Senator Montgomery congratulates Red Hook initiative for winning $100,000 for Red Hook WIFI training

Senator Velmanette Montgomery proudly joined NBC 4 Anchorwoman Pat Battle and Telemundo Anchor Edgardo del Villar in presenting $100,000 to Red Hook Initiative (RHI) as the Grand Prize Winner of the NBC Universal Foundation’s “Project Innovation” grant competition. RHI’s Digital Stewards program was recognized for preparing low-income young adults for tech careers by training them to install/maintain Red Hook WIFI, a community effort to close the digital divide, create economic opportunity and improve quality of life in Red Hook.

This first annual Project Innovation grant challenge recognized local non-profits who leverage technology to solve everyday problems in the areas of civic engagement, skills for the digital economy and STEM/STEAM youth programming. As RHI celebrates their 15th anniversary, Senator Montgomery took the opportunity to commend Founder and Executive Director Jill Eisenhard and her team for their approach to community building, investing in social capital, and creating positive institutional change in Red Hook.

RHI has grown exponentially since it was founded in 2002. It now employs over 250 people, 82% are youth age 24 or under. RHI reaches over 5,000 Red Hook residents annually and offers programming for students in middle school and high school as well as young adults. RHI has created a pipeline for youth as they move toward high school diploma, a college degree or job training program, and a self-determined career path.

The Senator paid tribute to this outstanding organization for their unwavering commitment to community empowerment, leadership development and creating educational and career pathways for young people. For more info about Red Hook Initiative, visit: http://rhicenter.org/

Senator Montgomery calls on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to investigate environmental conditions surrounding 280 Richards Street in Red Hook

I am writing to request that your respective offices conduct a soil test of the dirt mounds on the pier at 280 Richards Street and investigate the excessive flooding conditions in the area surrounding this site. My office has received numerous complaints about potentially toxic dust emanating from this empty lot filled with mounds of soil mixed with excavated materials. My constituents have expressed concern about the dust and sediment that are regularly blown off the mounds by the wind. The dust gets into their homes; covering their vehicles, windows and terraces. Those who live in the area must keep their windows closed, even on warm days to keep out the sediment for fear of potential exposure to contaminants.

Thank you for your letter regarding the environmental conditions at 280 Richard Street in Red Hook.

DEC’s office of General Counsel is nearing the final stage of the enforcement process to resolve this matter. The Consent Order that has been issued includes provisions to ensure that the Respondent employs and maintains erosion controls, dust controls and best management practices.

Specifically, DEC is requiring that stockpiled material is immediately covered with silt fencing and hay bales for soil stabilization and tackifier be applied for dust control. These measures will help prevent material from entering the waterway as well as make certain that the storage and handling of the material will not negatively impact the surrounding area.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. I have studied for your reference photographs of the dust and sediment issue.

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Dance Theatre Et cetera’s 25th Annual Red Hook Fest

Red Hook Star Revue Wins Awards

Senator Montgomery continues to work with education and community stakeholders to expand the pipeline to four year colleges; others transition directly into jobs in the New York City education system. Each day, the lives of middle school students with the proposal to create a

As Harbor School celebrates its 15th anniversary, Senator Montgomery commends Founder/Executive Director Martha Bowers and the services and resources at the event and there are a host of activities for all ages this much beloved, free cultural event features performances by professional dance companies.

Hook Arts Media currently offers multidisciplinary arts programming at the East Brooklyn Community HS, the South Brooklyn Community HS, the Brooklyn HS for Leadership, Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice, Brooklyn Academy HS, Murray Hill Academy HS, PS 15, and at Brooklyn West Alternative Learning Centers W. E. Dubois HS and Brighton Beach HS. In its home community of Red Hook, Hook Arts Media runs fall and spring afterschool media programs and a four week summer Digital Boot Camp in which participants earn minimum wage stipends as they acquire filmmaking skills.

Hook Arts Media’s most visible program is its long running Red Hook Fest. Every June this much beloved, free cultural event features performances by professional dance and music groups, as well as local youth groups. Many local nonprofits showcase their services and resources at the event and there are a host of activities for all ages throughout the two days. www.redhookfest.com

Senator Montgomery commends Founder/Executive Director Martha Bowers and the Hook Arts Media team for their important work in our community. Visit them at www.hookarts.org to learn more about their work uniting artists, educators and communities to build a more just and joyful world.

Senator Montgomery joins Martha Bowers, Founder/Executive Director of Dance Theatre Et cetera (DTE) and members of Bombazo Dance Company (http://www.bombazodanceco.com/) at the 25th Annual Red Hook Fest. S

SBIDC Turns 40
Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation (SBIDC) was formed by a group of business owners and community leaders to enhance the business climate in the waterfront neighborhoods of Sunset Park, Red Hook and Gowanus.

Since its inception in 1978, SBIDC has helped hundreds of companies throughout the last four decades. SBIDC has been a driving force in the improvement of the Southwest Brooklyn economy, delivering a wide range of business services to local firms and acting as an advocate for business interests.

SBIDC has provided local residents with employment services, and is the only organization for businesses in Southwest Brooklyn who are looking to hire or need resources to grow.

SBIDC operates Brooklyn’s Workforce 1 Industrial & Transportation Career Center, based at the Brooklyn Army Terminal, in affiliation with The Brooklyn Army Terminal, Building B

SBIDC’s Workforce 1 Center Brooklyn Army Terminal, Building 8 – 1st Floor 140 58th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220
Phone: (718) 987-3834
http://www.sbidc.org

Senator Montgomery presents Spanish Speaking Elderly Council (RAICES) leadership (l to r) Clinical Director Raquel Ortiz Terron, Executive Director Lisette Sosa, Director Suyapa Hernandez and Associate Director Yvonne Cotto with a Legislative Resolution commemorating the organization’s 40th anniversary.

Senator Montgomery joined Spanish Speaking Elderly Council—RAICES (RAICES) leadership, staff members and community members to celebrate the 40th anniversary of one of the premier organizations in New York City dedicated to empowering and enriching the lives of senior citizens.

For the past four decades, RAICES has evolved into a cornerstone in our community and a daily home away from home for seniors throughout New York City. RAICES embraces the diversity that makes our state so unique and provides top-notch activities and comprehensive services to help seniors remain independent. All senior centers employ dedicated bilingual staff that provide culturally competent services in English and Spanish.

The services provided through RAICES Access Program includes case assistance, outreach services, and information. RAICES Access Program assists in securing all major benefit/entitlements. These include Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, Supplementary Security Income (SSI), Food Stamps, Senior Housing Issues, Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage, Life-Line, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Housing, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Real Property Tax Credit (IT-214), New York City School Tax Credit (NYC 210).

Senator Montgomery is proud to represent all five of the RAICES senior centers in Brooklyn. For more info about RAICES, visit https://www.raices.us

RAICES Gowan's Senior Center 420 Baltic Street * Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 718.797.2472
RAICES Times Plaza Neighborhood Senior Center 460 Atlantic Avenue * Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217 718.694.0895
Red Hook Neighborhood Senior Center 110 W. 9th Street * Brooklyn, N.Y. 11231 718.769.7518
Farragut Senior Center 228 York Street * Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 718.422.1069
Wyckoff Garden Neighborhood Senior Center 280 Wyckoff Street * Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217 718.977.1802

Senator Montgomery joins Tanasia Swift (Community Reefs Manager, Hook Arts Media), Senator Montgomery and Councilman Menchaca with Harbor School graduates, Tanasia Swift (Community Reefs Manager, Billion Oyster Project) and Captain Hassan Barisdale (SUNY Maritime graduate and USCG Captain)

Find me on social media:

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