

ESCR CAG Meeting -- March 27, 2025
(via Zoom)

CAG members present

Wendy Brawer Christine Datz-Romero Dina Elkan Ayo Harrington Trever Holland Dianne Lake Michael Marino Sam Moskowitz Robin Schatell Shaheeda Smith

[Link to slide deck for this presentation](#)

ESCR Presentation

Desiree Gazzo, HNTB-LiRo

1. Upcoming community events
 - a. Spring Fest at Corlears Hook Park on Saturday, April 19, 11 am – 1 pm
 - i. Register to attend at friendsofcorlears.org/events
 - b. NYC Parks to host ESCR & BMCR Earth Day: field cleaning, planting, yard games
 - i. Wednesday, April 23, 2 pm – 5 pm
 - ii. Smith Garden at NYCHA Alfred Smith Houses
 - iii. More information at nycgovparks.org/events/2025/04/23/earth-day-event
2. Hiring compliance as of December 2024 (*see slides 7-12*) - *Stephen Anderson, BuiStuido*
 - a. Total PMCM (Program Management/Construction Management) staff: 246
 - i. Project Area 1 (PA1) New Hires: 84
 - ii. Project Area 2 (PA2) New Hires: 27
 - iii. Total new hires: 111
 1. Most staff members on the contract were existing staff
 - iv. Staff from MWBE Subs: 39.0% (96 of 246)
 - v. Total minority: 26.0% (64 of 246)
 - vi. Males: 74.8% (184 of 246)
 - vii. Females: 24.4% (60 of 246)¹
 - b. Total General contractors' staff: 2,532
 - i. Project Area 1 (PA1) GC, Staff Total: 1,848
 1. Existing Staff: 55.8% (1,032 of 1,848)

¹ 2024 Industry average for women in construction management is 10.9%

2. New Hires: 44.2% (816 of 1,848)
 - a. Most have come from labor unions
3. New Hires from MWBEs: 7.1% (131 of 1,848)
4. Total Minority: 37.6% (695 of 1,848)
5. Males: 97.9% (1,809 of 1,848)
6. Females: 1.9% (35 of 1,848)
- ii. Project Area 2 (PA2) GC, Staff Total: 684
 1. Existing Staff: 64.3% (440 of 684)
 2. New Hires: 35.7% (244 of 684)
 3. New Hires from MWBEs: 5.0% (34 of 684)
 4. Total Minority: 48.0% (328 of 684)
 5. Males: 97.2% (665 of 684)
 6. Females: 2.8% (19 of 684)
- iii. Most new hires by the General Contractor teams are provided through union labor based on the availability of their personnel at the time of hiring needs.
- c. Current progress: Staff by residency (*see chart on slide 9*)
 - i. Most staff are from Long Island and New Jersey
- d. Current progress: MWBE goals and utilization
 - i. HNTB-LiRo, PMCM PA1: 29% goal -- 107%, exceeding goal
PA2: 31% goal -- 87% progress towards goal
 - ii. IPCRP, GC PA1: 16% goal -- 43% progress towards goal
 - iii. Perfetto, GC PA2: 12% goal -- 142%, exceeding goal
- e. Current progress: Section 3 hires
 - i. HNTB-LiRo, PMCM PA1 and PA2: 6 new hires
 - ii. IPCRP, GC PA1: 11 new hires
 - iii. Perfetto, GC PA2: 3 new hires
- f. Strategy and good faith efforts to meet goals
 - i. Ongoing efforts
 1. GCs continued outreach to Labor Unions to assign local individuals to the ESCR project
 2. Continued support from DDC ODIR in collaboration with various city agencies
 3. Quarterly Information Sessions (virtual & in-person)
 4. Email outreach, Community outreach / tabling with Workforce1 mobile unit, continued website updates with resources and job postings as they become available
 - ii. City and local partners
 1. NYC Dept. of Small Business Services - Workforce 1
 2. Henry Street Settlement
 3. Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)
 4. Lower East Side Employment Network (LESEN)
 5. NYCHA Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES)
 6. ESCR Community Advisory Group
 7. Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

8. Labor Unions

g. M/WBE | Section 3 | Local Hiring Goals

- i. Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE): Maximize M/WBE utilization and work to attain goals set on each individual Task Order.
- ii. Sandy Recovery Hiring: Contractors and Subcontractors are encouraged to employ 20% Sandy-impacted residents.
- iii. HireNYC: An alliance between NYCEDC, employers and jobseekers, to better connect construction-related job opportunities generated by our economic development projects to low-income New Yorkers. Measured by hiring, retention and advancement opportunities.
- iv. U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Section 3 Program: Requires New York City, as a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) funding, to the greatest extent possible, provide job training, employment, and contract opportunities for low- or very low-income residents in connection with CDBG-DR funded projects and activities in their neighborhoods.

Numerical goals:

- 30% new hires
- 3% non-construction contracts
- 10% construction contracts

Q & A

Trever: What are the challenges of getting to these goal numbers?

Stephen: A lot of the hiring is done through labor unions and that has impaired Section 3 hiring. It would be great if the unions funneled local workers for projects like this.

Trever: We're developing a set of best practices, so if you get us a summary of what you think could work going forward with a project of this type that gets us to the goals, that would be very helpful.

Stephen: It's important for training opportunities to be aligned with upcoming projects so workers can be prepared with the proper credentials. I will put together information on challenges and solutions to local hiring in the near future.

Wendy: I underscore what Trever's saying. I hope we can do better than this.

3. Overview of Contracts (*see slide 14*)

4. PA1 Construction Activities (*see map on slide 16*)

5. PA1 Phasing Update (a more detailed schedule/timeline is forthcoming)

a. ESCR status

- i. The ESCR Program is on schedule to finish by the end of 2026, and the **continued** transition to Phase 2 is critical to this success.
 - ii. The team continues to maintain at least 42% open space access to the community.
- b. PA1 What We've Heard: Phasing
 - i. Maintaining access to the waterfront via the esplanade
 - ii. Maintain at least 42% open space access to the community
 - iii. Limit tree removals
 - iv. Keep fields open during Parks permitted seasons.
 - v. Maintain walking paths and access to Stuyvesant Cove Park
- c. PA1 ESCR status
 - i. Early 2024: Original start of transition into phase 2
 - ii. Summer 2024: Opening of Pier 42 upland
 - iii. Labor Day 2024: Opening of ballfields 1 & 2 and Delancey St. bridge
 - iv. Fall 2024: Installation of Corlears Hook bridge
 - v. Fall 2024: Completion of ESCR PA2 (except for Solar One area)
 - vi. Spring 2025: Anticipated opening of part 1 amenities south of Williamsburg bridge
 - vii. Summer 2025: Anticipated opening of part 2 amenities, including Corlears Hook Park Cherry Hill/flagpole area and bridge
- d. PA1 Spring 2025/Memorial Day Phase 1 openings (*see slide 21*)
 - i. Nature Exploration & Water Play
 - ii. Lawn
 - iii. Basketball Courts
 - iv. Picnic & BBQ
 - v. Multiuse Turf
 - vi. South Tennis Courts
 - vii. Walking paths and esplanade adjacent to open areas
 - viii. Electric, temporary water service and port-a-sans will be activated and sprinkled through the site.
- e. PA1 Continued Phase 2 Transition Spring 2025 (*see slide 22*)
 - i. Spring closures
 - 1. E. 10th Street Bridge
 - 2. Esplanade adjacent to Fields 7 & 8 and areas north
 - 3. Captain Patrick J. Brown Walk to Stuyvesant Cove Park
 - ii. Park access
 - 1. E. Houston Street ramp and E. 6th Street Bridge to remain open
 - 2. Access to Stuyvesant Cove Park from East River Park will be closed
 - iii. Open space - To date, contractor has successfully managed to limit the impact to park so 42- 52%+ of the park can remain open.
- f. PA1 Late Summer 2025 Phase 1 openings (*see slide 23*)
 - i. North tennis courts
 - ii. Amphitheater

- iii. Corlears Hook Bridge & Park flagpole area
- g. PA1 Continued Phase 2 Transition – Late Summer 2025 (*see slide 24*)
 - i. August 1 closure: field 6
 - ii. Park access: E. Houston St. ramp and E. 6th St. bridge to close August 31
 - iii. Open space: To date, contractor has successfully managed to limit the impact to park so 42-52%+ of the park can remain open.
- h. PA1 Full Phase 2 Transition – End of August 2025 (*see slide 25*)
 - i. E. Houston St. overpass closed
 - ii. E. 6th St. bridge closed
 - iii. Track and field closed
 - iv. E. 10th St. bridge closed
 - v. Access to Stuy Cove Park closed to E. 18th St.

Q & A

Michael: Previously we were told that the Corlears Hook bridge would open in the spring, so I'm curious why the timeline has change to late Summer. Also, what's the deal with the contractors continuing to block the dog run after they said it would be open?

Desiree: I'll answer the dog run question when we get to construction updates. Construction is always subject to change, and I can ask about the specific reasons.

Robin: What are the exact dates for the amphitheater and the Corlears Hook bridge to open? Can we get advance notice so there can be a community ceremony? Also, how is Parks planning on rolling out the permitting for the ballfields? Can you explain what closing the northern part will look like as far as trees coming down and the like?

Desiree: As we get closer, we'll be able to provide more dates for the openings, and we'll provide as much advance notice as possible. As we move into the northern section, the construction will be much like it has been in the southern section. We'll start with demolition, coordinate with Parks on any salvage materials. Then we'll do the deep sewer and utility work, and the fill will come in via barge and we'll build the park back up.

Robin: Will the demolition happen in phases or only once the entire northern end is closed?

Desiree: It will be in phases because we're trying to keep the amenities open as long as possible.

Luc (*from Parks*): The overall intent is to match how it looked and felt prior to ESCR. We're still figuring out details about timeline. For fields 1 and 2 we left it open the public for a period of time in case there was slippage in the construction timeline. We'd be receptive to working with a league to have the big game as soon as we know the date even if it doesn't go through the formal permitting system. A year after opening it will be like it used to be.

Christine: Where are the permanent bathroom facilities going to be, and why won't they already be open as the park opens up? Also, it would be so valuable to connect ballfields 1 and 2 to Pier 42 and have that walkway open. It would create more space for people to spread out. It would be nice to be able to walk along the water for longer even if it means walking by a construction. Finally, what does it mean when you say closure in the spring? Does that mean you'll only close things once you're able to open others?

Desiree: The closures will happen after the new parts open. I would imagine they can't make the connection to the Corlears Hook ferry terminal due to construction in that area, but we'll go back and confirm that there's no way to safely open up portions of the esplanade. There will be restrooms at the Fireboat House and the Tennis House. We feel it's better to have temporary restrooms than hold up opening parts of the park. We're coordinating with Parks on the correct number and location of temporary restrooms for the areas that are open.

Christine: The Fireboat House will likely not be viable, and we were told that a restroom was being planned for a different location in the southern part. The Pier 42 restrooms are closed due to plumbing problems, and it's a real issue.

Desiree: We'll take this back and try to get more information.

Luc: There is a long-term plan for an additional restroom in addition to the one at the Tennis House. I will prioritize the Pier 42 restroom issue.

Ayo: This group doesn't want a return to how permitting was done in the past because it grandfathered a lot of the permits for private schools and organizations with no connection to our community. We realize that parks belong to everyone, but we were promised that the schools and leagues in our community would be prioritized as much as possible. What has your outreach been beyond this group to local institutions, organizations, and schools?

Luc: To clarify, we are going to go with the recent change that has happened with the citywide permitting process that prioritizes youth and non-profit leagues.

Today's public announcement of the new openings is going to trigger outreach from our recreation department to the youth leagues.

Ayo: When will people be able to request permits? Also, can the outreach include the junior and senior high schools located along the park to mitigate the lack of access local kids of color have had to the fields?

Luc: We're still working through the timeline for permitting to start. When this is established, I will make sure that this will be communicated to local schools.

Desiree: A reminder that we'll be at the CB3 meeting in April and can answer additional questions there.

Dianne: Why can't the final track closure scheduled for August 31st wait until the day after Labor Day?

Desiree: That's a good point, and we'll bring that back.

Trever: I agree with having some ceremonial openings as opposed to "Meet tomorrow at 9 am for an opening." If we can plan it, it would be better attended. Also, does the amphitheater opening include the covering?

Desiree: The covering will be installed at a later date. We understand that when a large portion of the park opens, there should be more than just a small ribbon cutting and instead a community event that will have to be coordinated. It will likely not be on the exact day the area opens. Now that we have a better idea of when the amenities will open, conversations between the City and the community about an opening event can start to happen.

Trever: Luc, please be aware that as part of the plan for Pier 36 they're planning on sending all the people from the party boat to use the Pier 42 bathroom. Also, my understanding is that DEP doesn't have money to remove graffiti from the floodwalls; is that the case?

Marty Fatooh, NYC DEP: We've been working closely with the Department of Homeless Services; they just sent out a team to engage with the unhoused population and to try to do some cleanup. That being said, I saw the conditions down there today with the graffiti and the trash; it's completely unacceptable. I flagged this for our agency partners, and we're trying to address it as soon as possible. Our Bureau of Coastal Resiliency has been working with the Department of Sanitation, the latter of whom is setting a date very soon to paint over this. NYPD has a unit dedicated to graffiti investigation, and they're looking into things. Proactively, we've put coverage onto the flood gates themselves. It's not the greatest solution, but we're putting it in place temporarily. In terms of funding, we indeed do not have a graffiti budget. However, city agencies always come together and try our best to maintain public property and infrastructure so we don't necessarily need to have a certain amount of money to paint over graffiti between 14th and 23rd. I know there are other areas with graffiti, but we're relying on all of our city partners to continue doing this. I do not want to speak for DDC, but I was informed that they're working on this as well with the private contractor. We'll have an update for you early to mid-next week on where we are with the sanitation clean-up.

Wendy: When you say you're opening an amenity south of Stanton Street, do you mean 24/7?

Desiree: Once there's electric and lighting, those areas will be open during typical park hours.

Luc: In the interim, at ballfields 1 & 2 we've expanded the hours to match the sunset. Electricity would trigger it staying open later.

Wendy: I just want to make a statement now. There's a lot of dogs who come to the park, and their only bathroom is in Corlears Hook Park. When you're rethinking the north end to add this floating esplanade, can you please add a dog run somewhere there?

Robin: Keep in mind that the closing of parts of the park is as ceremonially important as the opening. Please communicate those dates to us. The last of our trees is going to be gone, and I think it's important for the community to play tribute in some way.

Desiree: Thank you for clarifying that; it's very helpful.

6. PA1 Overnight closure of track & field and field 6
 - a. Soil sampling requires overnight closure
 - b. Beginning as early as week of March 31, 2025, 10:00pm to 6:00am
 - c. Ongoing for about one week
 - d. Operation is not expected to be noisy
 - i. If you live over there or have any questions, please reach out to us.
 - e. Temporary, limited closures in open areas may be required for soil sampling during the day
7. PA1 No parking: FDR Service Rd. at E. 6th Street
 - a. Began March 17, 2025; ongoing for about two weeks
 - b. Facilitates utility line upgrades
 - c. One lane of traffic and access to buildings will be maintained at all times; sidewalk access may be temporarily limited
8. PA1 Nightwork: FDR Drive Utility Crossings
 - a. Contractor was originally going to use existing crossings, but they were in such poor condition that they couldn't support the new utilities.
 - b. Cherry Street: Electrical conduit installation
 - c. Between Delancey St. and E. Houston Street: Water installation
 - d. Expected to begin within next six weeks and each will continue for 4-6 weeks
 - e. Requires overnight work hours across the FDR Drive due to DOT permits and FDR Drive lane closures
 - f. Operation can be disruptive and loud due to roadway excavations.
 - g. Formal advisories will be issued when timeline is finalized.
9. PA1 Construction photos (*see slides 29-31*)
 - a. Concrete formwork in ballfields 7 & 8
 - b. Lighting fixtures and horticultural subsoil installed in Corlears Hook Park
 - c. Magnolia trees beginning to bloom (535 trees planted)
 - d. Winter hazel beginning to bloom (20,000 shrubs, perennials, and grasses planted)
 - e. Sod (natural turf) being installed near Ballfields 1 & 2 (28,000+ square feet of sod installed)
10. Delancey St. Pedestrian Bridge
 - a. In coordination with NYC DOT, we are actively trying to address the lack of lighting there.
 - b. Emergency Access (since the bridge is not rated for large vehicles): reiterating Emergency Access Plan with local response agencies and CB3 District Cabinet
 - c. Entry: upgraded barrier to prevent vehicular entry, bollards to be installed under ESCR at a later date
 - d. Signage: coordinating with Parks on improved signage to emphasize operating hours

- e. We're grateful when the community brings items to us since they're on the ground.

11. PA1 What We've Heard

- a. Greenway / Pinch Point: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released March 11. It's not part of the ESCR contract, but please submit questions to if you have them.
- b. Fireboat House / Section 106 Process: OMB, DDC, and Parks working on responses to Alternatives Analysis comments received from the consulting parties
- c. Esplanade width: varies from roughly 7 to 8 feet in narrowest areas (including furniture) to over 30 feet in widest areas
- d. Plantings: landscape team continues to monitor plant health as spring season progresses
- e. Plant ID markers: Parks is looking at precedents from other parks for signage to denote plant species. When there's more information on what they'll look like, Parks will share that.

Luc: Also, the Track House restroom is scheduled to be open on Monday. The E. 10th St. bathroom will not be reopening due to long-term issues.

12. PA1 Environmental Monitoring Locations (*see slide 35*)

13. PA1 AQM February Update (*see slide 36*)

- a. The alerts have decreased for much of the southern portion of the park.
- b. There were a few alerts in the E. 6th St. to E. 10th St. area due to construction activities and construction vehicle traffic, and dust mitigation measures were applied.
 - i. Now that the temperatures are rising, the contractor will be able to water down the areas. (When it's very cold and windy, this just turns to ice which is very dangerous.)

14. PC Construction progress (*see slide 38*)

- a. Location 1 – Jackson St. & Water St. & Corlears Hook Park
 - i. Daytime road closures at Jackson St. for utility relocation in preparation for deep sewer installation
 - ii. Sewer slip installation at Water St. & Gouv Slip E
 - iii. There are three projects happening in the Montgomery St./Water St. area: Parallel Conveyance, Project Area 1, Brooklyn Bridge Montgomery Coastal Resilience. If you have any questions and you're not sure which project it is, you can always reach out to our Community Construction Liaisons, and we can work together to figure out what's going on.
- b. Location 2 – Delancey St. S & Lewis St.
 - i. Utility relocation
 - ii. Test pits

- c. Location 3 –Delancey St. N & Baruch Dr.
 - i. Utility relocation
 - d. Location 4 – E. Houston St. & Columbia St.
 - i. Electric relocation
 - ii. Sewer installation
 - e. Location 5 – Avenue C & E. 18th
 - i. Gas relocation
 - f. Location 6 – Avenue C, E. 20th to E. 23rd
 - i. Test pits
 - ii. Utility relocation
15. PC E. 20th St. Service Road Closure
- a. E. 20th Street Service Road between Avenue C and the E. 20th Street loop
 - b. Beginning Friday, March 28, 2025 and ongoing until further notice
 - c. Facilitates excavation to locate existing 108” interceptor sewer pipe
 - d. Please follow all posted signs.
16. PC No Parking at Delancey St. S & Baruch Dr.
- a. Delancey St. South between Lewis St. and Baruch Dr. and Baruch Dr. between Delancey St. North and Delancey St. South
 - b. Started Wednesday, March 12 - ongoing until further notice
 - c. Facilitates test pits in preparation for deep sewer work
17. PC Upcoming temporary bus stop closure
- a. M21 Crosstown to West Village bus stop at Columbia St. and E. Houston Street will be temporarily unavailable
 - b. Expected to begin in April, ongoing for approximately four weeks
 - i. Formal advisory to be issued when timeline is finalized
 - c. Facilitates sewer work
18. PC Construction Photos (*see slide 42*)
- a. Con Ed gas relocation on E. 18th St.
 - b. Chamber installation in Jackson St.
 - c. Con Ed cable removal in E. 20th St.
19. PA2 Construction Progress (*see slide 43*)
- a. Asser Levy Playground is open.
 - b. Stuyvesant Cove Park is open, but the North entrance at E. 23rd St. is closed for EDC Solar One construction work.
 - i. As amenities prepare to close in the northern end of East River Park, we'll come back with more information on how this will impact the connection between PA1 and Stuy Cove Park.

Q & A

Michael: Can you please give an update about the dog run situation?

Desiree: On Friday the contractor told someone the dog run would be closing in the next week. This hadn't been brought to our attention. During the next week they ended up having to close a portion of the dog run. The contractors give us the awareness that we need 90% of the time to issue the advisories. We worked with all the parties, and they were able to reopen the dog run in a couple of hours. We apologize for the miscommunication and know how important it is to communicate closures for amenities that people use every day. We made everyone aware that this cannot happen moving forward.

CAG-only Portion

Paula: Does anyone want to react to what we heard tonight or bring up any other topics? *(No one responds.)*

Paula: The other week I met with the ad hoc shade committee composed of Wendy, Dianne, and Robin, and we annotated a map of the park to show where the CAG would like shade structures installed. Then I drafted a letter to Councilmembers Rivera and Marte requesting shade structures. It'd be nice to get this letter out soon, and I can't imagine any CAG member not being in support of the request. Do people want a chance to look at the letter?

Ayo: Can we please see the letter? *(Paula shares her screen.)* We should put the funding amount we're asking for in the very first line.

Michael: I would ask each of the Councilmembers for the same funding commitment that Councilmember Powers has made (for shade structures in Stuy Cove Park).

Paula: I'll fix the language, but I think the content is there, and I'll get it out next week. Is there anything else?

Robin: Trever, I'm glad you mentioned that the opening of parts of the park is a community activity. And it's the same for the closing; it's going to be the last time we get to see those trees. We should think about some kind of a community ceremony for that as well. I'm happy to work with anyone with any kind of event planning.

Meeting ended at approximately 5:33 pm.