



LowerManhattan.info

Information to Build On



LowerManhattan.info provides news and information about Lower Manhattan through a free newsletter and website, www.LowerManhattan.info. This public information plan is led by the City of New York in partnership with the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC), New York State, and the federal government, and is made possible by a grant from the LMDC, which is funded through Community Development Block Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

DOWNTOWN ORGANIZATIONS LEND A HELPING HAND

**SPRING 2005
VOL 3 ISSUE 2**

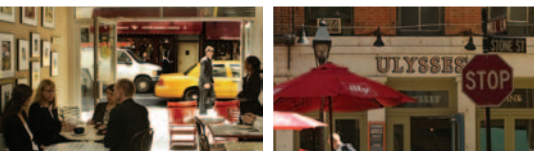
Scratch the surface of Lower Manhattan's many vibrant neighborhoods and you'll find countless organizations -- business, community, and cultural -- all working to make downtown an even better place than it already is. Some provide marketing and technical assistance for small businesses. Others connect residents eager to volunteer with valuable projects in need of support. In this issue of the LowerManhattan.info newsletter we hope to show you -- through real-life accounts, an information-rich map, and answers to questions submitted by readers -- just how to find the services and opportunities you're seeking.

ALLIANCE FOR DOWNTOWN NEW YORK AIDS BUSINESSES, RESIDENTS

Step onto Stone Street and it's easy to lose track of where you are. "It's an oasis in the middle of corporate towers," says Danny McDonald, co-owner of Ulysses, an eatery that has been an essential part of the downtown block's renaissance. He credits his co-owner, Peter Poulakakos, for having a vision of what the street could become. But he credits the Alliance for Downtown New York, the business improvement district (BID) responsible for the area south of Chambers Street, for making it happen.

"They were the sparkplug," he says. "They came up with the idea of licensing on Stone Street." Indeed, even before 9/11, the Alliance, as the BID is known for short, had plans to make of Stone Street exactly what McDonald describes -- an urban oasis that would bring to mind Paris or Rome. Though delayed by the events of that day, the desired results have certainly been achieved. "Now," says McDonald, "it's a European, never-know-who-you're-sitting-beside kind of place."

By working to get the area rezoned for al fresco dining -- and drawing upon area businesses owners for participation



and support -- the Alliance helped transform the street. And that was just the beginning.

In fact, the organization's efforts to revitalize Lower Manhattan go well beyond Stone Street. Several blocks north, on Maiden Lane, the Alliance has introduced a storefront improvement program to help existing businesses attract more customers. Thanks to its matching grants of up to \$4,000, small business owners can make changes they couldn't otherwise afford.

"I needed to do something desperately to the storefront to make it more appealing," says Pam Chmiel, owner of Klatch, a coffee shop at 9-11 Maiden Lane. With the

Alliance's help, she replaced the front windows with bi-folding doors that open onto the street. "It's going to be so nice for the spring and summer," she says. "I can't say enough about how grateful I am for that kind of help."

Downtown residents, of course, are among the lucky beneficiaries of the Alliance's work. Increased opportunity for area businesses means greater amenities for those who call Lower Manhattan home. But the Alliance doesn't stop there. Instead, it views meeting residents' needs as an integral part of its mission and has created a range of resources for just that purpose.

One such resource is the "Childcare and Education Guide," a 28-page publication providing information about each of the area's schools, childcare facilities, and kids' activities. Listing everything from tuition costs to whether or not an afternoon snack is served, the guide reduces the amount of research busy parents have to do, leaving more time for family fun. Perhaps best of all, it's available for download -- for free -- on the Alliance's website.

This year marks the Alliance's 10th anniversary serving Lower Manhattan, and according to current president Carl Weisbrod, the future looks even brighter. "We are now a permanent fixture in the community," he says. "The Downtown Alliance will be here for years to come, lending a hand to ensure that Lower Manhattan claims its rightful position as the preeminent urban neighborhood of the 21st century."

To learn more about the Alliance for Downtown New York, visit its website, www.downtownny.org, or call 212-566-6700.

AN ARTIST DISCOVERS HER CALLING

In 1998, then-film editor Kim Mayhorn spotted a sign posted outside an art center located next to her downtown office. It was an invitation to submit work to be considered for the HERE artists' residency program (HARP), which provides selected artists with studio space, feedback, and career development assistance for periods of one to three years.

Founded in 1993, HERE is a non-profit organization devoted to helping emerging and mid-career artists develop their work. Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues" and Basil Twist's "Symphonie Fantastique" are among



the successful productions that have gotten their start through the residency program.

Lacking much visual art experience, Mayhorn was nonetheless inspired. She submitted a proposal for a social installation piece depicting the deaths of black women lynched during the 19th and 20th centuries. Entitled "A Woman Was Lynched the Other Day," her proposed mixed-media exhibit telling the story of a female slave lynched by a mob for killing her owner's wife won her acceptance into the program.

The poignant exhibit she developed through HARP went on to garner national attention and eventual placement in a range of museums and galleries. Two years after joining HERE's artist community, Mayhorn was named one of *Essence* magazine's "30 Women to Watch," with the exhibit highlighted as one of her most notable achievements.

"HERE was where it all began," Mayhorn says. "It was the launching point for me to get involved in other projects." Her career as a visual artist has only continued to grow. Among other achievements, she has gone on to develop a series of installations as a fellow at the Whitney Museum of Art.

All the while she has stayed involved at HERE. In a series of work-in-progress showings at the center in January, Mayhorn collaborated with a group of dancers to present "Zong," a choreographed piece depicting the Black Atlantic, an undersea home to water-breathing Africans.

"HERE is a center for the exchange of ideas among artists across disciplines, connecting artists and audiences through work that transcends traditional boundaries," Mayhorn says with obvious appreciation.

HERE is located at 145 Sixth Avenue between Dominick and Spring Streets. For more information, call 212-647-0202 or visit www.here.org.

www.LowerManhattan.info



FIND OUT MORE INSIDE



DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

01 The New York City Department of Small Business Services has create the Manhattan Business Solution Center to provide small businesses with access to essential services and programs, including free seminars and workshops. 110 William Street, 3rd Floor, 311, www.nyc.gov/sbs

02 The Alliance for Downtown New York is the Business Improvement District (BID) serving the area south of Chambers Street. It provides supplemental security and sanitation, economic development, transportation services, and marketing and tourism programs. 120 Broadway, Suite 3340, 212-566-6700, www.downtownyny.com

03 The multilingual staff at the Asian American Business Development Center provides technical assistance to businesses from Chinatown, Little Italy, and the Lower East Side at a Chinatown walk-in center. 150 Lafayette Street, Suite 901, 212-966-0100, www.aabdc.com

04 Created to help strengthen the downtown business community, the Downtown Business Network, through an online directory, helps connect small and large firms in and out of Lower Manhattan with downtown businesses that can help meet outsourcing and procurement needs. One Maiden Lane, 10th Floor, 212-839-0125, www.downtownbusinessnetwork.com

05 Since 1992, the Lower East Side Business Improvement District (BID) has been dedicated to revitalizing the Orchard Street shopping district while preserving its unique and diverse character. 261 Broome Street, 212-226-9010, www.lowereastsideyny.com

06 MBAs4NYC unites Lower Manhattan small businesses with volunteer business professionals providing pro-bono consulting services. 75 Maiden Lane, Suite 205, 212-402-7820

07 Trained professionals at the Pace University Small Business Development Center provide a variety of services to new and existing businesses, including help developing financing packages and business plans. 163 William Street, 16th Floor, 212-346-1900

08 Seedco offers grants and loans through a number of programs to eligible small retail or manufacturing businesses south of Canal Street. 915 Broadway, 17th Floor, 212-473-0255, www.seedco.org.

09 A coalition of businesses, industries, and residents of the downtown community, Wall Street Rising is dedicated to revitalizing Lower Manhattan. 25 Broad Street, Suite 17M, 212-575-4545, www.wallstreetrising.org

DOWNTOWN CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

10 The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) provides assistance for arts organizations in the area, hosts an artists' residency program at the Woolworth Building to support individual artists, and fosters public participation in the arts through free events. 120 Broadway, 31st Floor, 212-219-9401, www.lmcc.net

11 Submit your work to be shown in the Tribeca Film Festival, featuring independent features, documentaries, and short films from around the world, coupled with studio premieres, panel discussions, concerts, a family festival, sports activities, and outdoor "drive-in" movie screenings along the Hudson River. This festival is held each year in late April. 375 Greenwich Street, 7th floor, 212-941-2400, www.tribecafilmfestival.org

12 The New York Chinese Cultural Center offers an experience of Chinese arts and culture through dance performances, classes, and workshops. 390 Broadway, 2nd Floor, 212-334-3764, www.ChineseDance.org

13 Tribeca Performing Arts Center commissions and supports emerging and acclaimed theater, music, and dance artists while providing performing arts events with a culturally diverse focus for both children and adults to enjoy. 199 Chambers Street #S110C, 212-220-1459, www.tribecapac.org



DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY AND REBUILDING ORGANIZATIONS

14 Asian Americans for Equality (277 Grand Street, 3rd Fl., www.aafe.org, 212-680-1374)

15 Conservancy for a Historic Battery Park (One New York Plaza, www.thebattery.org, 212-344-3491)

16 Community Board 1 (serving Battery Park City, Tribeca, Financial District, South Street Seaport, Civic Center, 49-51 Chambers Street, room 715, www.cb1.org, 212-442-5050)

17 Community Board 2 (serving Soho, Chinatown, Little Italy, Hudson Square, Greenwich Village, 3 Washington Square Village, Suite 1A, 212-979-2272)

18 Community Board 3 (serving Lower East Side, Two Bridges, East Village, Tompkins Square, 59 East 4th Street, www.cb3manhattan.org, 212-533-5300)

19 Civic Alliance (a division of the Regional Plan Association, 4 Irving Place, 7th Floor, www.civic-alliance.org, 212-253-2727)

20 Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association New York (62-64 Mott Street, www.ccbany.org, 212-586-2600)

21 Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation (1 Pike Street, email: ChinatownLDC@aol.com)

22 Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) (One Liberty Plaza, www.renewnyc.com, 866-RenewNYC)

23 Rebuild Downtown Our Town (R.Dot) (20 River Terrace, Suite 7M, www.rebuilddowntownourtown.org, 212-577-1200)



SMALL CHINATOWN JEWELER GETS A PLACE ON THE MAP

Since 1995, Ching Chiang has applied her "personal passion" for making jewelry to her store, Sun Wind. A small shop located at 179 Grand Street, Sun Wind is a great place to find handmade, customized jewelry and crafts incorporating the spiritualism of Feng Shui, Tibetan Buddhism, and crystal healing.

Hard to spot tucked away among Little Italy's pastry shops and restaurants, Chiang signed on for promotional assistance with Explore Chinatown. Funded by the LMDC, NYC & Co., and the September 11th Fund, Explore Chinatown has been in full swing since early 2004 helping Chinatown's visitors find the best restaurants, stores, events, and entertainment.

To help get the word out about Sun Wind, Explore Chinatown added the shop to its website and map (available online as well as in the new visitor kiosk at Canal and Baxter). Chiang says new customers are cropping up from around the region thanks to the listings, and looks forward to keeping involved with the program. "I think it's great," she says. "It's nice to know you're out there; that you're part of the bigger picture."

To volunteer or learn more about the organization visit www.ExploreChinatown.com or call 212-484-1263.

VOLUNTEERING A GREEN THUMB

With 30 percent of Battery Park City dedicated to open space, its Parks Conservancy stays plenty busy -- making volunteers like Jean Silliman a welcome addition to the team.

Silliman, a retired New York teacher who moved to the neighborhood in 2000, leapt at the chance to be part of downtown's most active community gardening organization. "I am a flower adorer, but I had never had a garden. I didn't know a weed from a flower," she laughs.

Now, every Wednesday from May to October Silliman can be found pruning, planting, and caring for the rich green spaces of Battery Park City alongside the Conservancy gardeners. "I work with the friendliest, most wonderful people," she says. "And it's opened up so much for me in terms of caring for the area. Now I walk around and say, 'I planted that!'"

Visit www.bpparks.org or call 212-267-9700 to get involved.



TRIBECA TAILOR GETS ORGANIZED

In the wake of 9/11, Tribeca's stores, restaurants, and galleries suffered from lost business and slow foot traffic. That's when a band of volunteers from the neighborhood -- residents, business owners, cultural and educational groups -- came together to form the Tribeca Organization.

Monica Abbatemaggio, co-owner of fine clothing and tailor shop Sorelle Firenze, joined right away, and the grants, cross-promotional efforts, group advertising, and other strategies "Tribeca Org" coordinated helped keep her store afloat.

"They reached out a hand," says Abbatemaggio, a native of Florence, Italy, who, with her sister, Barbara, has run the shop from its 139 Reade Street location for seven years. "Tribeca Org was really a base -- a home. You felt like they would let you know about every single thing happening downtown."

The group is still going strong, offering business advocacy and support, organizing events like the annual spring artists' studio tour TOAST, and keeping the Tribeca community strong, active, and tightly knit.

Learn more at www.TribecaOrganization.org or by calling 212-966-0063.



RIVER TO RIVER FESTIVAL

Each year from June through September, the East and Hudson Rivers provide a breathtaking backdrop to thousands of artists as part of the annual downtown River to River Festival.

Sponsored by American Express in partnership with the Alliance for Downtown New York and other organizations, River to River is the largest free arts festival in the city's history. Drawing millions of people every year, the festival has become a quintessential part of summer in Lower Manhattan.

This year's festival will feature headliners Yo La Tengo and They Might Be Giants, among others. As in past years, all events are free and open to the public, held at downtown venues along the water such as the South Street Seaport, Castle Clinton, and the World Financial Center.

For a full listing of events, visit www.rivertorivernyc.org.

FOR REGULARLY UPDATED NEWS AND INFORMATION, LOG ON TO WWW.LOWERMANHATTAN.INFO



PRINTED IN LOWER MANHATTAN BY VISUAL PRINT SOLUTIONS

My small downtown business needs marketing assistance. Where can I turn for help?

To help get the word out about your business, try contacting the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) (311), or Seedco (212-473-0255). Both assist businesses with a range of needs,



including marketing. Or try the Downtown Business Network (212-839-0125), which connects Lower Manhattan small businesses with the greater business community through an online directory.

Alternatively, businesses can also choose to work directly with a volunteer professional through MBAs4NYC (212-402-7830) to devise a marketing plan.

Several neighborhood organizations, like the Lower East Side Business Improvement District (BID) (212-226-9010) and the Tribeca Organization (212-966-0063), are also available to assist area businesses, as is the Explore Chinatown tourism campaign (212-484-1263) and the Alliance for Downtown New York (212-566-6700).

Asian American-owned businesses can also turn to the Asian American Business Development Center (AABDC) (212-966-0100) for support.

I'm a downtown artist/designer looking for opportunities to display my work. Are there programs downtown that can help?

Artists looking to become more involved in the downtown art community can contact the Lower

Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) (212-219-9401), a nonprofit organization supporting artists and arts organizations. You can also visit the ApplesseedNYC website (www.applesseednyc.com), which links residents and visitors to the arts and cultural offerings in Lower Manhattan.

Studio artists can participate in the Tribeca Open Artists' Studio Tour (TOAST) (212-479-7317), a series of free art walks in which participants view artists' works in their studios. Fashion designers can contact the Young Designers Market (212-580-8995), which allows designers to sell their creations every Saturday at a Nolita market.

There's construction being done in my neighborhood and I'm interested in learning more about the scope and schedule of work. Who can I contact?

To learn about construction projects throughout the downtown area, visit LowerManhattan.info's recently launched construction mini-website at www.lowermanhattan.info/construction. Here you'll find detailed information about daily construction activity associated with dozens of projects currently underway or soon to begin.

My block can sometimes be very noisy, and I'm not sure where to register complaints. What should I do?

To voice concerns about noise in your neighborhood,



take advantage of the city's 311 system. Also try attending your local community board meetings (see inside map) to bring attention to the issue and get guidance on how to take action.

I'm visiting Lower Manhattan for the day and need help finding my way around. Is there somewhere I can go for this?

Try stopping by the Downtown Information Center at 25 Broad Street (212-425-INFO), where visitors will find on-site staff available to answer questions, as well as free maps and brochures for the taking. Complete with internet access, the center also allows visitors to check out the Alliance for Downtown New York website (www.downtownny.com), which features a comprehensive listing of shops, restaurants, and services to help you find what you need. From the center's computers, you can also access www.LowerManhattan.info, which features an interactive streetscape map to aid you in navigating the area by foot, bus, subway, and ferry.

And don't forget to stop by downtown's numerous information kiosks (see inside map for specific locations).



How can I find out what events are taking place downtown each week?

Since there's always something happening downtown, many organizations have created calendars listing community events. The Alliance for Downtown New York (www.downtownny.com) and LowerManhattan.info (www.LowerManhattan.info) websites each feature comprehensive events listings. The LMCC (212-219-9401), World Financial Center, (212-945-2600), ApplesseedNYC (www.applesseednyc.com), and South Street Seaport Museum (212-748-8600) also list numerous events that they sponsor.

REBUILDING MILESTONES

Lower Manhattan continues to reach new milestones in the rebuilding process. To keep you up to date, each LowerManhattan.info newsletter provides a snapshot of recent accomplishments and plans in progress.

IN RECENT MONTHS

FEBRUARY 2005

Charles Maikish was appointed to head Lower Manhattan Command Center

New Whitehall Ferry Terminal opened

Work on the Fulton Street Transit Center began

Temporary memorial for victims of 1993 World Trade Center bombing was dedicated at Ground Zero

DOT Street Management Project began on Church Street, addressing pedestrian congestion near the WTC PATH station

Construction of South Ferry Subway Terminal began

APRIL 2005

Second phase of 4 Albany Street deconstruction began

Hudson River Park Pier 40 improvements were completed

MAY 2005

Wall Street Triangle Park reconstruction was completed

Allocation plan announced for remaining \$830 million in LMDC funds

UPCOMING

JULY 2005

Completion of 4 Albany Street deconstruction

Completion of WTC slurry wall permanent reinforcement

SUMMER 2005

Completion of Wall Street Area Water Main project

Start of deconstruction of the former Deutsche Bank Building at 130 Liberty Street

Start of South Ferry Subway Terminal construction

Completion of Bowling Green Lexington Line escalator

Groundbreaking for permanent WTC PATH Terminal

LATE 2005

Completion of 7 World Trade Center

Opening of West Street Promenade

Start of deconstruction of Fiterman Hall near Ground Zero

