

COLUMBUS AMSTERDAM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

2022

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 15th, 2023

6:30pm

President's Welcome

Robin Baez

BID BOARD PRESIDENT

2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2021

2021 MEETING MINUTES (page 1)

- Presidents Welcome
 - Robin Pace introduction and welcome for 2021 meeting
- Review of 2020 annual meeting minutes
 - Minutes were displayed, voted on, voted approved by board members
 - Motion to approve by Rhea Vogel, seconded by Lora Lavon Dole
- Board Elections
 - **Robin Pace** *Manhattan Valley Development Corporation*
 - **Rhea Vogel** *938-40 Amsterdam Ave. (alt. Jordan B. Vogel, COO of 938-40)*
 - **Bruce James** *200 W 108th St.*
 - **Isabel Cruz** *Hostelling International 891 Amsterdam Avenue*
 - Board elections were displayed and registered members were voted on through a zoom poll
 - Unanimously approved of new board members in the 2020 term by registered members
- Notable New Yorkers
 - Presentation about new book: *Notable New Yorkers* by Jim Mackin.
- BID Financial Report
 - BID accountant Stuart Michael presented the BID fiscal budget and explained breakdown of program expenditure through FY 21

2021 MEETING MINUTES (page 2)

- District Managers Report
 - Peter Arndtsen talked about BID initiatives throughout FY '21 including the following:
 - Thanks to our sanitation and office employees
 - Takeout delivery guide and restaurant work
 - Open Streets
 - City-wide business promotions
 - City Wide Partners
 - Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group (monthly walks & talks)
 - Census 2020
- Borough President's address -
 - Gale Brewer (Manhattan Borough president) joined and discussed the work the BID has made and new initiatives provided by her office, dirt bikes, rent and lease for commercial spaces, vacancy data, and scaffolding, and mental health issues.
- Closing remarks
 - Robin Pace (board president) gave closing remarks and thank all for another successful annual meeting

BID BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

BID BOARD ELECTIONS: TERM 2022-2024

Class A:
Property Owner

Lora Lavon Dole
989 Amsterdam Ave.

Arnold Baker II
985 Amsterdam Ave.

Jeff Olivares
973 Amsterdam Ave.

Class B:
Merchants

Victor Martinez
The Calaveras NYC
949 Columbus Ave.

Alt.: Kai & Eleanor
Pettaway, Freda's -
993 Columbus Ave.

Class C:
Resident

Karla Gomez
943 Amsterdam Ave.

Alt.: Dan Cohen, Valley
Restoration LDC

BID BOARD MEMBERS THROUGH 2023

Class A: Property Owners

Robin Baez *Manhattan Valley Development Corporation*

Rhea Vogel *938-940 Amsterdam Ave.*
(Alt. Jordan B. Vogel (COO of 938-940))

Bruce James *200 W 108th*

Isabel Cruz *Hostelling International 891 Amsterdam*
(Alt. Enrique Colon)



Greetings from Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group Walking tour by **JIM MACKIN**

*Author of Notable New Yorkers of Manhattan's Upper West Side
Member of Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group*

www.weekdaywalks.com

**COLUMBUS
AMSTERDAM**
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Introduction to Bloomingdale Neighborhood by JIM MACKIN



Emily Edwards

Executive Director, BID Program &
Organizational Development at
NYC Small Business Services



Jennifer Maya Luz Pliego

Artist/Director of special project
El Taller Latino Americano

Financial Report

MICHAEL GONZALEZ

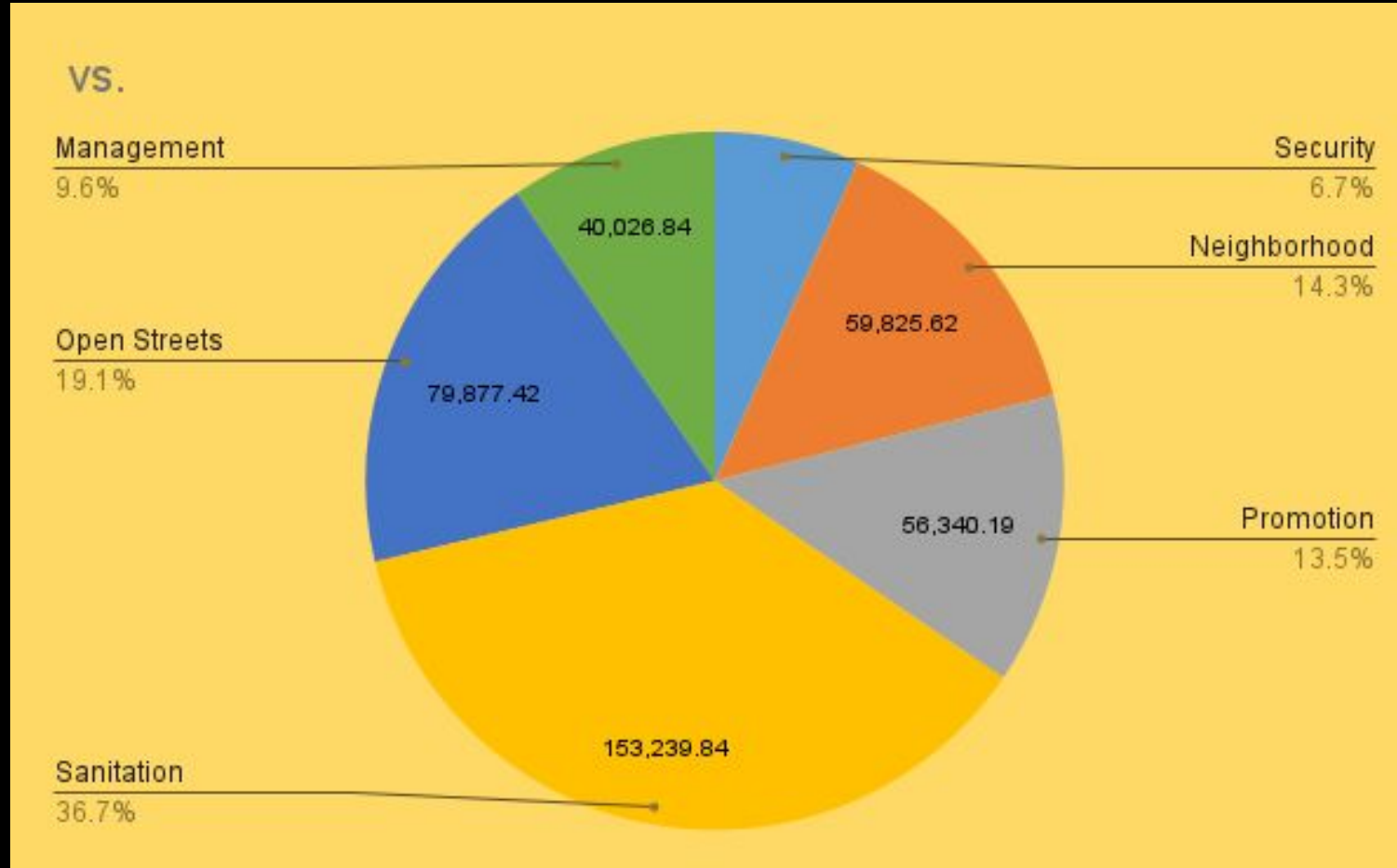
FINANCIAL POSITION SUMMARY

Lenape Bloemendael District Management Association Statement of Financial Position			
	Audit 6/30/22	Audit 6/30/21	audit 6/30/20
ASSETS			
Cash in Bank	320,877	343,902	293,394
Other Current Assets	69,191	8,886	15,405
Security Deposits	5,275	5,275	5,275
Fixed Assets	663	1,105	1,547
Total Assets	396,006	359,168	315,621
General Liabilities	92,566	60,158	
PPP Loan- forgiven 8/16/21	0	52,913	
LIABILITIES	92,566	113,071	32,944
NET ASSETS			
Value of Fixed Assets	663	1,105	1,547
Temp Restricted Net Assets	0	2,000	20,400
Board Designated Reserve for Wayfinding & Arts	30,000	30,000	30,000
Board Designated Reserve for Tree Guards	30,000	30,000	30,000
Board Designated Reserve for Contingencies	30,000	30,000	30,000
Liquid Net Assets	212,776	152,992	170,730
TOTAL NET ASSETS	303,440	246,097	282,677

BID BUDGET YEARLY COMPARISON

Lenape Bloemendael District Management Association Statement of Financial Position			
	Audit 6/30/22	Audit 6/30/21	audit 6/30/20
REVENUE			
Special Assessment	350,000	350,000	350,000
Other Revenue	<u>122,237</u>	<u>28,712</u>	<u>64,437</u>
Total Revenue	<u>472,237</u>	<u>378,712</u>	<u>414,437</u>
EXPENSE			
Staff Wages & Benefits	278,869	272,254	229,896
Direct Program Expense	60,293	52,398	89,170
Office Rent	48,000	49,200	48,000
Other Operating Expense	<u>30,192</u>	<u>23,042</u>	<u>21,661</u>
Total Expense	<u>417,354</u>	<u>396,894</u>	<u>388,727</u>
Net Results Operations	<u>54,883</u>	<u>(18,182)</u>	<u>25,710</u>

FY'2022 ACTUAL EXPENSES

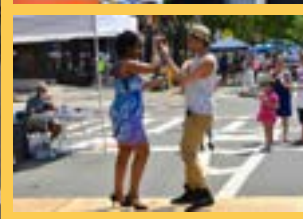
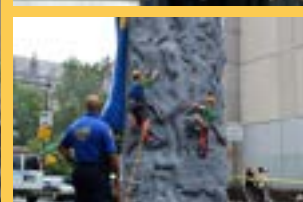
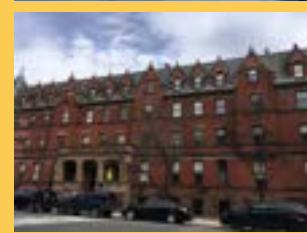




BID Historical Timeline: PETER ARNDTSEN

COLUMBUS AMSTERDAM BID

COLUMBUS-AMSTERDAM BID: 1984-PRESENT



1984 Exploratory committee headed by Joe Center is formed to discuss BID creation in partnership with Valley Restoration LDC.

Board of directors formed, Joe LaRocca, an Amsterdam Ave property owner, becomes Chair.

1987 First contract created with the City: Lenape-Bloemendael District Management Association AKA Columbus-Amsterdam BID is officially formed!

Major projects (1987-1997):

Tree planting

Tree guard installation

Lighting installation

Youth Hostel restoration

Logo created by David Garner

Graffiti removal

1997 Columbus-Amsterdam BID becomes independent from Valley Restoration LDC





1998 Peter Arndtsen replaces Maria Soto when she retires as district manager. In order to pull the BID out of a financial crisis, costs are reduced by scaling back the sanitation schedule and coordinating with businesses to take on afternoon sidewalk cleaning.

Began partnership with police and 24th Precinct community council (and later, neighborhood coordination officers) to improve public safety.

(1998-2000) Started Summer Youth Employment program for street sweeping and formed a new sanitation crew with Goddard Riverside's Green Keepers. New lighting projects are created in collaboration with ConED, property owners, and merchants. Installed historic fixtures on buildings and continued to put up lights through the following years.

(1998, 2005) Over 80 bike racks installed by the BID by working with the community board liaison and the biking unit of DOT.

1999 Signature yellow awning with BID logo, phone number, and address placed on storefront.

First EVENTS calendar created in June! Eventually, over 11,000 were being printed and distributed monthly until the 2020 pandemic.

(1999-2019) Produced Holiday Wish List to highlight community groups in the area and items needed to sustain and improve their services.

(1999-2005) Supported annual DEBNA Plant-a-thons by connecting with local flower shops and providing transportation.

2000 BID works with the Parks department to develop a new standard 5x10 tree bed. The BID's proposal for a new tree guard design and expanded tree beds is officially permitted by the city. New guards are funded by the Manhattan Borough President Virginia Fields with a grant of \$100,000 for 90 beds in the neighborhood.

(2000-2009) Peter supported La Perla Community Garden as treasurer and eventually president by connecting the organization with local schools and daycares, hosting holiday events, overseeing the installation of a new pathway in the garden, and preventing the sale of the statue in the garden.

(2000-2002) BID focuses on solidifying a community identity by creating branded festival banners and highlighting local history, character, and traditions to capture the essence of people in the neighborhood.

Asked Columbia to stop printing guidebooks for new students that warned them not to go south of 110th st.

BID joins Winifred Armstrong and the Park West History Group. Gil Tauber and the BID start neighborhood "Walk and Talks" that tell the story of the area, which soon becomes popular and now occurs monthly with Jim Mackin.

Started promoting development of thrift and antique shops, retail stores, classes, and special events to attract people to the neighborhood. BID makes efforts to improve storefronts, install historic retractable awnings, and subsidize costs of improvements for businesses and property owners.



2001 Worked with Trees NY to promote the Citizen Pruner program in order for locals to become involved in the maintenance and beautification of new street trees.

Shopper's guide is published by the BID, which lists over 200 businesses on Columbus and Amsterdam avenues in order to promote shopping locally.

(2001-present) Food and Drink guide, later renamed to Restaurant Guide is published monthly by the BID to encourage residents to eat locally. A running list is now available online that is updated quarterly.

2002 Began painting over dark, graffitied gates with a light copper patina to increase visibility at night and promote neighborhood cohesion.

(2002-2015) Hosted Mexican Independence Day celebrations by partnering with local restaurant sponsors and creating educational materials about the holiday. These events featured music, paper flower making, and a Grito de Dolores, or "cry of independence" that commemorates the Mexican War of Independence.



2003 Launched official BID website with Chuck Tice to keep community members up to date on events in the neighborhood. The EVENTS calendar is made available both online through the website and continued to be distributed throughout the area until March 2020.

(2003-2020) Supported the annual MLK Day Interfaith Peace Walk, an annual gathering of different religious congregations for a march and day of prayer at the Franciscan Community Center on 96th st. The BID facilitated communications between the different religious centers to coordinate the event together.

(2003-2005) In partnership with Duke Ellington Boulevard Neighborhood Association (DEBNA), the BID hosted an annual music festival on 106th st for one day over the summer. It featured local performers and two different stages for all day music.

2004 Worked with city council member Phil Reed and the Parks department to renovate the Happy Warriors playground. The same model was used to construct the Booker T. Washington and Frederick Douglass parks.

(2004-2020) Partnered with local restaurants and community organizations in the neighborhood to host Dia de los Muertos celebrations, which featured family crafting activities and storytelling.



2007 The BID increased its street presence by purchasing wrought-iron waste baskets and coordinating with businesses to sponsor pickup and maintenance.

2008 BID is awarded the Prestigious Statewide Award by NY State's Program VESID, celebrating the employment of individuals with disabilities. Columbus-Amsterdam BID worked closely with the local employment program of the Goddard Riverside Community Center to provide jobs for those with mental illness reentering the workforce.

(2008-2019) In collaboration with DOT's Weekend Walks program, Columbus-Amsterdam BID begins hosting seasonal Family Days. During these events, the streets between 106th and 110th were closed off for pedestrian use. Local organizations sponsored activities like art, dance, exercise, music, and education.

Angelo Romano, a neighborhood artist, begins creating work for the BID and participating in Family Days. His piece "Family Days" depicts one of these events where he exhibits his work and guides families through making their own art.



2009 In conjunction with Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell's office, Community Board 7, and the Municipal Art Society, Pratt's Graduate Department of City and Regional Planning undertook a 2-year study in collaboration with the BID to create a series of proposals to enhance senior services, youth programs, and open spaces in Manhattan Valley. The BID provided guidance on the history of the neighborhood, introduced students to community members, and facilitated community meetings.

2010 FY2010 street cleaning team reported 363 days of sanitation services, 530 instances of graffiti removal, and over 9000 garbage bags collected.

The Minerva Bernardino Greenstreet, designed and funded by the NYC Parks Department in collaboration with Dominican Sunday, Community Board 7, and council member Phil Reed, is commissioned. The space functions to direct the flow of traffic, absorb rainwater, and beautify the street.

2012 The BID promoted Gale Brewer's proposed "Mom and Pop" rezoning by hosting community meetings, neighborhood tours, and communications with stakeholders in support of protecting small businesses and slowing corporate development in the area.



2013 Partnered with the Manhattan Borough Commissioner and Dept of Transportation to promote walking and biking safety by installing bike racks, pedestrian islands, bike lanes, and shorter crossing distances. The BID worked as a mediator between local businesses and DOT to determine truck parking hours and spaces that would be impacted by bike lane installation.

(2013-2017) Distributed educational materials about safety for bikers and walkers. Aimed to educate drivers about sharing the roads with new bike lanes.

2014 The BID office space becomes a temporary satellite office for city councilmember Mark Levine's staff in order to provide community services and act as a liaison to the area.

(2014-2017) As a part of Family Days, the BID hosts Taste of Bloomingdale, an event that promotes local restaurants by creating a "Flavor Passport" for community members to fill out by patronizing businesses that serve foods of different cultures and nationalities.





2015 (2015-2021) Hosted Diwali celebrations intermittently through partnership with Roti Roll and Suite. The BID provided lanterns, a map, and educational materials about the holiday for the restaurant to display.

2017 Supported the Yemeni deli worker strike during which around a dozen bodegas in the BID were closed to raise awareness about the famine and drought in Yemen caused by its civil war. The BID created an informational package that detailed the crisis to be posted by business owners to educate their patrons.

2018 The BID designed and installed a wayfinding kiosk on 103rd and Amsterdam Avenue with a map of notable sites, a list of important New Yorkers from the Bloomingdale neighborhood, and a brief history of the area.

(2018-2020) Participated in neighborhood Lunar New Year celebration by providing lanterns and educational materials about the holiday to local restaurants, and by promoting restaurants celebrating the New Year on social media.

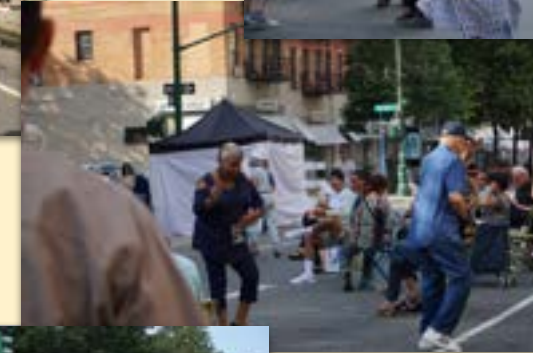
2019 Awarded a \$76,000 grant to plant 25 trees and provide new tree guards from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to reduce excess stormwater in the sewage system.

Awarded the Jessie Crawford Community Service Award by Three Parks Independent Democrats for the management of the BID and its work with youth in the neighborhood.

Highlighted profiles of long-standing (30+ years) businesses in the neighborhood.

2020 Coordinated volunteers for stewardship of trees funded by the 2019 tree planting grant.

(2020-present) NYC DOT begins its Open Streets program, and the BID begins hosting weekly events on closed avenues. Similar to Family Days, Open Streets events are targeted toward local families and include a wide range of activities like art, exercise, and storytelling.





2021 Collaborated with other BIDs to promote “Small Business Sweeties” during Valentine's season by creating signage for businesses to display and producing a media package that local businesses could use to post on their social media or websites.

Joined BIDs from all five boroughs to promote “Small Business Wonder Women” in order to highlight women-owned businesses during women’s history month.

2022 Worked with local artists throughout the year to produce multiple exhibitions and performances in the neighborhood. This included a collaboration with Jody Sperling from Time Lapse Dance at the BID’s 2nd annual Eco-Arts Festival, regular performances by the Sunny Daze jazz trio at Open Streets events, and a mural and photo series by Jennifer Pliego displayed at the Anibal Avilas playground.



Open Streets

- FY'22 Continued our Open Streets program on both Amsterdam and reduced hours on Columbus.
- Open Streets: Restaurants on Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues 106-110 St.
- Would not be possible without DOT, MTA, and NYPD 24th precinct



BID: Art in the neighborhood

- Beatrice Coron Fence Art



- Planned DOT-sponsored sculpture on 97th St. btwn Columbus & Amsterdam Ave
- Samantha Holmes - Mundillo (Little World), 2020



TREE STEWARD VOLUNTEERS



Looking Forward: Long-Term Visioning

- Were inspired by our BID timeline document, previous five-year goals of 1998–2003 and 2003–2008, 2012–2014 Challenge Grant, as well as other planning and survey documents
- STEP #1: brief survey of neighborhood affiliates to gather information
- STEP #2: more extensive survey for those that indicated they want to provide more feedback
- STEP #3: internal analysis of the survey results and discussion about the future of the BID
- Will result in a document containing a long-term vision for the BID based on feedback from community members
 - Will be helpful for new executive director in 2024 to have a sense of where the community is currently at and what people want
 - Is only a vision framework, not specific goals that must be met



Looking Forward: Community Surveys

- Surveys for business owners, residents, property owners, and other affiliates of the neighborhood
- Feedback collection from late February to mid May tentatively
 - Outreach through emails, mailings, and in person
- Survey #1 is short (<5 minutes) and collects optional contact info as well as feedback about BID programs & services and neighborhood conditions
- Survey #2 is more extensive (10–15 minutes) and only for those who indicated they want to provide more feedback



- Will have different questions depending on affiliation with the neighborhood
- Asking for current perceptions of the BID and our programs, what they want to see changed or added, and how we can best help them in the coming years
- Good opportunity to promote the BID and connect with people

STREET TEAM

- We are grateful for the street team's continued commitment to serving the BID and our community during NY Pause
 - Natalie James
 - Desire Anderson
 - John Hunter
 - Carlos Lopez
 - Pedro Lugo
 - Jaime Peyreya
 - Vanessa Taylor

PROGRAM STAFF

Michael Gonzalez

Program Manager

Caroline Knapp

Sophie Levy

Noga Shlapobersky

Joyce Shin

Dallin Attwooll

Community Outreach Intern

Erin Caylor

Community Outreach Intern

Abigail Jack

Environmental Impact Intern

Nyah Ahmad

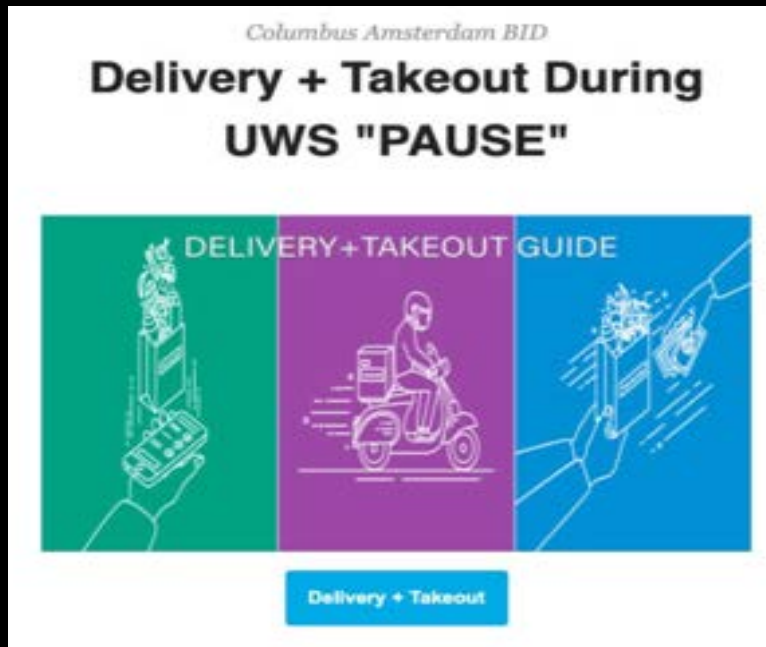
Environmental Impact Intern

Wilbert Garcia

Tech Intern

Bloomingdale Restaurants New Website

- bloomingdalerestaurants.nyc
- Takeout + Delivery Guide for Bloomingdale Restaurants
- Facilitate communication with restaurant owners



BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY GROUP

- Online Webinars
- New Online Videos
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Go Fund Me
- Website, Blogs
- Archives in NYPL
- Bloomingdale

Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group

Homemade History Exchange

Bring Questions - Share Memories

Sunday Aug.14 1-4pm

Open Streets Amsterdam
991 Amsterdam (109st)

Stroll over to Amsterdam Avenue for a real Open Streets event. Eat cookies, chat with neighbors, and look through a treasure chest of historical photos, articles, and maps related to the immediate neighborhood. Coloring sheets and crayons for those who enjoy them!



Vanished Waters: The Old Spring, Wells and Watercourses, of Bloomingdale

About the program
It's very possible that there's a stream running under the basement of the your building. Or that there was once a well at the corner of your block. (See photos.) Streams and ponds covered our landscape before it was transformed by pavement and buildings.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, some 125 years ago, James Russel Smith, an interesting fellow with a camera and a bicycle, found and documented every spring and well in the area. Gil Tauber and Jim Mackin will cover all this and much more in this illustrated presentation created especially for the BAHG.

The annual Torain Award: Since 2018, (with a hiatus in 2020 for the pandemic) the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group has honored the memory of former member, Jim Torain, with the Torain Award. This year's award is going to Dr. Robert Snyder for the impressive work he has done.


Thursday, September 29th
6:30 PM

Zoom Link at www.upperwestsidehistory.org or Dial In: 1 929 205 6099 | 1 312 626 6799
Webinar ID: 819 0453 2905




Upper West Side Congressman Sol Bloom: One amazing life!

A record of 28 years in Congress serving the Upper West Side From the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago to the creation of the United Nations



Tuesday, January 25th
6:30 PM

Zoom Link at www.upperwestsidehistory.org or Dial In: +1 929 205 6099 or 301 715 8592 or 312 626 6799 or 609 900 6833 or 253 215 8782 or 346 248 7799
Webinar ID: 812 0842 9102



Stained Glass Stories: Tiffany (and More) in the Bloomingdale Neighborhood

Did you know that the Bloomingdale neighborhood is home to two of the Tiffany Studios' most spectacular windows?

Julie L. Sloan, one of the country's most qualified stained glass experts, will tell the stories of these spectacular windows and share her insights on some other notable windows that can be found in and around the Upper West Side.

Wednesday, March 16th
6:30 PM




The 97th Street Greenmarket: Changes and Challenges

Margaret Hoffman will talk about how that market first came to the Bloomingdale neighborhood. She'll fill us in on its history, how its present site was chosen and the role it has played in both creating and developing a long-standing connection between upper west sides and regional farms.

We'll hear the stories of some of the farmers who have stands at the market and their insights on how the Greenmarket movement has promoted local agriculture and helped save small family farms, how it has encouraged immigrants to run farms, while at the same time providing beautiful and delicious produce to city dwellers.

The 97th Street greenmarket is part of the Slow Mkt network that was inspired by the first Earth Day back in the 1970s. These days the network also includes youth markets, fresh food box pick-ups, food wrap drop-offs and textile recycling. Join us on September 22nd to learn more.

Wednesday, September 22, 2021
6:30 pm

Zoom Link at www.upperwestsidehistory.org

Telephone dial in:
US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 312 626 6799 or
+1 801 715 8592 or +1 202 375 8792 or +1 346 248 7799
or +1 609 900 6833
Webinar ID: 800 2921 7198



More than Cherries: The Flowering Trees of Riverside Park

A presentation by Margaret Bracken, Landscape Architect for Riverside Park

Join us in welcoming spring on the Upper West Side with Bracken who will tell us all about the flowering trees and the horticultural history of the park. Bracken has chosen a fortuitous date for her program: one day after the bicentennial birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, the creator of the park's original schematic design.

Wednesday, April 27th
6:30 PM




BID PARTNERS



Valley
Restoration
Local
Development
Corporation



NYC Parks



Closing Remarks

Robin Baez

BID BOARD PRESIDENT

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- columbusamsterdambid.org
- bloomingdalerestaurants.nyc



SPECIAL THANKS TO

Speakers:

- Jim Mackin
- Emily Edwards
- Jennifer Maya Luz Pliego
- Michael Gonzalez
- Councilmember Gale Brewer
- BID Board President, Robin Pace
- BID Board members
- Program Interns and Street Team
- Community, Volunteers and Supporters

Thank you for coming!

We look forward to
another year.