

Pratt Center for Community Development

# **CAN GROWTH WORK FOR NEW YORK'S COMMUNITIES?**

**FALL 2005 EVENT SERIES**

**Community Development,  
Social and Environmental Justice,  
and the City's Future**

**Pratt**

Thursday, December 1, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Pratt Manhattan, 144 W. 14th Street, Room 213

# AGENDA

**8:15 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks**

*Errol Louis, New York Daily News*

*Brad Lander, Director, Pratt Center*

**9:15 a.m. Panel Discussion on Economic Justice**

**Moderator:** *John Mollenkopf, Center for Urban Research,  
CUNY Graduate Center*

**Featuring:**

*Bhairavi Desai, New York Taxi Workers Alliance*

*Nieves Padilla, Make The Road By Walking*

*Rebecca Lurie, Consortium for Worker Education*

**10:15 a.m. Panel Discussion on Affordable Housing &  
Livable Neighborhoods**

**Moderator:** *Frank Braconi, Citizens Housing & Planning Council*

**Featuring:**

*Margaret Chin, Asian Americans for Equality*

*Holly Leicht, NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development*

*Michelle de la Uz, Fifth Avenue Committee*

**11:15 a.m. Panel Discussion on Environmental Justice**

**Moderator:** *Eddie Bautista, NY Lawyers for the Public Interest*

**Featuring:**

*Ariella Rosenberg, NYC Economic Development Corporation*

*Carlton Brown, Full Spectrum of New York*

*Elizabeth Yeampierre, UPROSE*

**12:15 p.m. Closing Remarks**

**12:30 p.m. Break Out Sessions and Boxed Lunch**

Economic Justice      Room 211

Affordable Housing      Room 213

Environmental Justice      Room 402

## John H. Mollenkopf

John Mollenkopf is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the City University Graduate Center, director of its Center for Urban Research, and coordinator of the interdisciplinary concentration in public policy and urban studies. He has authored or edited eleven books on urban politics, urban policy, immigration, and New York City, including *A Phoenix In The Ashes: The Rise and Fall of the Koch Coalition in New York City Politics* (Princeton 1994). With Philip Kasinitz and Mary Waters, he is currently writing a book about second generation immigrant and native minority young adults in the New York metropolitan area. His book *Place Matters: A Metropolitcs for the 21st Century* (University Press of Kansas 2001), co-authored with Peter Dreier and Todd Swanstrom, received the 2002 Michael Harrington Award from the American Political Science Association New Politics section, bestowed annually on the "outstanding book that demonstrates how scholarship can be used in the struggle for a better world." Prior to joining the Graduate Center in 1981, he directed the Economic Development Division of the New York City Department of City Planning. He has also served as a consultant to many city agencies and other organizations. He received his PhD from Harvard and BA from Carleton College.

## Bhairavi Desai

Bhairavi Desai is the Director of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, a membership-based, independent union of over 6,500 taxi drivers. A native of India, she has been organizing taxi workers since 1996. In 1998, the NYTWA organized a 24-hour strike of 40,000-licensed drivers to draw attention to the sweatshop conditions and draconian policys of the Giuliani Administration. In 2004, NYTWA successfully campaigned for a Living Wage for Taxi Drivers through higher fares and capped leases. NYTWA continues to organize for greater economic justice and worker power in the taxi industry.

## Nieves Padilla

Nieves Padilla has been the lead organizer of Make the Road by Walking's Workplace Justice Project since 2000. She is responsible for organizing low-wage immigrant workers to fight for justice at work; planning and carrying out regular boycotts, pickets and demonstrations at exploitative workplaces; conducting outreach; recruiting new members; developing member leadership; and facilitating weekly organizing meetings. Since starting at Make the Road by Walking, Ms. Padilla has worked with neighborhood workers to win more than one million dollars. For the past thirty years, Ms. Padilla has been a community activist. Ms. Padilla is an immigrant from the Dominican Republic where she was an active participant in that country's student movement. She is the proud mother of four children and is soon to be a grandmother.

## Rebecca Lurie

Rebecca Lurie is the Director Workforce Development for the Consortium for Worker Education. She manages their Workforce Training Center in Long Island City. The center applies a wide range of workforce development strategies to utilize public funds towards job training and placement focusing in three distinct areas. Basic adult education provides ESL, GED and fundamental computers for local residents and workers who want to improve their literacy skills.

Ms. Lurie is a carpenter by trade, a member of the District Council of Carpenters, Local #608, and completed the union's apprenticeship program in the early eighties. She taught in the union's apprenticeship program, managed the employment and training program at Non-traditional Employment for Women in the early 90's and went on to design and manage grants for the carpenter's union in New York City. She currently serves on the steering committee of the carpenters union Women's Committee. In her current position, Ms. Lurie enjoys working with unions and businesses in developing workforce solutions that match industry needs.

## Frank Braconi

Frank Braconi is Executive Director of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council, a non-profit policy research organization concerned with affordable housing, community improvement, and the physical and economic development of the city. He has written numerous reports and articles dealing with housing, community development and the urban environment. He is an Associate Adjunct Professor at NYU's Real Estate Institute, where he teaches real estate economics and statistics. Braconi holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the City University of New York. His writings have appeared in *Cityscape*, *The Journal of The American Planning Association*, and the Federal Reserve bank of New York's *Economic Policy Review*, among other publications.

## Margaret Chin

Margaret Chin is the Deputy Executive Director of Asian Americans for Equality. As Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Chin oversees the organization's overall response to September 11th, plays a key role in advocacy and coalition building around the Rebuild Chinatown Initiative, and oversees all advocacy and policy agendas for the organization.

Ms. Chin is currently the Board Chair of the New York Immigration Coalition, Board Vice Chair of the Chinatown Partnership LDC and Board Vice Chair of C.R.E.A.T.E. She served as an advisory member to the U.S. Census Bureau's Race and Ethnic Advisory Committee on Asian and Pacific Islander Population. Ms. Chin received the 2003 Fannie Mae Foundation Fellowship at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Ms. Chin holds a B.S. in education from the City College of New York.

## Holly Leicht

Holly Leicht is the Assistant Commissioner for Planning at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, where she leads the agency's efforts to develop an affordable housing pipeline beyond the dwindling inventory of City-owned sites. Prior to joining HPD, she was the Director of Planning for offsite projects at the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. She spent five years at the Municipal Art Society, first as in-house counsel and then as Director of Design, Planning and Advocacy. During her tenure at MAS, Holly directed *Imagine New York*, which engaged thousands of people in thinking about and discussing the future of the World Trade Center site and New York's neighborhoods in the aftermath of September 11th. She is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law and Yale College.

## Michelle de la Uz

Michelle de la Uz became the Executive Director of the Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC) in January of 2004. Prior to that she served on FAC's Board of Directors for four years, three years as the Co-Chair of the Board. FAC is a 27 year old non-profit comprehensive community development corporation with an annual budget over \$4 million and assets valued over \$50 million whose mission is to pursue social and economic justice in South Brooklyn, New York through a range of programs including affordable housing and workforce development, community organizing and advocacy, adult education and assisting individuals and families impacted by the criminal justice system.

Prior to becoming FAC's E.D., Michelle was the Program Director for the Center for Urban Community's Services (CUCS) Uptown sites, overseeing social services in supportive housing and Director of Constituent Services/South Brooklyn District Office for Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, where she worked on a range of policy and community issues for the Congresswoman. Michelle was a 2002 Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World awardee as part of a team from FAC. Michelle has an MSW and MPA from Columbia University and a BA from Connecticut College and is a 15 year resident of Park Slope, Brooklyn.

## **Eddie Bautista**

### *ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE*

Eddie Bautista is the Director of Community Planning for New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), where he administers NYLPI's community organizing, lobbying and media programs. A leader in NYC's environmental justice movement, Eddie is an award-winning community organizer and urban planner who's organized numerous grassroots coalitions and campaigns, including the Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods (OWN) and Communities United for Responsible Energy (CURE), two citywide coalitions of community-based organizations which have blocked the siting of mega-waste transfer stations, large power plants, incinerators and sludge plants in environmentally-burdened, low income communities of color. He has served on numerous non-profit boards and is on the Selection Committee for the Charles H. Revson Urban Fellows Program at Columbia University. Eddie has a B.A. from NYU and M.S. in City and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute. In 2003, Eddie was among 17 national winners of the Ford Foundation's Leadership for a Changing World awards (<http://www.leadershipforchange.org>).

## **Ariella Rosenberg**

Ariella Rosenberg is a Senior Project Manager in the Energy Division of the New York City Economic Development Corporation where she specializes in energy efficiency and sustainability. She chairs both the Energy Working Group of the Mayor's Task Force on Sustainability and the Inter-agency Working Group of the New York City Energy Policy Task Force. Prior to joining EDC, she worked as an urban planner in The Bronx for the New York City Department of City Planning. She has also worked as an analyst at the energy, economic consulting firm PA Consulting Group (formerly PHB Hagler Bailly). She received her Masters in City Planning from MIT where she concentrated on environmental policy and urban design and focused her thesis research on mainstreaming green building in NYC. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently a volunteer staff member of GreenHome NYC, a community-oriented, volunteer-run non-profit organization that promotes environmentally sustainable urban buildings.

## **Carlton Brown**

Carlton Brown is a founding partner and Chief Operating Officer of Full Spectrum of New York. He has been responsible for establishing Full Spectrum as one of the national leaders in the development of affordable green/smart buildings for emerging urban markets. The firm is most known for its green building 1400 on 5th in NYC, which was the only affordable housing project to qualify for the NYS Green Building Tax Credit. Mr. Brown believes that all communities regardless of race, ethnicity or income are entitled to a sustainable future. Full Spectrum has pioneered new techniques for sustainable development that address alternative energy, indoor air quality, and other elements. Mr. Brown is a native of the Louisiana Gulf Coast, a graduate of Princeton University's School of Architecture & Urban Planning, and currently a visiting professor in the environmental planning program at Pratt Institute.

## **Elizabeth C. Yeampierre**

Elizabeth C. Yeampierre is a Puerto Rican civil rights attorney born and raised in New York City. She is former Director of Legal Education and Training at the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund and was also Dean of Puerto Rican Student Affairs and Assistant Dean at Yale University and the recipient of several distinguished fellowships. Currently, Ms. Yeampierre is Executive Director of UPROSE, the oldest Latino community based organization in Brooklyn. In 1996, she helped shift UPROSE's mission to organizing, advocacy and developing intergenerational indigenous leadership through activism focused on sustainable development, and environmental and social justice. She received the 2004 National Latina Leadership Award from the National Foundation of Women Legislators and its affiliate, the National Council of La Raza, the country's largest Hispanic civil rights organization. Her other accolades include the 2003 Asian Americans for Equality's Dream of Equality Award and the Comite Noviembre Hispanic Heritage Award. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Eddie, and their 16 year old son, Rico.

## **Errol Louis**

Errol Louis is a columnist at the New York Daily News. He was born in Harlem, raised in New Rochelle and lives in Crown Heights, Brooklyn with his wife, Juanita Scarlett. He is the son of a retired NYPD inspector and formerly served as associate editor of The New York Sun. He has taught college, co-founded an inner-city community credit union, run for City Council and was once named by New York Magazine as one of 10 New Yorkers making a difference "with energy, vision and independent thinking." He holds degrees from Harvard, Yale and Brooklyn Law School.

## **Brad Lander**

Brad Lander is the director of the Pratt Center for Community Development. The Pratt Center works for a more just, equitable, and sustainable city for all New Yorkers, by helping communities to plan and realize their futures. During Brad's tenure, the Center has helped to shape a new inclusionary zoning policy for NYC and influence several large-scale rezonings, protect the tenure of several hundred public housing residents in Staten Island, and create a new dialogue about how growth and development can be made to work for New York's low and moderate income communities. Prior to his appointment at Pratt in 2003, Brad served for ten years as the executive director of the Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC), a nationally-recognized, nonprofit community development organization in Brooklyn, New York. Brad's work has been recognized with awards from the Ford Foundation, Fannie Mae Foundation, American Planning Association NYC Chapter and New York Magazine. A graduate of the University of Chicago, Pratt, and University College, London. Brad also teaches city planning at Pratt and serves on the boards of the Jewish Fund for Justice and the NYC Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development.

**The Pratt Center for Community Development works for a more just, equitable and sustainable city for all New Yorkers, by empowering communities to plan for and realize their futures.**

**As part of Pratt Institute, we leverage professional skills – especially planning, architecture and public policy – to support community-based organizations in their efforts to improve neighborhood quality of life, attack the causes of poverty and inequality, and advance sustainable development.**

**For over 40 years, the Pratt Center has helped community groups revitalize their neighborhoods, create and preserve affordable housing, build childcare and community centers, and improve their environment. We have trained hundreds of community leaders and organizations to implement effective community development strategies, and supported a wide array of successful public policy and community planning efforts.**

**Background paper on today's event: [www.prattcenter.net/publications](http://www.prattcenter.net/publications)**