

What's Happening NYC!

JANUARY 2012

Monthly Events & Opportunities

Citizens Committee wishes you and your family a happy and prosperous New Year! In this issue:

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If you'd like your neighborhood group's event to be listed in this monthly e-blast, please email Saleen Shah at sshah@citizensnyc.org. Thanks!

1. [2012 New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Grant Deadline: January 31](#)

Have a great idea for a community improvement project? There's still time to apply for a New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods (NYBN) Award! Citizens Committee for New York City awards grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to volunteer-led groups to work on projects that bring neighbors together and that have a positive impact on the community. We also offer project planning assistance and skills-building workshops tailored to your group's issue and project.

Recent awards have enabled neighbors to come together to make healthy food available in their communities, transform empty lots into community gardens, organize tenants to advocate effectively for better housing conditions, and start school recycling programs.

Application deadline: January 31, 2012. For a grant application and for more info, visit the link above or call/email Arif Ullah at 212-822-9580/aullah@citizensnyc.org

To learn more, attend one of our grant application workshops:

Downtown Manhattan (CCNYC Office):
Wednesday, January 11, 6-7:30PM

The Bronx (Bronx Library Center, Room C21):
Thursday, January 12, 6pm-7:30PM

Applicants are not required to attend a workshop. To RSVP, please contact Wilfredo at (212) 822-9568 or send email to wflorentino@citizensnyc.org.

2. Improve Your Community Organizing Skills with Citizens Committee's Neighborhood Leadership Workshops

MANHATTAN SERIES

Basics of Community Organizing

Saturday, January 21, 11am-3pm

Bring neighbors together to work on issues that matter to you!

Group Structure

Saturday, February 11, 11am-1:30pm

Build and maintain an effective neighborhood association or community group!

Navigating City Government

Saturday, March 17, 11am-2pm

Learn how government functions, who is responsible for what, and how to have your community issues addressed.

Grassroots Fundraising

Saturday, April 21, 11am-1pm

Support your group's work with community fundraising efforts!

BROOKLYN (EAST NEW YORK) SERIES

Basics of Community Organizing

Saturday, January 28, 11am-3pm

Media Tools

Saturday, February 25, 11am-1:30pm

Increase public support for your group by framing your message and alerting local media!

Navigating City Government

Saturday, March 24, 11am-2pm

Grassroots Fundraising

Saturday, April 28, 11am-1pm

Workshops are for volunteer-led groups and individuals interested in working on community improvement projects. *Those who complete the series will receive an official Neighborhood Leadership Institute certificate.*

For more information about the workshops and to RSVP, please contact Arif Ullah at aullah@citizensnyc.org or call (212) 822-9580.

3. "Fundamentos de Organización Comunitaria" Workshop Scheduled for February

Please share workshop details with your Spanish-speaking contacts. Thank you!

Fundamentos de Organización Comunitaria

"¡Reuniendo vecinos para trabajar en temas que les importan!"

Sabado, 4 de febrero, 2012

11AM a 3PM

Manhattan

Para más información sobre este taller para la comunidad hispano-hablante y para confirmar su asistencia, póngase en contacto con Wilfredo Florentino: wflorentino@citizensnyc.org o (212) 822-9568. Almuerzo será servido.

4. Staten Island Grow to Give Conference

Saturday, January 21

8:30AM to 3:30PM

St. John's University Staten Island Campus

Kelleher Hall

300 Howard Avenue

Staten Island

Learn how to grow more community gardens to give fresh produce to Staten Island's food pantries. Speakers, Panel Discussions and Networking Sessions.

\$5 tickets (suggested donation). Breakfast and lunch provided.

Sponsors: St. John's University, Project Hospitality, Roots of Peace, Staten Island Hunger Task Force, City of New York Parks & Recreation, GreenThumb, GrowNYC.

5. NYC School Recycling Forum

Thursday, January 19
6-7:30PM
Hunter College
695 Park Avenue
Manhattan

NYC H2O is conducting a forum on recycling in NYC public schools. NYC H2O's [school recycling survey](#) established that there is much work to be done to improve recycling in NYC public schools. The goal of this meeting is to hear from people insided schools and field ideas about which practices work and which do not. Based on these accounts and ideas we will CREATE an actionable plan to present to the Department of Education and Department of Sanitation at a later date.

Everyone who thinks they have a good idea on how to improve recycling in schools or is just interested is invited to attend including teachers, principals, custodians, parents and city officials. Please spread the word.

Please note the room number will be emailed on completion of [event registration](#).

6. "Managing Rodents" Workshop for School Garden Groups

Monday, January 9
5-6:30PM
Horticultural Society of New York City
148 West 37 Street, 13th Floor
Manhattan

Interested in keeping school gardens rodent-free?

Learn from Caroline Bragdon, MPH (of the NYC DOHMH) how to safely and efficiently manage rats and mice in and around your school garden.

RSVP to Michele Israel at malamu@optimum.net by Thursday, January 5.

7. CSA Workshop Focuses on Outreach Efforts

Monday, January 9
6-8PM
Just Food Office
1155 Avenue of the Americas
Manhattan

Just Food workshop that explores advice and strategies for recruiting members to join your CSA (community-supported agriculture) group.

To RSVP, please e-mail paula@justfood.org.

[Complete list of Just Food workshops in 2012.](#)

8. "TreeCycle" Your Tree at MulchFest 2012

Bring your holiday tree to be chipped at one of the many park Mulchfest sites throughout the city and bring back FREE mulch for the trees on the street or in your yard! This year's Mulchfest event will be taking place on January 7 and 8 at various park locations. Please visit the NYC Parks website for details on tree drop-off and chipping sites.

9. Urban Soil Testing Discussion Session with GreenThumb in February

Calling all community gardeners!

Do you grow fruits and vegetables in a community garden in NYC? If so, the Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities project team is looking for gardeners to help us learn more about fruits and vegetables grown and eaten from community gardens. We hope that our raffle / giveaway program for free garden tools and supplies will show you how much we appreciate your participation

If you would like to receive a survey packet by mail, please contact us via Lorraine Brooks, Extension Associate at Cornell University Cooperative Extension-NYC, by phone at (212) 340-2997 or by email at LLB84@cornell.edu.

On February 18, 2012, at New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, join the Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities project team for a discussion about testing garden soils for lead and other contaminants, with an update about our results from 75 GreenThumb gardens. We'll focus on what we can learn from these results and actions you can take in your own garden! Come with your questions for a Q&A session about soil testing, understanding results, Best Practices for Healthy Gardening, and other topics.

Please Pre-register: Contact the NYC Compost Project in the Bronx at compost@nybg.org or call (718) 817-8543.

10. DEC extends Public Comment Period on Hydrofracking

After pressure from elected officials and the general public, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has extended the public comment period on its proposed draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) on High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing. The deadline to comment is now January 11, 2012.

11. [Annual Just Food Conference in February](#) (\$)

Join Just Food, local food lovers and advocates, CSA members, community gardeners, urban and rural farmers, food professionals and entrepreneurs for two days of hands-on workshops, discussions, skills-building sessions, and good food. Learn about cooking and food preservation techniques, CSA trends, and the food justice movement in New York City and beyond, as well as ways you can mobilize to create good food projects in your own community.

[Conference Schedule.](#)

[Discounted rates available.](#)

12. Urban Farming and Youth Leadership Program

The Urban Farming and Youth Leadership program supports organizations located in low-income, urban areas in the Northeast that are harnessing the power of young people to create urban farms and local markets. Past grant recipients include Funder's Collaborative on Youth Organizing, InnerCity Struggle and Urban Youth Collaborative.

Award amounts vary. Eligible applicants are limited to the six New England states, NY, NJ, and the Delaware Valley region including Philadelphia, PA and Wilmington, DE.

Please contact the [Merck Family Fund](#) for more information and to [apply for this funding](#).

13. [EPA Urban Waters Small Grants Proposal Deadline: January 23](#)

The EPA expects to award between \$1.8 to \$3.8 million in grants for projects across the country that will contribute to improved water quality and community revitalization. The goal of these Urban Waters Small Grants is to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities. The funding is part of EPA's Urban Waters program, which supports communities in their efforts to access, improve, and benefit from their urban waters and the surrounding land.

[Registration for January 5 Informational Webinar.](#)

6. [Community Grant Opportunities from The United Way of New York City](#)

- [Collaboration Grants](#) will support teams of two or more community-based organizations that seek to create or expand innovative partnerships in order

to achieve measurable outcomes.

- [Community Leaders Impact Grants](#) will enable emerging nonprofit leaders to obtain professional development training to better address critical issues impacting their organizations.

15. [Bronx Green-Up Events](#)

To learn more about Bronx Green-up and Compost Projects in The Bronx events as well as information about community events, grant information, and resources, please visit Bronx Green-Up online. Link above.

[Follow or get involved with Citizens Committee!](#)

