

MEETING MINUTES
 NYC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD QUARTERLY MEETING
 VIRTUAL MEETING
 Tuesday, March 29, 2022
 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Board Members Present:

Maureen Anderson	Laurice Arroyo	Scott L. Berger
Adda Birnir	Les Bluestone	Toby Sheppard Bloch
David Bolotsky	Eddie Christian	Saudia Davis
Mark Elliott	Lenore Friedlaender	Colleen Galvin
Marvin Holland (D)	Caress Kennedy	Joseph Kenner
Chauncy Lennon	Joseph McDermott	George Ntim
Eliana Palmay	Dr. Randal Pinkett	Adria Powell
Edgar Romney	Stephen Johnson (D)	Vilma Linares-Vaughn

(D) = Designee

Guests Present:

Paula Bailey	David Berman	Megan Keenan-Berryman
Lena Bhise	Michelle Clarke	Mary Elhakam
Elizabeth Ehrlich	Siveem El-Nashar	David Fischer
Claudia Flores	Lisa Futterman	Annie Garneva
Justin Gale	Lucinda Glover	Alia Jones-Harvey
Kimberly Howard	Chrystal Johnson	Rebecca Lurie
Melinda Mack	Rasheida Maharaj	Shereen Margolis
Karen-Michelle Mirko	Daphne Montanez	Valerie Mulligan
Evelyn Ortiz	Jose Ortiz Jr.	James Parrott
Valerie Payne	Lori Barret-Peterson	Maria Serrano

Maria Torres-Springer	Judith Smith	Joel Thomas
Jessica Weis	Sarah Whitney	

Staff Present:

Noam Gal	Sophia Leswing	Chris Neale
Grant Yanney		

Blueprint for New York City’s Economic Recovery

Deputy Mayor Torres-Springer provided an overview of Mayor Adams’ [Blueprint for Economic Recovery](#) plan. She acknowledged that the pandemic exacerbated many entrenched inequities in New York and stated that the recovery efforts need to assist those who have historically been left behind.

DM Torres-Springer described the five strategies that comprise the Blueprint:

- **Restart our economic engines:** Make sure commercial corridors are safe and clean; reinvigorate NYC tourism industry; place a particular focus on creative and cultural sectors.
- **Support our small businesses:** Give particular focus to Black and brown entrepreneurs, utilize procurement power to lift up Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs).
- **Sector growth:** Ensure that New Yorkers get good jobs as we build up life sciences and other future-focused parts of the economy
- **Connect New Yorkers to quality jobs and in-demand skills training:** Reimagine the public workforce system and increase New Yorkers’ ability to successfully skill and up-skill by providing wraparound support.
- **Plan and build for inclusive growth now and in the future:** Increase affordable housing, make strong job anchors in each corridor, tackle climate resiliency, invest more equitably in neighborhoods

There were questions from the Board regarding the gig economy worker system, worker protections, minimum wage, vaccine mandate exemption, and small business support.

Discussion of Blueprint: During the open forum, Board members discussed non-profit workforce development organizational support, revisiting the Board by-laws, increasing the board’s power and scope, tourism, and the older adult workforce.

Welcome and Board Business

Adria Powell, NYC Workforce Development Board Chair, called the meeting to order and provided a summary of the meeting agenda.

Ms. Powell recognized and introduced a new staff member to the Board, Grant Yanney (Assistant Director of the NYC Workforce Development Board)

Conflicts of Interest Board Annual Disclosure & Member Bios

Grant Yanney, Assistant Director of the NYC Workforce Development Board, gave a brief reminder to the Board to update their member bios (deadline is April 12th) and to be aware of the Conflicts of Interest Board law in place for all board members. Mr. Yanney stressed the importance of board members filing an annual disclosure report with the (“COIB”) by the deadline of May 13th or be subject to a \$250 fine. **The filing period runs from April 18th through May 13th, 2022.** Lastly, he encouraged Board Members to give internships and job slots to young people in conjunction with the city’s summer youth employment push.

Presentation on Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Board Challenge

Chair Powell issued a challenge to Board Members to support the City’s Summer Youth Employment Program:

- Every member should contribute **at least five internships slots** to the youth employment program
- Members can achieve this goal either by hosting interns or by persuading organizations in their professional networks to host interns

Overview of SYEP

Sarah Whitney, Director of Employer Engagement and Partnerships at the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), provided an updated presentation on the Summer Youth Employment program.

SYEP is the nation’s largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth with paid jobs and internships each summer. It introduces and prepares youth for the world of work, provides supplemental income, and peaks the participants interest to explore career interests and acquire good work habits.

Ms. Whitney reported this year there will be a record number of youth accessing jobs (100,000 opportunities, including 90,000 through SYEP and 10,000 through a mix of other

City agencies). She also stated that many Black and brown New Yorkers have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic in terms of labor force participation. Mayor Adams' [Blueprint to End Gun Violence](#) cites expanding summer youth employment as one key strategy for helping to reduce gun violence.

SYEP Participant Demographics:

- 58% Female, 42% Male
- 35% Black, 32% Hispanic, 16% Asian, 12% White, 5% Other
- 35% Brooklyn, 34% Bronx, 24% Queens, 11% Manhattan, 6% Staten Island
- 91% of participating youth reside in communities impacted by COVID-19 and identified by the Racial Inclusion and Equity Taskforce

Specialized Program: Ladders for Leaders is a nationally recognized program that offers outstanding high school and college students the opportunity to participate in paid professional summer internships with leading corporations, non-profit organizations and government agencies in New York City. Eligibility for the program:

- Youth between the ages of 16—21 who are enrolled in high school or college
- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00
- Resident of one of the five boroughs of New York City
- Prior work experience, either paid or volunteer
- Legally allowed to work in New York City

Ladders for Leaders is a component of NYC's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), the nation's largest summer jobs program. It is administered by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and supported by the Mayor's Office for Youth Employment and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

The Ask of Employers

DYCD is looking for employers to host young people ages 16-24 for 6 weeks for up to 25 hours per week; in-person, remote or hybrid roles with supportive supervision; DYCD can subsidize \$15/hour of the wage; the employer must cover the remaining cost if they want to pay a higher hourly wage or increase the weekly number of hours.

Next Steps for Board Members:

- If you would like to participate in the SYEP internship program, reach out to Grant Yanney here: gyanney@wkdev.nyc.gov

After Ms. Whitney's presentation, Chair Powell reiterated the challenge to Board members to contribute at least **five internship slots**.

Greyston: Reducing Barriers to Jobs

Board Member Joseph Kenner, president & CEO of Greyston, gave a presentation on reducing barriers in the workplace. Mr. Kenner began the presentation speaking on Greyston's origin. Located in Yonkers (population is 200,000), 15% of Yonkers residents live in poverty. 1,800 do not have stable housing. Mr. Kenner spoke about barriers to employment faced by the people that Greyston Bakery hires: lack of education, race, single parent, homelessness, substance abuse, gender, illiteracy, disconnected youth, age, language, criminal justice involvement, and lack of work experience. He also discussed **Open Hiring**--the practice of hiring anyone who applies for a job, no questions asked. Greyston does not ask for a resume or an interview and does not conduct a background check. Individuals put their names on a list and get a call to start work when an opening comes available. Currently, Greyston Bakery has 110 employees, 70 of whom are "Open Hires." Greyston, a certified B-Corp business celebrating its 10-year anniversary with that certification, is a pioneer of the practice and has implemented it since the company first began in 1982.

Update on Youth WIOA Programs

Valerie Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Youth and Community Development, provided a presentation on Learn & Earn. There are 1,066 young adults enrolled in the program. Learn & Earn (formerly the In-School Youth program) is a career exploration and academic support program for high school juniors and seniors. The program provides participants with academic support, college application assistance, work readiness training, service learning and leadership activities, as well as a paid six-week summer internship. Learn & Earn targets high school juniors and seniors who meet certain eligibility requirements:

- Age 16 - 21
- NYC high school juniors and seniors
- Must meet income and other eligibility criteria
- Must be a New York City resident

Ms. Mulligan also pointed out a key element of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). She stated that Mayor Adams has charged DYCD with making sure that every youth in SYEP has access to financial literacy and life skills programming.

Update on Adult WIOA Programs

Lucinda Glover, Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development, provided an update on Workforce1. Workforce1 consists of a network of 18 career centers which, prior to the pandemic, served more than 100,000 New Yorkers a year, offered occupational skills

training to more than 4,000 New Yorkers, and connected 25,000. In Fiscal Year 2022 to date, which includes the period July 1, 2021 to March 2022, Workforce1 centers have helped 900 businesses, served 55,000 customers, referred 33,500 people to job interviews, and achieved 10,500 hires with an average wage of \$17.99.

Closing of Meeting

Chair Powell thanked the members and guests for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.