

HDC 2016 Annual Preservation Conference – Speaker Bios



Gale A. Brewer

Gale A. Brewer is the 27th Manhattan Borough President, responsible for advising the Mayor and City Council on borough concerns, commenting on all land-use matters in the borough, advocating for the borough in the municipal budget process, and appointing members of Manhattan's 12 Community Boards. The Borough President also chairs the Borough Board, made up of City Council Members and Chairs from the Community Boards, and the Borough Services Cabinet, composed of senior officials from City agencies delivering services in the borough.

Ms. Brewer previously served on the City Council for 12 years, from 2002 through 2013, representing the 6th Council District which includes most of the Upper West Side and northern Clinton. As Councilmember, she successfully passed legislation guaranteeing paid sick leave for most hourly employees, compelling landlords to fix repeat violations, requiring all City data be published online, and the nation's first law protecting domestic workers. She was the founding chair of the Council's Technology Committee in 2002.

Immediately prior to her election to the City Council, Brewer served as Project Manager for the NYC Nonprofits Project at CUNY's Graduate Center, and before that worked for the Telesis Corporation, a private firm that builds affordable housing in New York City.

Prior to that non-profit and private-sector experience, Brewer served in City government in various roles, including as New York City Deputy Public Advocate for Intergovernmental Affairs under Mark Green (1994-1998); Director of Mayor Dinkins' Federal Office in New York City, managing the administration's legislative agenda in Washington and a technical assistance program to help community-based organizations obtain federal funds (1990 to 1994); Executive Director of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women (concurrent with the Federal Office, from 1993 to 1994); Chief of Staff to West Side Councilmember Ruth W. Messinger-- before Messinger was, herself, elected Manhattan Borough President (1979-1989). Brewer also served on the staff of Lt. Governor Mary Anne Krupsak, the first woman elected statewide in New York in 1974 (under Governor Hugh Carey) and first served in government in the City Parks Department during the Lindsay administration.

Brewer has an MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and she did her undergraduate work at Columbia University and Bennington College. She co-teaches a class in urban policy each spring with former Borough President Messinger as part of Hunter College's Public Service Scholar program, and has taught urban affairs at other area colleges, including Barnard, Baruch, Brooklyn and Queens Colleges. Brewer is married to Cal Snyder; they live on the Upper West Side. Together they have raised many foster children.



Michelle de la Uz

Michelle de la Uz became Executive Director of Fifth Avenue Committee, Inc. (FAC) in January 2004, after serving as Co-Chair on FAC's Board of Directors. She has over twenty five years of experience in public and community service. Michelle oversees the organization's mission and comprehensive programs serving more than 5,500 low- and moderate-income people; a budget of nearly \$6 million and several non-housing affiliate corporations with annual budgets of over \$5 million, real estate assets over \$100 million, and a housing development pipeline of nearly 1,000 units, representing more than \$400 million in total

development costs. Prior to FAC, she was Program Director for the Center for Urban Community Services in Washington Heights and Harlem and oversaw social services in supportive housing for 400 low-income tenants with special needs. From 1995-99, Michelle was Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez' first Director of Constituent Services and directed her South Brooklyn District Office. She was active in advancing transportation, environmental justice, immigration reform, and employment policy initiatives. Michelle is the first in her working-class immigrant family to graduate from college, is a product of bi-lingual education, a former trustee of Connecticut College, and recipient of the Ford Foundation's Leadership for a Changing World award. Michelle serves on the following boards: National Board of Directors of the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), the Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development and New York Housing Conference. Additionally, Michelle was appointed in April of 2012 by then-Public Advocate, now Mayor of New York City, Bill de Blasio to serve on the New York City Planning Commission. Michelle is an alumna of Connecticut College, Columbia University and of Harvard Kennedy School's Executive Education Program. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and daughter.



Benjamin Dulchin

Benjamin Dulchin is the Executive Director of the Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development (ANHD), a membership association of one hundred neighborhood-based community development groups in New York City committed to the preservation and production of affordable housing, and to equitable economic development. ANHD supports the activist community development movement and community development corporations (CDCs) with high-impact policy research, strategic advocacy, and capacity building for the

full range of community development activities, including grassroots policy organizing and bricks-and-mortar development. ANHD also publishes an annual *State of Bank Reinvestment in New York City* report, which provides in-depth analysis of the community development activities of the financial industry in our city. Since becoming Executive Director in 2009, Benjamin has expanded ANHD's capacity-building work; designed ANHD's model bank reinvestment research and advocacy; led

successful efforts to reshape key public policy issues, including expanding tenants' rights laws; worked to reshape the City system of zoning and tax-incentive levers that support affordable housing; supported the strengths that CDCs bring to the development process; and deepened community advocacy policies that support the light-manufacturing sector and other equitable economic development policies. Benjamin began working at ANHD in 2003, founding ANHD's organizing training program and directing ANHD's advocacy campaigns. Benjamin has been a housing activist and community organizer for twenty-three years, with previous jobs at the Fifth Avenue Committee in Brooklyn and as a tenant organizer on Manhattan's Lower East Side.



John Shapiro

John Shapiro, Chair of the Graduate Center for Planning & the Environment at Pratt Institute, has nearly 40 years of experience as a professional planner, following his graduation from Pratt. His preservation planning experience in NYC includes two years working for the NY Landmarks Conservancy on reuse projects for public buildings, subsequent feasibility studies for a variety of buildings including all of the city's armories, the master plan for Sailors' Snug Harbor (while employed by BFJ Planning), a study of how to reconcile zoning and landmark regulations for the Municipal Art Society (MAS), and the new East Midtown zoning and placemaking plan — which

included a participatory process to reconcile community, preservation, developer and business interests. Outside of NYC, Shapiro's preservation-related portfolio includes preservation-minded master plans for Nyack, Roslyn, and Southampton, NY, as well as Hoboken, NJ; economic development plans for the Harlem Valley, NY, Easton, PA (with Norman Mintz), and over ten other historic downtowns. Shapiro and his work have received roughly 20 awards, including the national American Planning Association's first Presidential Award and another award from the NYS Preservation League. Shapiro has served as the president of the local chapter of the American Planning Association, as well as on boards and committees of Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility, the Citizens Housing and Planning Council, MAS, the Regional Plan Association, and the Staten Island Preservation League. At Pratt, Shapiro has lead a group of professors and administrators in expanding the range of urbanism programs from city planning, historic preservation and construction / facilities management to also include urban placemaking, environmental sustainability, progressive real estate, and GIS analysis — to complete the Institute's new Programs for Sustainable Planning & Development. The intent is to graduate students who are at once professionals, experts in a particular cross-disciplinary subject, and full urbanists.



Juan Camilo Osorio

Juan Camilo Osorio is Director of Research at the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA). He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Pratt Institute's Graduate Programs for Sustainable Planning and Development (PSPD), introducing graduate students to qualitative and quantitative urban planning research. Before joining NYC-EJA, he was a Senior Planner and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst at The Municipal Art Society Planning Center, where he used spatial information to support research and advocacy on community-based planning, urban design and historic preservation. Before moving

to New York, he worked with the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center, a non-profit agency based in Holyoke, Massachusetts, using GIS to study systematic and procedural impediments to fair housing in the central and western regions of that State. He received a master's degree in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a professional degree in architecture from the National University of Colombia, Bogotá.