dedication to helping people in the community," remarked Ms. Hayden. Over the past 27 years, she's seen CHLDC's commitment to assisting residents first hand. Ms. Hayden became a homeowner with CHLDC's help 25 years ago, benefiting from a downpayment assistance grant program that eased her path to homeownership. "Years ago, I attended a program where we received a \$10,000 grant, and if we lived in our homes for more than 10 years, we didn't have to pay it back," Ms. Hayden recalled.

Fighting against the historical challenges of divestment and displacement in East New York, CHLDC offers vital resources and services. These services not only aid residents in becoming homeowners but also help them sustain ownership, allowing them to remain in the community. Our Housing Counseling division collaborates with homeowners, offering assistance in accessing home repairs, financial literacy programs, weatherization grants, and various services that safeguard homeowners from displacement. Ms. Hayden, for instance, worked with our Housing Counselor, Shaheda Begum, to apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), enabling her to insulate her home for warmth. "Shaheda is very nice and helpful, much like all of the staff from CHLDC," praised Ms. Hayden. Her experience with our Cypress Verde Project Manager, Aida Castillo, applying for the SNAP program, ensuring access to affordable and healthy food, was equally positive.

Furthermore, Ms. Hayden has witnessed firsthand the positive impact CHLDC has had on her community. "I've seen CHLDC expand its offices over time, and now the community center, which I love to visit frequently," mentioned Ms. Hayden. She's observed remarkable growth in young people through our programs. "I've seen a lot of young people flourish in your programs. Even the younger staff members are incredibly helpful, especially to the elderly, which benefits our community," commended Ms. Hayden. Impressed by CHLDC's commitment to providing employment opportunities for young people, including her own children, she regularly recommends our services, emphasizing their necessity and value to low-income residents in the community.



Eva Hayden

Community Organizing

We encourage advocacy initiatives for Cypress Hills and East New York residents of all ages. We are active members of the East New York **Coalition for Community Advancement (CCA)**, a collective that organizes residents and small businesses for economic development, housing justice, displacement prevention, and infrastructure improvements. We also support the youth-led organization, **Future of Tomorrow (FOT)**, that is dedicated to educational justice and creating equitable and safe spaces for young people within our community.

The Coalition for Community Advancement (CCA) made great efforts to bring housing and economic justice to East New York residents. CCA began the year engaging with East New York residents from Arlington Village - - supporting them in fighting against an up-zoning of their housing development and advocating for repairs. The CCA organized a 311 blitz, where around 30 Arlington Village tenants gathered to report housing violations such as lack of heating, mold, and hazardous old construction within their building. During the event, 30 calls were made, which resulted in improved services and repairs for half of the residents who attended the event. The Coalition also hosted the Arlington Village Family Fun Day, where 60 tenants participated in intergenerational activities and learned about tenant organizing. The event not only strengthened the relationship between Arlington Village residents, but also taught attendees about their rights as tenants.

In addition, the Coalition has supported campaigns for legislation—Stop Predatory Housing Speculation Act (A1023/S1569) -- that will dis-incentivize housing speculation, create opportunities for first time home buyers and aspiring home working class aspiring homeowners, and ultimately help protect and create equity for Black and Brown communities, including East New York. To advocate for this legislation, the Coalition has educated low to moderate income homeowners and prospective homebuyers on the importance of the legislation and impacts of house flipping such as displacement, siphoning off homeownership opportunities, depletion of wealth from LMI and BIPOC homeowners, increasing property taxes, and making small homes in East New York less affordable. The Coalition also facilitated meetings and workshops that educated senior and LMI homeowners in the community about deed protection, understanding the market value of their homes, planning their estates, and stabilizing their finances and physical conditions of their homes to avoid being victims of speculators. Furthermore, CCA recruited and collaborated with other community-based organizations and citywide advocacy groups to conduct rallies, town hall meetings, and education sessions on the Stop Predatory Housing Speculation Act.



One of our biggest accomplishments this year was making progress on the Broadway Junction advocacy campaign. For context, Broadway Junction is one of the largest and most active transit stations in New York City. However, the station has not been ADA compliant for over 33 years, making it inaccessible to passengers who are disabled, elderly, or parents with strollers. The CCA joined the East New York Community Land Trust (ENYCLT) and Community Board 5 to co-host the Broadway Junction Roundtable, that called on the MTA to make safety, accessibility and investments in Broadway Junction, and advocated for major capital repairs and improvements in and around the MTA train station and at the East New York LIRR station. The Coalition also advocated for the project to result in jobs and local procurement within the community. Late in March, the CCA held a rally with 60 East New York residents to demand Justice4theJunction through safety and accessibility in and around the station. All of the pressure resulted in a commitment by the federal government of \$427 million going to the MTA to make Broadway Junction ADA compliant in the next five years! The project will include seven new elevators to make all platforms accessible plus new escalators and a new entrance on the east side of Van Sinderen Avenue. Additionally, a local hiring requirement for the project will require the design / build firm that handles improvements to employ 20% of its workers from Community Boards 4,5 and 16 (i.e East New York, Bushwick and Brownsville) and an obligation to procure 22.5% of its supplies and materials from Disadvantaged Businesses within the area. This was a big win for the Coalition and East New York to secure transit justice for a safer Broadway Junction and economic growth within our community.

Our youth-led organization FOT also made great strides towards their goals of building their base membership and dismantling the school to prison pipeline. All year, FOT held events to engage youth in activities that were fun, educational, and based around advocacy. During the summer, FOT held a community organizing and restorative justice immersion training for young people in the Summer Youth Employment Program. Young people learned about the importance of building power and learned how to keep our community safe through positive and strong relationships and conversations. At the end of the program, these young people used what they learned to conduct a restorative justice circle with ENY and Cypress Hills residents where they all discussed community safety. Later within the year FOT hosted a fun game night for 35 students from the Franklin K Lane Campus and Thomas Jefferson High schools. FOT also held their first overnight Youth Organizing Retreat in New Jersey at YMCA Camp Mason for 25 young people, where they learned about systems of oppression and school to prison and deportation pipeline, and participated in activities such as rock climbing, zip-lines and team building exercises. Additionally, FOT joined city partners and held a Progressive Caucus of the City Council briefing on Police Free Schools and discussed the need for more funding of community resources and less criminalization. In May, FOT took young people to the citywide "Care Not Criminalization" march which was intended to pressure the Mayor and City Council to invest in essential resources and stop investing in criminalizing our communities.



Serving Youth and Families

Our **Youth and Family Services** provide young people with engaging educational, physical, recreational, and extracurricular programming that benefit them both in and outside of the classroom. We also support the families of our youth, by hosting educational and resource events that bring all staff, parents, and students together. We specifically offer after school and summer programming to students in grades K-8 at eleven public schools in Community School District 19. We also offer middle school students guidance as they prepare to attend high school through our **Middle Student School Success Center**. Additionally, young people enjoy recreational programming at our two Beacon Centers at PS214 and JHS218. Our **Beacon Center** at JHS 218 also offer family counseling services to the community, workshops and classes for adults, and recreational activities to keep them busy. This year we served 4,474 young people.

Throughout our **after-school programming**, youth engaged in tutoring and homework help, accompanied by extracurricular activities such as dance, art, fitness, drama, sports, debate, STEM and STEAM. In particular, our students enjoyed STEM activity. We hosted STEM challenges and fairs, where elementary students created models and projects that included a solar oven, DIY: water filters, and a circuit flower. We also ran a successful robotics program with our middle school students! During spring, we held a Robotics Expo at our community center, where students displayed their robotic projects for family, friends, and staff. The event was well received, and students conducted software engineering and built robots that were able to lift items, move in different directions, and even walk. We also offered a science curriculum that sparked health awareness through a partnership with Cornell University, where students increased their knowledge of health, by learning to read nutrition labels, measuring sugar levels in beverages, and preparing healthy snacks. Additionally, we engaged our participants in literacy activities and events such as Bengali Literacy Night in partnership with the Brooklyn Public Library, Black History Month Poetry Slam, and Book of the Month.

At our Beacon Centers we served 2,464 young people, and increased enrollment for our adult and high school participants. We engaged youth in activities that peaked their interest in literacy, art, dance, sports, STEM, and fashion. Throughout the year, younger participants learned about healthier lifestyles and anti-bullying strategies and expressed their knowledge and creativity through science and art. Youth participants also conducted different science experiments including the penny boat experiment, that taught them about buoyancy. We also took students on field trips such as a walking trip to a community garden and an indoor park.



We offered paid internships opportunities to teenagers aged 14-19, through the Counselors-in-Training (CIT) program. Throughout the year, CITs gained leadership skills while assisting with STEM experiments for young participants and community health and resource fairs. Our CIT interns even met public officials like Senator Roxanne Persaud and New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

At our Middle School Success Center, we served 559 students. Throughout the year, students received counseling services and participated in activities to prepare them for the high school application process. We offered Standardized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) prep as well as workshops for seventh and eighth graders that covered high school rankings, academic interests, and an ideal high school. We are proud to report that over 80% of the students in our program were matched to their top three high school choices, and seven of our students were accepted into audition schools.

Furthermore, we offered a myriad of services for the parents and families of the young people we serve. During the year, we organized food pantries at our after school sites where families received free fresh produce, protein, and shelf-stable items. We also hosted multiple events that brought families, youth, and staff together, such as a family game night, math family night, cooking workshops, and more! Lastly, we held our 2nd Annual Resource and Employment Fair, where families were connected with resources such as child care, college students and parents interviewed for employment, and children engaged in fun activities.

4,474

Young people served through our services

2,464

Youth participated in our Beacon Center programs

80%

Of our Middle Schoolers were matched to their top 3 high school choices



Housing Counseling

Our **Housing Counseling** division provides individual counseling program services and group workshops for Cypress Hills-East New York homeowners and tenants. Our services equip residents with information on averting foreclosure, eviction prevention, securing home repairs, financial literacy coaching, as well as tenant counseling and organizing in a concerted effort to prevent the displacement of residents, sustaining the diverse character of the community. In the wake of the 2015 rezoning and Covid 19 pandemic, the team's service provision responds comprehensively to competing tensions and challenges stemming from real estate interests profit motives, investors, property/consumer scammers, affordable housing scarcity, renter-owner contradictions, and the broader mortgage servicing and lending industry's counterproductive effect on BIPOC neighborhoods.

This year, the Housing Counseling team had a great year starting with saving homes from foreclosure and assisting small home owners. As the year began, we planned to save 25 homes from foreclosure, and prevented 36 homes from facing foreclosure lawsuits and/or judgments and auction sales. At the **Homeowner help-desk**, our organization embarked on a mission with the initial goal of supporting 60 small homeowners facing financial difficulties. However, as the year progressed, our impact expanded far beyond our expectations, ultimately benefiting 99 households. Our primary focus was to alleviate the financial burdens these homeowners faced, especially concerning essential utilities and housing costs. To address the issue of water bill arrears, we turned to the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), a pivotal resource in our arsenal for helping financially strapped owners. Through LIHWAP, we were able to secure up to \$5,000 per household, ensuring that families did not have to worry that clean water service might be shut-off due to unpaid charges.

Our support didn't end with water. Recognizing the essential need for heating, especially during the colder months, we also provided assistance through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). This program played a critical role in helping families keep their homes warm without the burden of unmanageable heating bills. Understanding the complexities of housing assistance, we offered guidance through the process of Section 8 recertification. This ensured that families could continue to benefit from this crucial support system, maintaining their housing stability without undue stress.

Moreover, we assisted homeowners in applying for property tax exemptions, providing relief from one of the significant financial pressures faced by senior property owners. This effort was aimed at helping maintain the affordability and sustainability of homeownership for those we served.

By the year's end, the housing division's impact was clear. Not only had we surpassed our goal by assisting 39 additional households, but we also provided a comprehensive suite of services that addressed the multifaceted challenges faced by homeowners in our community. Through our dedicated efforts, we offered more than just financial aid; we provided peace of mind and a firmer foundation for families to build upon.

The Housing Counseling division offered individual financial literacy counseling/coaching and group workshops by phone, in person, and online (e.g. Zoom, Google Meet, etc.). The financial coaching one-on-one sessions and group workshops addressed client concerns about credit debt and credit scoring, student loans, high debt to income ratios, goal-setting, budgeting, saving and investing. Our activities facilitated favorable outcomes in the following areas: 23 households secured or maintained housing subsidies, 14 households benefited from building and development repairs, 5 households prevented or postponed evictions, and 15 households secured apartment repairs. In addition we assisted 7 senior renters secure benefits.





99
Small homeowners
assisted



64
Rental housing
units received
repairs, avoided
eviction, and
maintained
housing subsidies



36
Homes saved from
foreclosure

Community Development

This year our Community Development division provided services that helped local residents access and attain affordable housing, nutritious food, infrastructure improvements, benefit programs, and Covid prevention resources.

During Fiscal Year 2023, our residents were still recovering from Covid-19. We provided information and resources surrounding Covid-19 including vaccination sites, prevention methods, and testing kits. We specifically sent out 12,399 materials about the COVID-19 vaccine including emails, social media posts, informational graphics, and videos to educate our community on the Covid-19 vaccine. We also joined in 89 community events and provided 266 hours of outreach and education to ensure our community's safety from the virus.

In response to rising consumer prices and rents, we increased our efforts to enroll residents in public benefits. Our **Community Advocates** team helped residents apply for the Fair Fares applications, which gave low income residents access to reduced MetroCards, and Cash Assistance, which provides monthly subsidies for living expenses. We also helped over 985 individuals apply for and receive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through counseling sessions, which also helped them purchase healthy food for affordable prices. Our Community Advocates team also hosted two events to help SNAP/Cash Assistance recipients file a claim form for EBT benefits stolen through a nationwide scam called skimming.

In regards to food access, we provided numerous ways for residents to not only access healthy food, but also ways to implement nutrition into their lifestyles. Through our partnership with GrowNYC, we successfully ran our **Cypress Hills Farmstand Market**, where community members were able to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and grocery items within their neighborhood, most of the time for a reduced price. We purchased 35,116 pounds of fresh, regional food and sold over \$27,000 worth of food to 1,142 customers. We also used a system where customers who purchased from the farmstand using SNAP or the P-EBT received \$2 for every \$2 they spent, which resulted in local residents saving even more money on healthy goods. Additionally, we provided free bags of groceries to 10,706 families. To promote healthy lifestyle habits we offered 51 culinary and nutrition education workshops to 872 participants. Furthermore, we continued our Comprando Rico Y Sano program which provided nutrition education to various local residents and 340 community members participated in charlas, cooking demonstrations, farmers market walks and tours.





CHLDC continues to preserve affordable housing amidst a housing crisis. Our **Basement Apartment Conversion Pilot Program (BACPP)** provides eligible low- and middle-income homeowners in Brooklyn Community District 5 with low or no-interest, or possibly forgivable, loans to convert their basement or cellar into a safe, legal, and rentable apartment. The program is intended to produce learnings to inform the design and implementation of a citywide basement conversion program, which would provide both a reliable source of income to homeowners and much-needed affordable housing for renters. Currently, the program has construction underway at one home. CHLDC also received a grant from the NYS Homes and Community Renewal's Plus One ADU Program to support pre-development and construction activities for the remaining homes in the pipeline. We also made an effort to assist our tenants by working to secure Section 8 vouchers with the help from NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD.)

To advance climate resiliency, participatory community planning and justice for the East New York community, we also partnered with the East New York Community Land Trust, Council Member Charles Barron and other local elected officials who pressured the City to make infrastructure improvements and engage in a community driven planning process for a long-forgotten part of the neighborhood known as The Hole or the Jewel Streets. As a direct result of this advocacy the City Department of Environmental Protection installed new storm water drainage for two intersections that had chronic flooding, alleviating the problem. The Department of Sanitation also cracked down on illegal dumping in the area and removed several tons of abandoned cars and trash. Moreover in June 2023 the City, with the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development as the lead, launched a participating neighborhood planning process for the Jewel Streets/Hole, and committed \$75 million in funding for infrastructure improvements.

19,665

Households received groceries, gift cards, and emergency relief items

35,116

Pounds of fresh produce distributed

1,142

Community members accessed healthy food

985

Residents received SNAP benefits

194

Workforce training participants earned industry recognized credentials



137

Participants became employed



713

Young people served through SYEP

\$18.36

Average hourly wage placement

Career and Education

Our **Career and Education** division offers opportunities for community members to experience economic success, through both workforce and business development. We offer career readiness training to young adults, sectoral training for adults and support for small businesses through consultation and technical assistance and an incubator kitchen. This year we saw a significant increase in employment, wages, and merchant support.

Our workforce development programs consist of training sessions for individuals who would like to secure employment and earn industry credentials in sustainable sectors including technology, healthcare, customer service, transportation, construction, and food and hospitality services. This year, we successfully helped 137 workforce training participants secure employment exceeding our target of 125 and returning to pre-pandemic levels of success. Our participants also earned a record number of industry-recognized credentials, 194. The quality of jobs secured also continued to improve this year. The average wage at placement for our program graduates reached another record at \$18.36 an hour.

Our **CHAMPION Network** is our work readiness program for 16-24 year olds, who are looking to identify and take the first step in their career. Participants prepare for the workforce by exploring careers and receiving academic support, social emotional learning, work readiness, financial literacy, an occupational credential, stipends/incentives and an optional internship. This year we increased our stipend and incentive package to \$1000 per participant, and served 75 participants. 57 young adults obtained the National Retail Foundation Customer Service and Sales Certificate and 70 obtained employment and/or enrolled in an Advanced Training program.

This year, in our construction training program, **Building East New York (BENY)**, we assisted 88 participants to earn industry credentials including the OSHA 30 for construction, Site Safety credential from the Department of Buildings, the Flagger, and Scaffold User. We also deepened our partnership with DREAMS YouthBuild, to expand our services, and offer more local residents work opportunities within construction. DREAMS YouthBuild is a successful, comprehensive community service, construction and GED program in Bed-Stuy. At their request, we jointly applied for and were awarded additional funding to move the program to our new Community Center for implementation in September 2023.

In our healthcare training program, **Careers that Care**, we served 75 participants, and 26 of them gained employment to date. A new industry partner, Dry Harbor Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center hired 6 participants and provided valuable insight as we continue to develop this program. Kingsborough Community College is our lead training partner providing services out of their satellite location in our new Community Center.

Another exciting new partnership this year is with **PerScholas**, a national leader in technology training for diverse communities. We provided a satellite space for the training at the Community Center and provided recruitment, case management, work readiness instruction, placement and follow up services for all participants. During this sector training program, participants earn the Google IT Support Professional Certificate and the CompTIA A+ certification, which prepares participants for Network Administrator and related jobs. For our first cohort offered at the Cypress Hills East New York Community Center, we had all 11 enrollees graduate. Later in the year our second and third cohorts were filled to capacity, which showed more local residents having an interest in the technology training course. In the coming year, we expect to offer Cyber Security as well.

Another new addition to the Career and Education Division is the **Cypress Hills East New York Community Kitchen**. We partnered with **Hot Bread Kitchen**, a well-respected, city-wide, non-profit to offer culinary skills training for women. Much like our partnership with Per Scholas, we offered two cohorts through this collaboration. We also started our own incubator program to help local food entrepreneurs take their business to new heights. We began in August with a tasting event where 100+ community members enjoyed food samples from inaugural community kitchen members. In our incubator program, we helped participants create wholesale menus, create logos and marketing materials, identify meaningful collaborations, use GrubHub for sales, plan taste testing events, become M/WBE approved and more. In one instance, a community kitchen member developed a Kosher catering line and received recommendations for menu, pricing, referrals for suppliers, a Rabbi and marketing. In another case, a participant developed recipes for two signature cocktails.

We also experienced a record year with our **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**. We served 798 youth, who worked for 117 worksites, and gained meaningful work experiences. Our youth project-based-learning groups were able to work both in person and virtually, making programming more convenient for them.

Our **Business Partners** program impacted local businesses and merchants in the neighborhood through direct services and organizing for permanent solutions. We served 64 merchants and 96 individuals through our consultation and technical assistance services. We provided 4 cycles of the "Latinx in Business" 10-hour workshop series to connect local businesses with technology-related solutions to benefit their businesses. Through our organizing we also made progress toward establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) on Fulton Street. The Cypress Hills Fulton BID will benefit the community by making Fulton Street safer and cleaner creating a permanent and stable funding stream for community services. We have now secured over 300 statements of support from local property owners and businesses and are ready for the formal legislative phase of BID development. As part of this organizing effort, we held numerous clean up events between February and May and raised money to contract with Streets Plus to provide regular clean up services during the week as well.

College Success

Our **College Success** division offers vital college access and persistence services to help young people get into, afford and graduate from college! Our **Student Success Centers (SSC)** prepare students at the Franklin K. Lane and Thomas Jefferson high school campuses for college through college research and application assistance, early college awareness, financial aid advice, and career exploration opportunities. Our **Community Schools** program, also located on the Lane campus, assists students with attendance and social emotional support, field trips, and resources that support the families of our students. Once our students graduate high school and enter college, they join the **College STEPS and Persistence** program. The STEPS program supports students in persisting and earning a college degree, with services such as on-campus office hours at colleges and summer prep courses as well as workshops on campus navigation, accessing academic assistance, transfer guidance, financial literacy, resume writing and job readiness.

This year we were able to successfully support College Success participants' academic and social needs. Our Community Schools staff members encouraged and celebrated high attendance rates by hosting fun events like an ice cream social, pizza parties, and a field day competitions. We also introduced a Driver's Education course and 45 participants gained information that prepared them for both the written permit and road tests. Our Community Schools team continues to help students and their families access resources beneficial to their physical and mental health. During one event, students received free eye tests as well as eye glasses for the school year.

This year 2,344 students were served through our SSC programs at the Jefferson and Lane campuses. Of the 607 senior high school students we counseled, 70% of them developed a post-secondary plan, including either college or career advancement training. Throughout the year, we provided workshops, events, and counseling sessions to prepare our students to enter college. Students received assistance with college and financial aid applications. We also held free prep sessions for the SAT and college application essays. In addition, we hosted events that helped students learn more about colleges, scholarships, clubs and organizations, degree programs, and campus resources. In the Fall, the Lane SSC successfully assembled the Pathways Fair, where students met with over 50 college representatives to learn about their programs. In addition, 100 students from the Lane campus visited Kingsborough Community College and received special presentations from professors in Allied Health, Business, and Criminal Justice. Another successful event was our Instant Decision Day, hosted by the Jefferson SSC in partnership with the University of Mount St. Vincent. During this event 12 received admission to the college as well as \$500,000 in scholarships! We also took students on college field trips to Columbia University, Princeton University, CUNY Brooklyn College and more. Our College Success team also made efforts to introduce students to postsecondary options as an alternative to college. College Success staff partnered with our Career & Education division for an event where Lane students learned more about our workforce training programs as well as different career sectors such as healthcare, transportation, information technology, construction, and customer service.

In our College STEPS/Persistence program, we provided services to 1,672 college students. We supported 282 students who started college in the fall of 2022, and 209 (74%) of those students persisted to the spring 2023 semester. In addition, 78% of our first time college students persisted into their second semester. We are also proud to report that 37% of our participants graduated college within six years, which included 257 graduates and 122 Bachelor's degrees earned. Over the year, we held workshops that covered financial aid, college and transfer application process, network building, choosing a major or minor, study habits, and time management. Over the summer, College STEPS team provided matriculation advising to over 300 graduating seniors: navigating financial aid and loans, college policies and enrollment requirements, opportunity programs and remediation options, and college alternatives for those who decided not to begin this semester. In addition to academic support, our students participated in activities that encouraged service and peer bonding. During the winter months, our participants served as panelists at their alma mater high schools, and shared their experiences and advice with current high school students. We also held our annual Alumni Reunion, where students reconnected with their high school classmates and enjoyed group games, food, and raffles. Furthermore, our College STEPS planned events that helped students relax and practice self-care such as Wellness Week, Halloween Movie Night, and the College Grad Celebration Dinner.



2,344

High school students served

1,672

College students served

74%

Persistence rate for first year students



CYPRESS HILLS EAST NEW YORK COMMUNITY CENTER

Cypress Hills East New York Community Center

Since opening July 2022, we along with local residents have enjoyed every part of the **Cypress Hills East New York Community Center**. We used our community center for resource events, recreational sports and arts programming for youth, fitness and sports classes, college counseling, and workforce readiness training.

We offered recreational programming for 355 young people who participated in basketball, soccer, and art activities. In our basketball and soccer programs, children learned and practiced different skills for each sport, while learning discipline and teamwork. In our arts classes, young people created artwork through painting, pointillism, 3d optical illusions, and drawing. Art participants also learned about art history, significant artists, and ways to express themselves through art. Additionally, we served 105 youth through our music program in partnership with the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. Throughout the year, young people between the ages of 9 and 14 years old, played instruments such as the drums, saxophone, and flute, as well as joined bands for beginner and intermediate level players. We also added Early Childhood Music classes for children between the ages of 1 and 6, where toddlers and children learned to play different instruments with their parents. We also held fitness and zumba classes for adults to exercise, as well as courses where adults over the age of 18 learned how to use computers.

Furthermore, we hosted events that serviced community needs. One event was a resource fair for asylum seekers, that provided over 300 individuals and families with referrals for medical and legal services. We also provided them cooked meals, groceries, and gently used clothing. In the fall, we also partnered with a local pantry and hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for 100 families in need. They were able to enjoy a two course meal and packaged cooked meals to take home.

Congrats!

Building East New York



Careers That Care: Transportation



Brooklyn Conservatory of Music





40 Years of Service

On May 17th 1983, the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation was founded by a group of local residents, business organizers, and organizers looking to rebuild their beloved neighborhood. The community had faced divestment from local banks and government, housing abandonment and the closing of local businesses. 40 years later, CHLDC has built and preserved hundreds of affordable housing units, provided academic programming and services to thousands of residents, and grown our budget from \$16,000 to \$20 million.

We celebrated our 40th anniversary with staff, supporters, board members and participants who played a part in making CHLDC what it is today. We honored Harold Green with the Board and Community Leader Award, Jamel Burgess with the Neighborhood Champion Award, and Deutsche Bank with the Community Builder Award. We enjoyed speeches from our honorees and special guests, as well videos that recapped all of the work we've done for 40 years. The event was amazing and well attended. We even raised \$110,000 to go towards continuing our programs and services.



Thank You To Our Supporters!

Foundations and Corporations

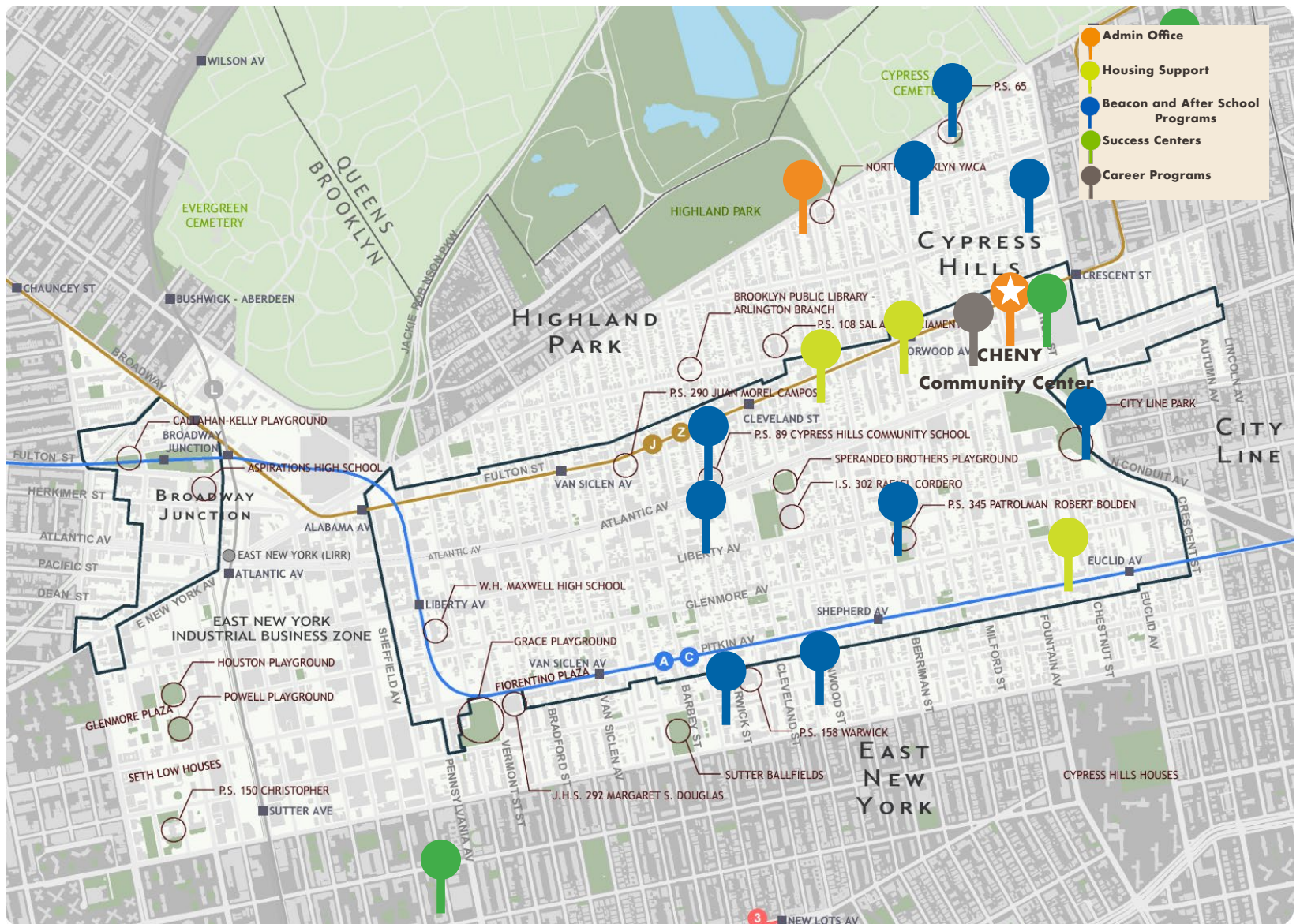
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Government

Hon. Julia Salazar (New York State Senator - 18th SD)
 Hon. Nydia M. Velazquez (United States Congressional Representative - 7th CD)
 Hon. Sandy Nurse (City Council Member for 37th District)
 Hunger Solutions New York
 NYC Department of Education
 NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development
 NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
 NYC Department of Small Business Services
 NYC Administration for Children’s Services
 NYC Department of Health
 New York City Department of Health Vaccine Outreach
 NYS Department of Agriculture
 NYS Department of Education
 NYS Office of Children and Family Services
 NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
 NYS Affordable Housing Corporation
 NYS Homes & Community Renewal
 NYS Attorney General
 US Department of Education
 US Department of Housing and Urban Development
 US Department of Labor

Individuals

Adrienne DeGemmis	Liz Kahn
Aidan Lanigan	Lynn Appelbaum
Alan Appelbaum	Lynn Neugebauer
Alexander A. Lach	Maggie Poxon & Brian Cohen
Andrea Soonachan and Mike Haber	Manuel Burgos
Betsy MacLean and Eric Miles	Mary Wooster
Chad Cooper and Claire Ellis	Melodye Harvey
Dena Davis	Michael Lawes
Ellen Ray	Michelle Neugebauer
Emily Blank	R.D. Gentzler
Gerardo Struni	Robert Tilley
Harold Green	Roy Pingel
J. Bruce Clark and Marisol Quinones	Sheila McAndrew
James Rinzler	Sonia Perez
John Miller	Dr. Sylvia Stovall
John Van Ingen	Teresa Toro
Katherine Defoyd	Thomas Kahn
Kimberly Kahn	



Want to Get Involved?

If you'd like to become a partner with us in our work, consider donating financially or with your time by volunteering.

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