



# HARLEM COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7 NO. 1 | SPRING 2015

## NYC BUSINESS SOLUTIONS CENTERS' LAUNCH DAY



LEFT to RIGHT: Dr. Joseph Tait, Councilwoman Inez Dickens, Former SBS Commissioner Robert Walsh, Former Brooklyn Councilwoman Diana Reyna

Through the persistence and tenacious advocacy of Councilwoman Inez Dickens, HCC proudly celebrated the launch of the newest NYC Business Solutions Center. Our catchment area extends from Washington Heights to 42nd Street.

Many thanks to all who took time out of their busy schedules to share their goodwill at the festivities on December 8, 2012.

### *About SBS and NYC Business Solutions*

Small Business Services (SBS) is a municipal entity that makes it easier for businesses in New York City to form, do business and grow. By

providing direct assistance to business owners, it fosters neighborhood development in commercial districts and links employers to a skilled and qualified workforce. [www.nyc.gov/html/sbs](http://www.nyc.gov/html/sbs)

In 2004 SBS launched NYC Business Solutions Centers as the principal vehicle for helping startups and established enterprises achieve free, quick, reliable, information and services needed to support their business endeavors.



LEFT to RIGHT Dr. Joseph Tait, Councilwoman Inez Dickens Former Commissioner Robert Walsh

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/sbs/nycbiz/html/summary/certification.shtml>



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER HAPPENINGS

### HCC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Curtis Archer**

Since January 2006, Curtis has been President of the Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC) which plays an essential role in promoting the state's economic policy north of 96th Street in Manhattan and in enhancing the economic climate

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**Zevilla Jackson Preston**

Zevilla Jackson Preston, R.A. is an architect with more than twenty years of architectural experience. A past president of the New York Coalition of Black Architects (NYCOBA) and founder of the African American Architects Roundtable for Entrepreneurs

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**Richard Shaw**

Mr. Richard Shaw serves as Senior Vice-President/Client Advisor with Bessemer Trust Company. His professional area of expertise is working with high net worth families to help them achieve their personal and financial goals. He also serves as a career coach at Columbia Business School advising

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**and more!**

# ENTERPRISE HIGHLIGHTS

## Harlem Entrepreneurial Fund - Community Development Financial Institution | HEF CDFI

### SUCCESS STORIES



Bernice and DeJuan Wynn, a husband and wife team, invest their heart and soul into sourcing US made products, juggling a young family, & making a success of their expanding business

#### WYNN OPTICS

Are you searching for an optical retail store with a downtown flair? You can find one right here in Harlem. The Harlem Entrepreneurial Fund has recently completed a small business loan to Wynn Optics, an optical retail store that houses the latest collection of eyewear with over 150 international and domestic designs. Wynn Optics is currently located at 167 Lenox Avenue.

Appealing to customers both young and old, the store seeks to provide a service comparable to the fashionable optical retail stores located downtown in Manhattan. Wynn Optics offers affordable merchandise such as the latest European and American spectacles, sunglasses, contact lenses and a wide range of frames that comes in a variety of colors. Other services include on-site eye exams.

Based on the success of the original store, Bernice Sandoval and DeJuan Wynn, the owners, state that, "With the launch of a new store at 629 Lenox Avenue customers will continue to appreciate the quality and consistency of the products and services that we offer. Our new venture is aimed at redefining eyewear in Harlem. We offer a shopping experience that is of excellent quality to our customers."

According to the owners, "Wynn Optics promises 100% satisfaction on all purchases and offers additional aftercare services at the store. The extensive collection, reasonable prices, proven optical skills, and superior international designs, provide shoppers a unique shopping experience."



Owner, LaChena Clark, answers the phones while her staff attends to customers

#### SUDSY WATER LAUNDRY

LaChena Clark, owner Sudsy Water Laundry, visited the Harlem Entrepreneurial Fund (HEF) during January 2014. She was seeking a small business loan to expand her business, which provides laundry services in Upper Manhattan. Ms. Clark received assistance with loan packaging from the Harlem Entrepreneurial Fund and the NYC Business Solutions Center/Upper Manhattan.

Ms. Clark's final application packet was accepted by HEF during March 2014, and approved in April 2014. As a result of the loan capital, LaChena has



## HEF CDFI | SUCCESS STORIES continued

expanded her laundromat business to now include a dry cleaning drop off store that will enable her customers to leave their laundry for dry cleaning and laundry services. *Ms. Clark plans to hire 2-3 additional employees.*

Ms. Clark said, “The loan from Harlem Entrepreneurial Fund has helped us to not only expand in the community, but has given us the opportunity to leverage our business income. For that reason we were able to scout a new location in West Harlem to offer additional dry cleaning and laundry services. The future looks promising.”

### ABOUT HARLEM ENTREPRENEURIAL FUND (HEF)

An initiative of HCC, Harlem Entrepreneurial Fund, LLC (HEF) is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that has made a major impact on the entrepreneurial community of Greater Harlem. Our lending and entrepreneurship training programs have assisted hundreds of people through the expansion and creation of new enterprises and the jobs that come with them.



LEFT to RIGHT Harlem Entrepreneurial Fund clients Fatima Doukoure, Partner Bébénor; Robin Williams, CEO & Artistic Director Uptown Dance Academy Recital Studio; Willie Whitfield, Owner We Love Hair, LLC; Ericka Powell-Sinclair, HEF Fund Manager

*HEF has provided over \$1,300,000 in loan capital to 57 Greater Harlem and Bronx-based small businesses. The loans, in conjunction with additional investments of at least \$500,000, have resulted in the creation of 200 new jobs.*

The organization is committed to the continued economic revitalization of the economy of Greater Harlem and its surroundings. We embrace the opportunity to continue partnering with other community-based micro-

lenders to deliver the valuable financial and technical assistance so badly needed in our communities.

To learn more about HEF's small business loan program please contact the fund manager, Ms. Ericka Powell-Sinclair (212.749.0900 x122; [epowell-sinclair@harlemcommonwealth.org](mailto:epowell-sinclair@harlemcommonwealth.org)), or visit [www.harlemcommonwealth.org](http://www.harlemcommonwealth.org) for how to attend an upcoming information session or to submit a preliminary application.

**Last spring  
HEF hit its \$1  
million dollar  
mark, with 45  
micro-enterprise  
loans provided.**

**~Harlem  
Entrepreneurial  
Fund**

## NYC Business Solutions | Upper Manhattan & Washington Heights

### SUCCESS STORIES

#### INMOTION by INSHAPE FITNESS



Ms. Kimberly Watkins, keeps office hours at Harlem Garage, while she and her team visits clients all over NYC

Ms. Kimberly Watkins contacted the NYC Business Solutions Center seeking guidance on navigating the process of buying out her business partner. After that she amicably and successfully bought out her friend, the original founder of InShape Fitness and later returned for assistance in expanding her business. Jeff Hamer of our Upper Manhattan NYC Business Solutions team assisted Kim with a successful crowdfunding campaign.

NYC-BSC Upper Manhattan provided professional advice that allowed Ms. Watkins to make an informed decision as to which platform to select and other details that would impact her campaign. Raising almost 11 percent above and beyond her required goal, she fully funded the completion and launching of a new technology feature she had developed for the business by expanding the capacity and reach of InShape Fitness. The online module, InMotion offers more customized workouts to clients at [www.inmotionworkouts.com](http://www.inmotionworkouts.com)

#### BURGER HEIGHTS



Located at 177 Wadsworth Avenue Burger Heights met an underserved demand and bustles with visitors

Ramon Pallone, co-owner of Cantinella Ristorante Bar, knew there was an opportunity for a Burger Shop in the neighborhood in which he resides. He felt so strongly about this, that he took all his savings and invested it in opening Burger Heights. Starting a new business in a new territory with which he was not familiar, he did not want to repeat the mistakes of his prior failed businesses. He visited with Melissa Martinez who gave him an initial consultation. She suggested he take refresher courses to become informed of changes in regulations. Following these, he was referred to Account Manager Carlos Sebastian-Guzman who then connected him NYC Business Acceleration (NBAT) as well as recruitment.

Veronica Velez of NBAT helped him expedite all the inspections and set-up an audit to be done of the location which will allow him to hold the architect and contractor accountable. Lastly, in a matter of two weeks with the help of the Upper Manhattan Workforce 1 Center (WF1), we were also able to help him recruit new staff to launch Burger Heights. Ramon Pallone was able to save between 40-60k in contractor and architect re-planning fees, because we connected him to NBAT. Additionally, he was able to fully staff his launch with two cashiers and three cooks.

# EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Adult & Young Adult Services

### HCC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



#### **BRYCE MITCHELL - HCC 2014 SUMMER INTERN**

Do you know why some New York City buildings have water towers and why others don't? Bryce Mitchell does! As he enthusiastically explained to us the criteria and circumstances that determined this during his exit interview, a staff member was delighted to have one of her longtime curiosities put to rest by none other than one of our interns. However, his ability to break down the municipal codes, regulations, construction/real estate and building maintenance facts wasn't all he learned during his hands-on experiences working with Cogswell Realty Group.

This was Cogswell's ninth year participating in HCC's Summer Internship Program. Under the direct supervision of Building Manager Igwe Harvey and his assistant, Prince Potee, Bryce truly flourished this summer and anchored the roots of his goals and aspirations to become an electrician. He had already developed a strong work ethic and sense of personal investment through his volunteer roles during afternoons, evenings, and weekends as a teacher's assistant, mentor/tutor and assistant basketball coach to middle school boys of his alma mater. As such his integrity, dedication and leadership skills came highly recommended by his former math and science teacher. Bryce is now completing his senior year at Strath Haven High School.



#### **SHABRIA WILLIAMS - HCC 2014 SUMMER INTERN**

Shabria Williams interned at City National Bank of New Jersey. In anticipation of entering her senior year in high school during 2014-2015, Shabria explained how she wanted to experience "new things instead of running the streets all summer like most teens," and how she also wanted to do something different from anything she had experienced so far.

During her time at City National Bank, she became the first intern to become a part of the Teller/Customer Service Unit, making it a three-person team. Her co-workers regularly vouched for her when customers often asked, "Aren't you very young to be a teller?" Though young in years, Shabria shared how this summer's experience helped her to mature in positive ways. Because of her demonstrated trustworthiness, Ms. Sabrina Brice, Vice- President and Branch Manager offered her a part-time position throughout the school year.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORS

We also extend thanks to all of our professional partners who participated in the Summer 2013 cycle of HCC's Internship Program-- *Cogswell Realty Group, Inc., City National Bank of New Jersey, Grid Properties, Inc. and Joe's Crab Shack*. With their continued support, we hope that this program will inspire other youth to stretch themselves just as these two young adults have done. We look forward to witnessing the professional development of those who will follow in Shabria's and Bryce's footsteps.

## ADULT BASIC EDUCATION | ABE



HCC ABE Instructor Odilia Riveria-Santos addresses her students

During the past six years Harlem Commonwealth Council, Inc. (HCC), through the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) awarded by Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), provided services to over 400 adults engaged in the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. HCC believes that a sound education for community residents is a fundamental anchor for community development. The goal of HCC's ABE program is to provide adults with opportunities to improve traditional and digital literacy skills that directly enhance their capacity to succeed as productive members of the workforce.

Our current ABE program provides instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics continued on page 10

## ARLENE & ROBERT C. FAUSER TECHNOLOGY CENTER



The Arlene & Robert C. Fauser Technology Center gets a major upgrade! Two summers ago, Harlem Commonwealth Council took the initiative to fully equip its technology learning center with a Mac Lab and Smartboard. Each computer has the capacity to function on dual Macintosh & Windows Operating Systems. Thus all are capable of running Office for Mac 2011, Standard Microsoft Office 2013 and various other educational applications. In addition to the Mac computers, HCC also owns 10 Lenovo laptops fully equipped with MS Office 2013. We've greatly enhanced our

educational programming by offering ABE participants two hours weekly training on MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, internet etiquette and research. Participants learn how to create a business letter, a resume, reports, budgets and basic presentations.

## ARCHES TRANSFORMATIVE MENTORING PROGRAM TAKE YOUR NEXT STEPS GRADUATION CELEBRATION



On Tuesday June 25th 2013, the Harlem Commonwealth Council community, in conjunction with the New York City Department of Probation, celebrated the culmination of the Arches Transformative Mentoring Program's first year with a host of guests, family, friends and supporters. The theme was "Take Your Next Step." The evening was a great success and hinted at greater possibilities for the future of this important initiative.

Rev. Maurice Winley, Project Coordinator for HCC Arches, welcomed the guests. After which, Lead Mentor Barry Winley shared his perspectives and Dr. Joseph Tait, President/

CEO of HCC, provided a keynote message focusing on the priorities of family, seeing youth as assets and not letting mistakes define you. Attendees from the Department of Probation were Paul Richards, Director of Young Mens' Initiative (YMI), Latoya Charles, Arches Program Manager and Probation Officer Jill Clayton from the Harlem Neighborhood Opportunity Network (Harlem NEON). Mr. Richards told the group that Arches at HCC serves as a model program and complimented the mentors *continued on page 10*

### 2014 ARCHES NOTEWORTHY MOMENTS



ABOVE Thomas Porter Peer Mentor, Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt, Mr. Clinton Lacey former Deputy Commissioner for Audit & Operations-DOP, Rev. Maurice Winley HCC Arches Project Coordinator

In 2014, at the end of his experience mentee and Arches Alumni, Tayvon Schuler, showed initiative to request and successfully complete training in the Interactive Journaling facilitation tool used by the mentors with Arches participants. As a result, he became part of an advisory committee for the Arches Alumni Academy for Achievement (4A's). He provides critical insight to this project being developed by the Princeton Foundation, focusing on the area of Leadership Development.



LEFT Summer 2014 lead mentors with 4 mentees visit MetLife Stadium to attend the annual HBCU (Historical Black Colleges & Universities) Classic Football Game - Howard vs. Morgan State



## Youth Services

### SONYC - SCHOOL'S OUT NYC



ABOVE students work on the template for a mural they will paint on the walls of their school

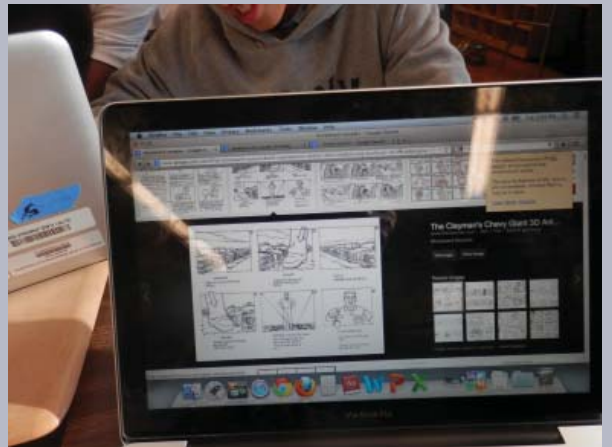
In 2014, Harlem Commonwealth Council, Inc. signed a \$1,176,000 contract with the mayor's new afterschool initiative for middle school partnerships managed by NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). HCC partnered with PS/MS 129, a K-8th grade school to operate a Schools Out NYC program (SONYC).

Presently, HCC's SONYC school-based program serves 90 youth and families and offers structured activities to grades 6, 7, and 8 in the arenas of Arts, Dance, STEM-focused projects (Science Technology, Engineering, and Math), *academic enrichment, leadership development, recreation, spoken word poetry/creative writing*, and other activities.



ABOVE student engaged in a robot building & experimentation activity

RIGHT students learning about film & tv production, trained in storyboarding, advance their skills by learning how to do so digitally on computers



**“During contract year 2013-2014 HCC had a total of 140 participants who demonstrated remarkable educational gains.”**

**~ Adult Basic Education**



Arches motto affirmed by mentees at the beginning of each meeting

**Arches** continued from page 8  
professionalism and dedication.

As part of former Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg’s Young Men’s Initiative, the Arches Transformative Mentoring Program offers young men, ages 18-24 who are currently on probation, an opportunity to develop strategies for coping with the challenges of making positive life-changing decisions, thus avoiding the cycle of criminal justice recidivism.

The curriculum—six months in duration—allows each mentee to develop an Individual Change Plan. With the help of “credible messengers” as mentors, each participant is coached through group sessions and one-on-one interventions focusing on establishing responsible behavior, handling difficult feelings, and managing relationships with better communication.

HCC, one of 19 Arches sites throughout the city has enrolled nearly 40 participants since starting the program in September 2012. Four participants completed the program. The graduates were Manny Guerrero (23), David Zelaya (20), Austin Hodges (18) and Tayvon Shuler (20). Ten additional participants attended and each shared personal highlights of his time in the program.

As a result of positive recognition for the quality of our program, we received the Data-Provider of the Year Award in 2013 for high performance and data-driven decision-making. More recently we have received the Silver Award from the John Jay Department of Research and Evaluation which was posted on its new Positive Youth Justice website. This website is a national clearinghouse for best practices with justice-involved youth. Explore the link below for more details!  
<http://positiveyouthjustice.org/category/medal-winners/silver-programs/>

**ABE** continued from page 7

in English to adult learners who score from 3.0 - 8.9 on the TABE 9/10 Test. Mathematical fluency is developed through problem solving, reasoning and decision-making. Language arts skills are developed by practicing in the classroom with varied materials, in multiple formats.

During contract year 2013-14, HCC had a total of 140 participants (surpassing the 134 contractual obligations) who demonstrated remarkable educational gains. Gains such as these continue to build up the capacity of the neighborhoods we serve and advances HCC’s potential of becoming an engine for social change by providing educational opportunities.

## IN JANUARY 2015 HCC LAUNCHED ITS NEW NEXT STEPS PROGRAM - “STRIVING TOWARD ENGAGEMENT AND PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS”

Harlem Commonwealth Council has formed a collaboration with Childrens' Village, and Exodus Transitional Services (ETS) to engage the following Harlem based NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) housing developments --Wagner (paired with ETS), St. Nicholas (paired with Harlem Commonwealth Council) and Polo Grounds (paired with Childrens' Village).

As a part of the Mayor's Action Plan for Community Safety (MAP for Community Safety), this City initiative aims to reduce violent crime and fear, build strong

neighborhoods and promote community accountability. It involves the coordinated efforts of community groups, non-profits, residents of public housing and ten city agencies -- New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), NYPD, Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), Human Resources Administration (HRA), Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Domestic Violence (OCDV), Department For The Aging (DFTA), Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) and Department

of Probation (DOP).

Due to the strong reputation HCC has established through the success of our Arches Transformative Mentoring Program, we will be able to extend our curriculum-based group mentoring program to reach young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 with the goal of transforming attitudes and behaviors that have led to violence and/or criminal activities. The program will be implemented in 15 NYCHA developments across the five boroughs.

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## 2014-2015 HCC HEALTH CAREER EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



2014 Scholarship Recipients pictured with Scholarship Committee Board Member Gloria Hartley (center)

We're proud to announce the newest recipients of our scholarship for college students who have chosen to advance from Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to Registered Nurse (RN), or to prepare for professional careers as Radiological Technicians or Medical Doctors. Since December 2005, we have played an important supportive role for dedicated students in offsetting the cost of books and supplies. This year we will allocate \$7,000 among four students,

Natasha Mack, Gladys Mitchell, Lisa Mackey, and Karen Browne.

## A SPECIAL GIFT FROM A HARLEM INSTITUE



HCC expresses its sincere gratitude to the Lorraine Monroe Leadership Institute (LMLI). Upon the retirement of its accomplished founder Dr. Lorraine Monroe and the dissolution of her educational institute, \$16,800.23 was gifted to Harlem Commonwealth Council. In honor of Dr. Monroe's passionate dedication to education and with the support of Ms. Elizabeth Jarrett, principal at PS 154, we are enriching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) educational programming for the youth at this school through a robotics program.

There are seven Fredrick Douglas Academies in NYC, one in Baltimore and six in the the San Francisco Bay Area. Dr. Lorraine Monroe founded the first here in Harlem between W149th & W150th Streets on Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. Graduates are accepted into top colleges and universities around the country and have visited countries such as Turkey, Portugal, Ghana, among others, due to Dr. Monroe's vision.

**“Since December 2005, we have played an important supportive role for dedicated students in offsetting the cost of books, supplies.”**

**~Health Career Educational Scholarships**

## SBS FOCUS GROUP, HOSTED AT HCC, EXPLORES EXPANDED NYC BUSINESS SOLUTIONS SERVICES

On December 5, 2014, ten small businesses from across Harlem generously shared their insights and experiences as startups and established enterprises with SBS' Kelvin Collins -Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Greg Bishop-Assistant Commissioner, and Maria Torres-Springer the new Commissioner of SBS. Business owners provided feedback to SBS' leaders about their concepts for expanding services. It was the final stop after a tour of other centers throughout the city. A prior and similar gathering had been hosted at our Washington Heights NYC Business Solutions Center a week before.



ABOVE Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer and Christian Damiba, Director of NYC Business Solutions Centers UM & WH



LEFT Local small business owners mingle and recap following the discussion

## HCC's WORK NOW EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM PA TRAINING plus DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGY SKILLS



Reginald Brown (Left) & Omari DaCosta (Right) at ImageNation

In the summer of 2013, our pilot program targeted its first NYC growth industry. The first cycle of this pilot venture in workforce development was a success. The program was created to facilitate the entry of Harlem residents into behind-the-scenes careers that support the film, television, digital media, theater and special events production industries. We were able to place two talented trainees, Reginald Brown and Omari DaCosta, into internships with ImageNation ([www.imagenation.us](http://www.imagenation.us)). This enabled them to gain Production Assistant (PA) experience within the sector.

**Curtis Archer** continued from page 2

for both businesses and residents in the Greater Harlem community.

Prior to working at Harlem HCDC, Mr. Archer worked as the executive director of Rockaway Development and Revitalization Corporation (RDRC). He served in that position for nearly eight years. Under his tenure RDRC charted a new course. Curtis was successful in bringing RDRC back to its original mission of promoting the revitalization of the peninsula's economic base and neighborhoods, thus assisting its residents in obtaining an improved quality of life.

He identifies 1989 as a turning point in his life. That's when he began his career in community development as a new hire at the New York City Office of Business Development (OBD). This agency later became known as the New York City Department of Business Services (DBS) under Mayor David Dinkins. Curtis worked as a development manager in the Neighborhood Development and Commercial Revitalization Program headed by Barbara Wolff. He credits his experiences at DBS with giving him a sense of how the city operates and how communities become revitalized. It also gave him a real taste for a career which could be uniquely satisfying-- public service within the fields of community and economic development.

A life-long New Yorker, Curtis was born in The Bronx but has lived in Harlem since 1980.

**Zevilla Jackson Preston** continued from page 2

(A3 RE) , Ms. Jackson Preston was born and raised in the Harlem community and is principal of J-P Design, Inc. (JPD), a 20- year old Harlem-based full service architectural firm. A graduate of the City College of New York School of Architecture, Ms. Jackson-Preston has taught "design studio" at CCNY and has been recognized as both a CCNY and CUNY Woman of Excellence.

Ms. Jackson Preston grew up in Harlem during the height of urban blight and abandoned buildings. This impacted her as an architect to the extent that

she fully understands the social and economic issues that are key factors in exploring the physical space of urban communities. Hence, her architectural philosophy rests on the theory of economists who believe that sustainable community development is about the development of the people themselves — not just the physical plant. For her, "Sustainable Design speaks to a process of design that recognizes the interconnection of the social, physical, environmental and cultural vitality of a community and/or a specific client."

Beyond her dedication to her chosen profession, Ms. Jackson Preston has remained steadfast in her commitment to the Harlem community in particular and New York City at-large through a host of volunteer efforts. Currently, she is a member of the Board of The Children's Art Carnival, a community-based children's art school and is a member of the Municipal Art Society's Planning Committee. Past volunteerism has included work with The Harlem School of the Arts, a multi-disciplinary arts school, The Harlem Cultural Foundation, a consortium of arts-based institutions, The Central Park Advisory Committee, an extension of the Central Park Conservancy and Harlem Commonwealth Council, a local development organization which is committed to developing the people of Harlem and its physical plant.

**Richard Shaw** continued from page 2

first and second year MBA students on careers in the investment and wealth management industry.

Mr. Shaw has over fifteen years of experience in the financial services industry as a financial analyst, working at firms such as J.P. Morgan, Mark Asset Management and Scudder Kemper Investments.

He received his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Boston University and his Master's degree in Business Administration and Finance from Columbia Business School. He is also a certified financial planner.

He is an avid reader and enjoys competing in sprint and Olympic triathlons.



## ROSEBUD NEW YORK'S GREAT AMERICAN HAT SHOW



While waiting for the show to begin, guests Author Pam Reeves and Rev. Georgette Thomas share their enthusiasm and showcase their own fashion hat flair

Rosebud New York hosted THE GREAT AMERICAN HAT SHOW during a weekend in February 2015 at Harlem Commonwealth Council. The show featured the work of designer Harriet Rosebud. The theme this year was Hats in Cinema. Featured were hats from top films such as *My Fair Lady* and *The Color Purple*. The show hosted women from all around the country who had a common love of fashion and hats. It also featured the Spring collection of Brownstone and the African-inspired collection of Noni. Chef James Rosebud of JRose Catering provided lunch.



Two models, including Ms. Nina Saxon (ABOVE in red), bring to life Ms. Rosebud's artistry



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have no  
effective voice in  
the community  
they inhabit nor  
control over its  
resources,  
are only tenants  
on someone  
else’s land.”**

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