

Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
September 2022
Community Board Report

2022 Community Board New Appointments

Congratulations to all of the new community board members recently appointed by Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson. We look forward to your participation at the community board and want to assure you of the support of the Borough President's Office as you move forward. New member orientation will take place on Monday, September 19, 2022 via WebEx. All of the new members will receive information and link for the session this week.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT GIBSON RELEASES STRATEGIC POLICY
PLAN OUTLINING BLUEPRINT FOR THE BRONX**

As mandated by the New York City Charter, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson laid out a bold and sweeping 4-Year Strategic Policy Statement with a focus on equity and access. The report outlines her vision to address the long-term challenges facing the Bronx with comprehensive policy goals and a strategy to execute them.

In January, Vanessa L. Gibson was sworn in as the Bronx's 14th Borough President, the first African American and woman to serve in this role. This 223-page report is the product of her years of experience serving as a New York State Assembly Member and New York City Council Member. In collaboration with the 12 Bronx Community Boards, and targeted discussions with stakeholders representing various neighborhoods throughout the Bronx, the report is the culmination of their discussion aimed at seeing Bronx residents empowered and uplifted.

"We are at a critical turning point in the Bronx," **said Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson.** "After enduring a global pandemic, we understand now more than ever the policy failures from the past that contributed to years of disinvestment in our borough and continue to have an adverse effect on the health and well-being of our communities. This is the time to be bold. We need creative solutions to address the issues impacting our residents and families and I believe my strategic policy plan does just that. It is a blueprint for how we move forward."

She continued, "Working together with an energized leadership at all levels of government, we have an opportunity to right the wrongs of the past by ensuring our most vulnerable communities finally receive the necessary resources and support they deserve. We will no longer accept being the first in everything bad and the last in everything good."

The Strategic Policy Plan begins with an Executive Summary and is divided into 4 sections beginning with, “The Office of the Bronx Borough President,” outlining the role of her Office in City government. The other sections are “The Bronx: Who We Are,” that provides an overview of the Bronx’s 1.4 million residents, followed by “The Bronx: Where We Live,” and the “The Bronx: How We Thrive,” that addresses Economic Development, Education, Health, Environmental Justice, Public Safety, Waste Management and Digital Equity.

“I am thankful to serve as Borough President for such a time as this and look forward to building, collaborating and creating new approaches, initiatives and partnerships that strive to improve our beloved Borough of the Bronx. The time is now. We are ready to lead. Ready to work. Ready to see the transformative change that the Bronx needs and deserves.”

**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT VANESSA L. GIBSON RELEASES
FY’2023 CAPITAL BUDGET WITH EDUCATION AND TECH RECEIVING
59% OF THE \$24.6 MILLION BUDGET**

HOUSING AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS TO ALSO BENEFIT

“To achieve tech equity, we must eliminate the current digital divide that keeps our students from getting the best out of their education. Our budget addresses this head-on with the allocation of \$14.5 million for Chrome Books, iPads, Laptops, Laptop Carts, Wi-Fi, Smart boards, Printers, and more for over 90 schools across the Bronx. Whether it’s completing a homework assignment, attending a Zoom class, or filling out an online college application, our Bronx students need to have access to technology to be fully prepared to thrive in our new digital economy,” said **Bronx Borough President Gibson**.

Formerly serving as New York City Council Member of the 16th District that covers Highbridge, Morrisania, Claremont, Concourse, Concourse Village, Mount Eden, and Morris Heights, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson in her new role will also continue to make investments in cultural institutions both within her former Council District and throughout the Bronx.

“From Wave Hill, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Pregones Theater, the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden, Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center, the Bronx Children’s Museum, the Universal Hip Hop Museum, and so many others, our cultural institutions are the lifeblood of our borough, connecting us to the rich history and diversity of the Bronx, and it is important we give them the necessary funding to support their work in providing services to our children and families to enjoy,” said **Bronx Borough President Gibson**. “I have allocated over \$3.3 million to our

Bronx Cultural Organizations and I am excited to see their continued growth. Our cultural institutions will re-establish the Borough as a destination for tourists, as well as for long-time residents who desire to learn, enjoy and appreciate what makes The Bronx so unique.”

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson has allocated more than \$3.4 million in capital funding to seven residential projects, creating more than 600 new units of affordable, supportive housing and homeownership; and rehabilitation of 126 units of housing in neighborhoods throughout the borough. This includes \$500,000 towards the modernization of the balconies and installation of a new roof at Woodstock Terrace, one of the long-standing Mitchell-lama Cooperatives in the Bronx.

For a full copy of the Borough President’s budget allocations, please email us at amukoko@bronxbp.nyc.gov.

BP GIBSON ANNOUNCES REACTIVATION OF BRONX DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

“On this 32nd Annual Recognition of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), I am proud to announce the reactivation of the Borough President’s Disability Advisory Council. It is important for our office to prioritize the important issues that matter to our residents living with disabilities while promoting inclusivity and equity.

I look forward to working with our Advisory Council and advocates in developing a blueprint to support ADA compliance in our Borough’s infrastructure, eliminating barriers to equality, and connecting residents to accessible and critical resources.”

BP GIBSON HOSTED JAMAICAN FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE 60 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Bronx Borough President Gibson joined Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark, Assembly Member Chantel Jackson, Council Member Althea Stevens, Mistress of Ceremonies, WCBS-TV Reporter Alecia Reid, and others to host an inaugural Jamaican flag-raising ceremony to commemorate 60 years of Jamaica’s independence. With an estimated 308,000 Jamaicans living in New York City, which is the largest nationwide according to the U.S. Census Bureau (2019), the Bronx represents a significant number of them who live in the Wakefield, Edenwald, Williamsbridge, and Baychester sections of the Borough.

“This is a celebration to acknowledge the history and heritage of Jamaican-Americans living in New York City and the Bronx. With so many other countries represented here in our Borough, hosting this flag-raising ceremony is an opportunity to amplify the culture, heritage, and countless contributions made by Bronx-based Jamaican-Americans each day,” said **Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson**.

BP GIBSON HOSTED A FLAG RAISING CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Bronx Borough President Gibson joined the Consul of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Mary Tang Yew, and Community Activist Hazra Ali who served as Mistress of Ceremonies, outside Bronx Borough Hall for a flag-raising ceremony to commemorate 60 years of the twin-island country's independence from British rule. The nation, situated off the northern edge of the South American mainland and roughly 7 miles from Venezuela, has a population of 1.5 million. Today, according to the latest U.S. Census, close to 308,000 reside in the United States with the majority, living in New York State.

"As the daughter of a proud Trinidadian man, I share this rich heritage with thousands of others across this city who in this inaugural celebration can join us to recognize the culture, heritage, food, and countless contributions made each day by those who hail from Trinidad and Tobago across this city and our borough," said **Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson**.

"I commend Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson and her staff for putting together an event to acknowledge and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago, and just as the Borough President said, I too look forward to many more celebrations to come," said **Community Activist and Mistress of Ceremonies, Hazra Ali**.

Consul of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Mary Tang Yew who represented the **Consul General of Trinidad, Mr. J. Andre Laveau** said, "The Consul General acknowledges that having come from the throes of a pandemic we must reflect on ways to turn adversity in to a shared purpose. Indeed, we are thankful and thriving and we must always continue to celebrate our triumphs, even despite these challenges, as together we aspire, together we achieve. And in this vein, we are Together 60!"

During the ceremony, entertainment was provided by Artist **Ricardo Jerome** who performed the National Anthem for Trinidad and Tobago, Professional Dancer, **Abha Roy** from the Srijan Dance Center and Vocalist **Diane Arroya** who sang the National Anthem of the United States of America.

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT GIBSON ON ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE IDA

"A year ago today, Hurricane Ida wreaked havoc on our city. Our hearts are with the families who lost loved ones in this tragedy and are still fighting to get back on their feet after this storm. The City of New York is committed to preventing future disasters of this magnitude by investing in our infrastructure and exploring options that will help us mitigate flooding. To our families

in Louisiana who were most deeply affected by this category 4 hurricane, we pray for your strength, healing, and continued restoration.”

**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT GIBSON ON THE PASSING OF
MOE STEIN**

“Our borough is in mourning over the loss of Moe Stein, owner of Frank’s Sport Shop on East Tremont Avenue. Inheriting the business from his father, he began while in high school in 1950, outlasting his competitors during the devastating years of economic blight in our city. In spite of all the challenges, Moe continued to provide quality products to his customers and gave back to his community embodying the energy, resiliency, and vitality of the Bronx. We are deeply grateful for the life of Moe Stein and send our condolences and prayers of comfort to his family and the customers that kept Moe and Frank’s Sport Shop in our lives for all these decades. Our office will work to ensure Frank’s Sport Shop remains a viable business in our borough.”