# Leadership New York

## MEET THE 2025 COHORTS

We are excited to introduce the upcoming Leadership New York cohorts. These LNY participants will explore the social, political, and economic issues facing New York today and learn how to navigate varying stakeholder interests. By the end of the program, LNY participants will develop the personal leadership skills, New York City knowledge, and multi-sector network to accomplish goals in a complex, multi-stakeholder environment.

#### **LNY43**



Andrew Berger In

COMMERCIAL LOAN MANAGER, BRONX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Committed to creating economic opportunity and developing strong communities.



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER, NYC TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION Dedicated to promoting physical fitness as a means to improve mental well-being in my community and workplace, fostering holistic health and thriving environments.



Audrey Ellen In

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS GROUP, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Passionate about increasing access to affordable and flexible capital for entrepreneurs, start-ups and small businesses throughout New York City.



Brian Rifkin in

DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL, SAFE HORIZON

Interested in understanding and addressing systemic barriers to improve the quality of public infrastructure and services in New York City.



PROJECT MANAGER, NYC DEPT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT Interested in broadening the scope of my volunteerism and deepen my experience and expertise as a social change agent in tackling systemic challenges standing in the way of a more equitable society.



**Charity Ashe** 

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF COMPLIANCE, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Invested in dismantling the inequities and inequalities of marginalized communities and learning strategic approaches to expanding the access to generate impact for all of New York City.



Cole Giannone in PRINICIPAL, COLE GIANNONE CONSULTING LLC

Passionate in making New York City a place where youth homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.



Daphne Lasky 🛅

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, NYC DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Passionate about bringing together my design and construction experience, deep knowledge of city government, and a community organizing mindset to lead capital projects that meet our city's most pressing needs.



Elena Lunyova 🛅

DEPUTY DIRECTOR SCHOOL SAFETY, NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Dedicated to developing public space design policies, standards and practices that encourage children and youth to walk and bike to school, and to safely utilize streets for transportation, social interaction and play. Passionate about city planning, sustainable transportation, land use and zoning.



Erica Weinstein 🛅

DIRECTOR MANAGEMENT PLANNING, NYC DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Committed to making New York City government work better for its most vulnerable residents.



**Jacqueline Villarreal** 

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR FOR BROOKLYN RECREATION, NYC PARKS

Dedicated to provide our communities with fun and engaging programming and events in our parks and recreation centers.



Kate Garroway In

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER. THE CARMEL HILL FUND

Passionate about making New York City livable, accessible, and enjoyable for all. Specific areas of interest include youth access to mental health and literacy/reading support and resources, public art, access to green space, and food justice.



Libby Woodard In

SENIOR OPERATIONS SPECIALIST, ANTHOS|HOME

Dedicated to addressing housing insecurity and ensuring affordable, stable housing for New Yorkers.



Malik Canty In

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE MANAGER, METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Passionate about understanding and addressing the affordable housing market and what measures can be made that will make a positive impact on current/future applicants. In addition, I would address issues that play a crucial role within the small business community and how to implement change that will increase city revenue.



Matt Waskiewicz in

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL PLANNING, NYC DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

Passionate about equitable economic development as a means of fostering more prosperous, resilient, and sustainable communities.



Melissa Lent III

RESEARCHER AND MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST, CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE

Committed to expanding economic opportunity for all New Yorkers through workforce development and education.



Michael Fong In

PRESIDENT, ASIAN REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA BROOKLYN CHAPTER

Dedicated to empowering immigrant entrepreneurs and promoting homeownership within the AAPI community in New York City.



Mylana Gerard In

COORDINATOR YOUTH INITIATIVES, BRONX COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

Passionate about expanding access to services and opportunities for youth most affected by trauma.



DEPUTY CHIEF ELDER ABUSE UNIT, NEW YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE Passionate about making New York City safe for all, especially the elderly. Dedicated to ensuring that the criminal justice system treats everyone fairly.



Serene Sosa In

Passionate about fostering engagement in the decision-making process for projects that affect underserved communities, especially in The Bronx.



Shawn-Paul Macias In

SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE BICYCLE UNIT, NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Committed to equitably improving New York City's public realm through thoughtful design and broader education.



Shehila Stephens In

DIRECTOR OF EQUITY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Passionate about economic mobility for disadvantaged community verifiable and measurable community impact for divested communities.

# Leadership New York

## MEET THE 2025 COHORTS

We are excited to introduce the upcoming Leadership New York cohorts. These LNY participants will explore the social, political, and economic issues facing New York today and learn how to navigate varying stakeholder interests. By the end of the program, LNY participants will develop the personal leadership skills, New York City knowledge, and multi-sector network to accomplish goals in a complex, multi-stakeholder environment.

#### <u>LNY44</u>



Abby Mayerhoff In

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS, NYC: ATWORK, NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Dedicated to creating employment and skills-building opportunities for people with disabilities and increasing the capacity, accessibility, and equity of the workforce development system.



Amy Jin 🛅

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Passionate about fostering inclusive and equitable urban development through making planning more accessible to the general public.



**Arvind Nasit** 

PROJECT MANAGER, HAYDAN CONSULTANTS

Passionate about enhancing public transportation and urban sustainability to create more inclusive and efficient communities in New York City.



Bremda Acosta In

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC IMPACT AND SPECIAL PROJECTS, KWENDA COLLEGIATE GIRLS

Passionate about making housing, educational, and career resources accessible to immigrant families in New York and supporting culturally-affirming public charter schools led by people of color.



Cailley Frank-Lehrer In

SENIOR PRODUCER, PHOTOVILLE

Committed to making public art accessible to all New Yorkers and building community through visual storytelling.



Cecilia Poole In

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ANALYST II - SENIOR ADVISOR, NYC HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATION

Dedicated change agent, passionate about educating our new workforce regarding the benefits of professionalism, true leadership, and building team-driven cohesive work environment.



David Alonge in

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF GOODTEMPS OPERATIONS, GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF GREATER NY AND NORTHERN NJ, INC.

Dedicated to fostering inclusive employment opportunities and promoting diversity in the New York City workforce.



Elizabeth Walsack

REGIONAL MANAGER FOR CENTRAL BROOKLYN, NYC PARKS DEPARTMENT

Called to public service with a passion for stewarding NYC's vibrant parks and providing clean, safe, equitable and resilient green spaces.



Enid De Gracia 🛅

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DDC PUBLIC BUILDINGS - ADVANCED CAPITAL PLANNING, NYC DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Passionate about the potential of achieving problem-solving solutions through intergenerational collaboration and the possibility of sustainable design in modern building systems looking toward Indigenous cultures for passive cooling and heating concept.



**Henry Robins** In

**ACCOUNT DIRECTOR, BERLINROSEN** 

Passionate about expanding equitable access to public space. Interested in improving public transit, curbing traffic deaths and investing in transit hubs. Committed to supporting the City of Yes and creating a fair, modern zoning framework that expands affordable housing opportunities for New Yorkers and provides flexibility and relief to the city's small business owners.



Hizam Wahib In

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARAB-AMERICAN FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER Passionate about public service and social justice.



Jennifer Medina III

**BUREAU ADMINISTRATOR, MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE** 

Passionate about addressing the city's current affordable housing crisis and investigating the factors which negatively influence the rising cost of rent, the scarcity of affordable housing, and the lack of resources made available to high need locals and newcomers.



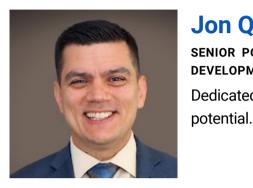
Jennifer Cass In

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Driven to create sustainable, resilient and equitable development for our city.



Passionate about working with youth, teaching life skills and coaching and mentoring them; and committed to assisting with public health efforts and the elderly.



Jon Quintanilla in

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST, NYC DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Dedicated to empowering educators and students alike, to reach their full



Julia Curbera 🛅

Joann De Jesus Im

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST, NYC DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Dedicated to advancing housing affordability and equitable neighborhoods through impactful policies and partnerships.



**Kareem Whyte** 

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE, THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE INNOVATION

Invested in creating leadership opportunities for young people to develop their skills and knowledge for roles in community organizing, youth councils and youth leadership programs and dedicated to supporting youth involvement in community safety, youth development and social justice.



**Kimberly Howard** 

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE OF TALENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Committed to the equitable distribution of socio-economic resources, with a focus on the prioritization of social-emotional wellness, digital equity, education opportunity and career advancement for all communities.



Lorraine Dowd-Snella In

DIRECTOR OF THE HOMEOWNER MORTGAGE SERVICING UNIT, NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Passionate about urban social safety net and anti-poverty programs and dedicated to accessibility exposure with a focus on inclusivity in the taxi and for-hire vehicle industry.



Miranda Bellizia 🛅

DIRECTOR OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT, URBAN DESIGN FORUM

Focused on creating a more equitable future for all New Yorkers.



Pedro Zapata 🛅

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION, NYC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE

Passionate about promoting equity and social justice for marginalized communities through innovative public policy and comprehensive program development and improvement.



Rachel Bramwell in

**DIRECTOR URBAN SOLUTIONS, HATCH** 

Passionate about transforming and delivering urban places for equitable economic development.



Raven Anderson III

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Dedicated to increasing access to housing and jobs for current and future New Yorkers while contributing to the cultural vibrancy of New York City.



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, UNCOMMON GOODS

Passionate about helping New York City to become a job creator and to advance our current and future workforce through new programs that align training/education with open business needs.



Sabine Maura In

SENIOR DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT OFFICE OF STUDENT PATHWAYS, NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Passionate about advancing financial empowerment to equip students with the education and opportunities that open pathways to greater economic mobility.



Sophie Andreassi

SENIOR PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, MACMILLAN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Passionate about educating and empowering our young people and inspired by the city's vibrant cultural sector.



Steph Roth

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT Passionate about arts and culture, making it sustainable and accessible to all New Yorkers.



Teri Bell in

SENIOR LOAN OFFICER FOR CAPITAL IMPACT PARTNERS, MOMENTUS CAPITAL

Invested in bridging the gap between traditional banking and the financial needs of underserved communities to foster economic growth and build generational wealth



Vivian Uwechue-Okobiah III

**DEPARTMENT MANAGER, CON EDISON** 

Passionate about equity for the educational structure for young students and would like to mentor young ladies in the STEM field.



ACCESSIBILITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR, NYC TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION
Passionate about raising awareness of people's rights so that they can advocate for themselves and open doors to future legislation change.