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# What's Happening NYC

## CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY

Have an idea to improve your neighborhood? We can help! We provide grants and know-how to resident-led projects in every corner of the city.

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### NOVEMBER 2014 ISSUE:

Grant Application Season

Grant Application  
Information Sessions

Financial Literacy for  
Community Groups  
Workshop

Project Planning Assistance

Community Question

More Grants

Community Events and  
Announcements



## 2015 Grants

It's grant application season!

Applications for two of our grants are now available. Organize your neighbors and apply for a grant to carry out your community improvement project.

**Love Your Block applications are due November 7, 2014.**

[Love Your Block](#) is an initiative of NYC Service in partnership with Citizens Committee for New York City that provides a unique opportunity for City resident groups to transform and improve their communities through local action. Grantees will receive \$1,000 as well as City services from the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Sanitation of New York to help improve their block.

Questions? Contact Imani at [ibrown@citizensnyc.org](mailto:ibrown@citizensnyc.org) or 212-822-9567

**Neighborhood Grant Applications are due January 26, 2015.**



Facebook



Twitter



Website

**Do you have an event or information for the e-newsletter?**

E-mail Sabine at [sbernards@citizensnyc.org](mailto:sbernards@citizensnyc.org) with the information and a short blurb to include.

Through our [Neighborhood Grants](#), Citizens Committee awards micro-grants of up to \$3,000 to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects throughout the city. We prioritize groups based in low income neighborhoods and Title I public schools. We support projects that address issues that communities identify as important to them - anything from community gardens to tenant organizing.

Questions? Contact us at [grants@citizensnyc.org](mailto:grants@citizensnyc.org) or 212-822-9563

Here are some resources to get you started on your Neighborhood Grant application:

- Take a look at what [past grantees](#) have done with grant funding.
- Attend a [grant application information session](#) or [watch our grant application information video](#) to learn more about our grant application process.
- Look at our [grant timeline](#) and our [how-to grant application guide](#).
- Read our [grant writing tips](#) for simple, clear pointers on filling out any grant application.

## Neighborhood Grants Application Information Sessions

Join us for a [grant information session](#) to learn more about the grants and have your questions answered. For more information and to RSVP, contact Tehmina at [tbrohi@citizensnyc.org](mailto:tbrohi@citizensnyc.org) or 212-822-9563.

Friday, November 7  
Bronx | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Thursday, November 13  
Webinar | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Monday, December 1

Harlem | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Tuesday, December 2

Brooklyn | 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Monday, December 8

Bronx | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wednesday, December 10

Manhattan | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Monday, January 12

Webinar | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Thursday, January 15

Queens | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

## Financial Literacy Workshop for Community Groups

Wednesday, November 19

Manhattan | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Join us for a workshop geared towards building the financial skills of community groups. We will cover how to keep good financial records for your neighborhood association, how to manage funds, how and when to present financial information to the board, and the tax reporting requirements for neighborhood groups. RSVP to Imani at [ibrown@citizensnyc.org](mailto:ibrown@citizensnyc.org) or 212-822-9567.

## Project Planning Assistance

Did you know that Citizens Committee offers [Project Planning Assistance](#) to grassroots groups? We sit down with key members of your group to talk about a particular project or issue, share resources, brainstorm strategies, and create a plan together. You don't need to be a Citizens Committee grantee to access this resource, simply [fill out this form](#) to give us some information about your group, and someone from Citizens Committee will contact you to set up a meeting.

## Community Question

We are curious about [what you think!](#) Help us plan for our next series of workshops by letting us know what kind of skills you or your group want to build. Want to learn conflict resolution? Youth organizing? [Fill out this quick survey](#), tell us what you think, and keep an eye out for new workshops in the future.

## More Grants...

[Grow to Learn Mini Grants](#): Apply for a grant for your school garden or green space. Grow to Learn awards grants of \$500 to \$2,000 to school groups; you must register as a Grow to Learn garden to be eligible. Attend an information session in October to learn more about the grant program. **November 3.**

[Nature Works Everywhere](#): The Nature Conservancy is collaborating with Grow to Learn NYC to promote environmental education through the creation of *Nature Works Everywhere* gardens. This grant package offers \$2,000 to be spent on garden materials, \$500 towards materials for workshops, coaching support, a \$500 educator stipend, and access to other resources and materials. This grant may be used to support a new garden, or they may enhance an existing garden. The grant is specifically targeted towards grades 5-9. Schools with these grade levels are preferred, but not required.

**November 14.**

[New York Council for the Humanities](#): Have a public program idea you want to strengthen? Looking to start or expand a collaboration with other groups in your community? Apply for a \$1,500 Planning Grant.

These quick grants support the preparation of humanities-based public programs, such as working with advisors, developing community-wide initiatives, and creating interpretive plans. Eligible groups must either be nonprofits or working with a NYS based fiscal sponsor. **Applications are accepted on a**

rolling basis throughout the year.

### [Community Conversations Toolkits and](#)

[Grants](#): Community Conversations promotes thoughtful, engaged community dialogue, using a short text and a facilitator from the local community. Hosts of this program bring together members of a group, organization or neighborhood to join in a facilitated discussion of a short reading.

Online toolkits are available for download according to topic and audience, on themes like democracy, friendship, and immigration. In addition, NYS tax-exempt organizations, including schools, are eligible to receive \$200 from the Council for hosting a Community Conversation.

## Community Events and Announcements

### [Edible Schoolyard Workshop: Going Seed to Table in the Fall Garden and Kitchen Classroom](#):

Join Edible Schoolyard for this overview course about incorporating elements of gardening and cooking into your classroom to teach your students how their food ends up on their plates. There will be a session on how to care of a school garden in the fall, demonstration lessons in the garden and in the kitchen, and opportunities for participants to network and create teaching activities of their own. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, PS 216, 350 Avenue X, Brooklyn. **November 4.**

[Soil Health Workshop](#): Learn about soil and its connection to plant health in a hands-on workshop. You will learn how to test for different health indicators as well as learn how to improve your garden soil's health for better vegetables. Hands and Heart Community Garden. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM. **November 8.**

[Teachers & Sustainability Course](#): Join the Queens Botanical Garden for a free three-day course in incorporating sustainability practices into your

classroom. Plus, check out the other professional development classes available. Free, registration required. **November 8, 15, 22.**

[Street Seats Program](#): Apply to install a Street Seat in your neighborhood! The Street Seats program enables seasonal public open spaces, generally including seating and tables, at locations where sidewalk seating is not available. Businesses, institutions, and non-profit organizations with store-front locations are eligible to apply - start using the space in your community as a gathering place! **November 14.**

[Participatory Budgeting](#): Participatory Budgeting is back, with more council members taking part than ever. Find out if your council member is involved, and vote on how to spend \$1 million in your community. Check the [Participatory Budgeting website](#) for details and a list of upcoming meetings and events.

**Department of Consumer Affairs:** The DCA is working to educate, empower and individuals and families through new initiatives. The Small Business Relief Package, Office of Financial Empowerment and [Paid Sick Leave](#). These initiatives are available to over 1.5 million New Yorkers. On Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> the DCA is hosting a Phone-a-thon in every borough to spread the word about one of its priority initiatives, the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC for short.

[Choices in Childbirth](#): Take a look at Choices in Childbirth's new report, *Doula Care in New York City: Advancing the Goals of the Affordable Care Act!* New York City families of all backgrounds are inviting doulas to join their birth teams, and doulas are making a difference. Expanding access to doula care, especially to women in underserved communities, can further the goals of the ACA by helping more women have safer, healthier, and more satisfying births, all while reducing spending on unnecessary and unwanted medical procedures. The report brings

together the medical evidence with the voices of women from across NYC to highlight how doula care can reduce disparities, improve women's health outcomes, and improve patient engagement in health care decision-making.

**Vision Zero - NYC Speed Limit:** Starting November 7, the speed limit on all New York City Streets will be 25 mph unless otherwise posted. On average, every two hours, another New Yorker is killed or seriously injured in a traffic crash – and speed is often the primary cause. Please [help raise awareness of the new speed limit by sharing the news with your friends, relatives, and neighbors](#). You can find out more about the City's plan to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries at [nyc.gov/visionzero](http://nyc.gov/visionzero). Crashes are preventable. Together, we can save lives.



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