



Manhattan Chamber of Commerce

Year in Review 2007



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We are proud to present our 2007 Year-In-Review, which highlights some of our initiatives and accomplishments over the past year. As a result of the hard work of our growing staff, and with strategic input from our Board of Directors, we had a banner year. As you will see, we scaled new heights in terms of our event outreach, networking opportunities for members, legislative advocacy, business-oriented publications and Chamber philanthropy.

We have been able to achieve our success through the input and involvement of our members, from the largest to the smallest businesses. Our strength is derived from you, our membership. We also credit our success to our collaboration with many other business-focused associations and organizations at the local, state, federal and international level, as well as our working relationships with our legislators and government agencies. Thank you to all of you for also contributing to a terrific 2007 for the Chamber.

In 2008, we will continue to build upon our achievements from this past year. As they say "you ain't seen nothin' yet!" We look forward to working with our members and the community at large in this coming year to help Manhattan hit new highs.


 Michael R. Littenberg
 Chairman


 Nancy Ploeger
 President

MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce is one of the oldest and largest non-partisan business organizations in New York City. Since 1920, we have advocated for positive business legislation, sponsored educational seminars and networking events, helped our members market their businesses and enhanced New York City's pre-eminence as a global business hub.

We are the voice of over 100,000 businesses in Manhattan and partner with over 300 diverse business organizations in the city. We are one of the largest business constituencies in the United States. Our members have approximately 1.6 million domestic employees, approximately 4.5 million employees globally and, locally, our member companies have over 165,000 employees. In addition, our members collectively account for over \$630 billion dollars in annual revenues.

Unlike many other business-focused not-for-profits, the Chamber also has a significant local philanthropic presence. We believe that by helping our community we improve the local business climate. Examples of our philanthropy include long-term sponsorship of street fairs that provide funding for local community-based not-for-profits and volunteer expos, as well as numerous programs and initiatives for lower income business owners.



Photo by Jeffrey Holmes

"MCC is a great organization with a great history and great leadership. It is an example of a public/private initiative that encourages private businesses to grow. We are very pleased to have MCC working for the business community in our city."

– Mayor Michael Bloomberg

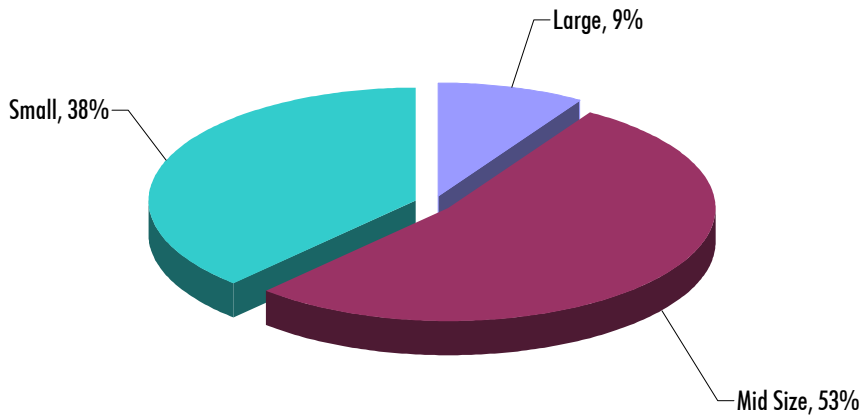
"I've been involved with MCC for many years. The Chamber's main role is to help promote business activities in NYC and Time Warner Cable NYC is a part of that framework. The Chamber is doing a great job of getting benefits to small businesses and helping us meet the needs of those businesses."

– Howard Szarfarc, President of
Time Warner Cable of
New York and New Jersey

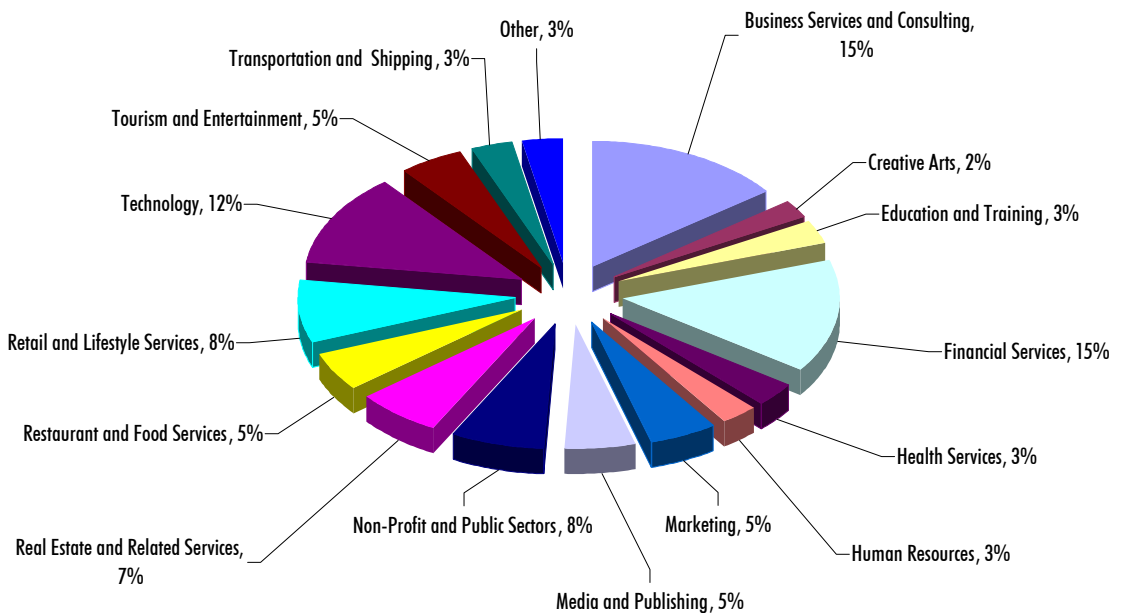


Photo by Pattie Stone

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce is over 1400 members strong. Our members range from large, well-known Global 100 firms to local entrepreneurs. Our members have a passion for business excellence and use the Chamber to help them generate business and seek positive legislative change, as well as, a source for business education and as a partner in their community involvement.



Our members represent a diverse cross-section of the NYC business community and come from all of the industries that drive our local economy.



Throughout the year, we do outreach to both members and non-members through e-mail, telephone and print.

During 2007, we began an extensive ongoing project to enhance and update our website, which attracted over 2.1 million page views from over 1.4 million visitors.

We also enhanced our quarterly newspaper, *Business Matters*. We entered into a strategic partnership with *Metro*, increasing our print run and distribution of the paper. We also began to feature selected content from our Partner, *Crain's New York Business*.

In addition, we revamped our *Weekly e-Business Matters*, enhancing content and providing a more visual, user-friendly format.

MCC launched the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Business Committee in early 2007. This Committee, which is comprised of a talented group of New York City entrepreneurs, corporate executives and not-for-profit leaders, was created to customize our rich array of Chamber services to professionals in the LGBT business community. Our LGBT Committee, which is open to all of our members, has been instrumental in the development, planning and implementation of our programs in the LGBT space. Six events were held in this first year, attracting over 1400 attendees.

In the Fall of 2007, we established our new MCC Women's Business Committee. In 2008 the Committee's goals include increasing financial literacy, improving access to government and corporate contracts for women-owned businesses, promoting pay equity and increasing the presence of women on corporate boards.

MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Fall 2006
www.manhattanc.org
WE MEAN BUSINESS

BUSINESS MATTERS

CLINTON AND ARMSTRONG COMING TO NY

By CJ Covert, www.powerwithin.com

The Clinton era, a monumental event will take place at the South K. Lewis Center this morning to be a transformational experience for those in attendance. In preparation, the organizers have assembled a lineup of guest speakers including former US President Bill Clinton, and "one Year to France" champion cyclist and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong. Ending up in this day, you have the opportunity to make the decision to invest your time, your attention, and your money in developing the greatest asset you have at your disposal you.

Edited "The Power Within: A Passion for Life" this conference has been expected to over 100,000 participants in cities across North America and has been heralded as a life-changing experience by its participants. The organizing force, The Power Within, is one of the most successful multimedia motivational enterprises on the continent. The roster of speakers they have developed spans from Olympic athletes to influential corporate success stories to political giants. And the questions you might still be asking yourself as "the what?"

Perhaps you're the owner of a multimillion-dollar startup, the CEO who rose up from the ranks, a sales executive, a high school principal, or someone who is simply looking to create massive positive change in their life, right now. Why should you invest your irreplaceable time and your hard-earned money, making a day off work and a day away from generating revenue, to order to listen to a bunch of famously successful human beings discourse on their achievements, the trials and tribulations they have suffered and overcome, and how "you can do it too?"

Why should you attend this event? Because the greatest of champions and champions-in-training require an emotional and psychological release and recharge on a regular basis. Because motivation is a reflexive concept that can't be touched or measured, but its presence or absence can be tracked in the results we generate. Because the great dreams of our personal and professional lives demands the very highest of our capabilities, talents and abilities, all of which are nurtured while in the presence of excellence. Because it is your success story these speakers will be telling. And because millions of another person's victory can remind us that if anyone has overcome, then we can too.

To be intellectually aware of Lance Armstrong's 7 victories in the Tour de France, having previously overcome cancer and reformed with vigor, is one thing... but to share the room with the man who is a world-champion, who has dominated his sport so consistently that his retirement seemed the only solution for potential successors, after having still had tens of thousands of cancer remission surgically performed, what range of inspiration could you draw upon the next time you feel as if the odds are against you?

To read a newspaper article about Bill Clinton's thoughts on world issues is one thing... but to personally hear the voice of the man who, until only a few short years ago was the most powerful man alive on earth, exalted the virtues of civic contribution, who organized a \$100 million, 4-year college fund for the children of every US citizen... what range of emotions could you draw that would add immeasurable value and purpose to your own life?

To see Mark Burnett on television is one thing... but to experience the energy and infectious confidence that allowed him to move from military service, to selling TV shows on the streets of California...

then, tomorrow, creating alliances to successfully launch the most successful reality show on television including "The Contender", "American Idol" and "The Apprentice"... what lessons on passion and determination could you apply to your own life?

To describe this day as merely as a "motivational event" would be a dramatic understatement of the word-to-force that this remarkable group of world leaders and champions represents. This is a day that will stand in your calendar as a day...

...in your handbook as an event, and in your mind and heart as a wellspring of inspiration. Now, all that remains is for you to make the decision to attend... and I hope to see you there!

The Power Within is the premier multimedia self-improvement organization in North America, producing motivational conferences and training programs for corporations and the general public. To purchase tickets, call 1.866.994.2535 x225, or visit www.powerwithin.com.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- COMMERCIAL LEASES 8
- RECRUITING AND HIRING GREAT EMPLOYEES 16
- MCC'S 3RD AVENUE FAIR PHOTOS 28
- STAYING SAFE AND SOUND 44

AND MORE...



In 2007, we sponsored several ongoing and new event series. These included series of general interest and programs centered around particular themes or geared toward specific tiers of MCC membership or businesses of a certain size.

Chairman's Breakfasts

High level networking events exclusively for MCC Partners, Corporate members and invited guests. Each breakfast featured a prominent speaker on a macro trend of importance to the local business community. Speakers in 2007 included Amanda Burden, Chair of City Planning, Dominic Carter, Senior Reporter at NY1 News, and Asia Society Fellow, Pramit Pal Chaudhuri.

Open Membership Meetings

One of our premiere networking opportunities for members. Each breakfast featured a high level political or business speaker. Previously held bi-annually, these meetings will be expanded to once every four months in 2008. Guest speakers in 2007 were Congressman Charles B. Rangel (pictured above) and restaurant-review icon Tim Zagat.



Monthly Events

In 2007, we continued to sponsor our ever-popular Manhattan Networking Group and Toot Your Own Horn receptions. We also co-sponsored networking events with many of our Partners and Corporate members.

In 2007, we launched our Business Referral Groups, which help Chamber members to find new clients. These leads groups meet twice per month. These groups have grown rapidly and we will be launching our fourth Business Referral Group in early 2008. We also launched our CEO Executive Roundtable, a monthly support group for small business owners to share strategies and best practices. We will be expanding the Roundtable to include new participants in 2008.

LGBT Business Accelerator Series

MCC is proud to be the first general business chamber in the United States to launch a regular series of networking and educational events that promote the LGBT business community. A total of six events were held in 2007 and the enthusiastic response from the business community has prompted us to increase the number to eight events in 2008. Our 2007 LGBT events attracted over 1400 attendees.

"MCC projects the 'can do' attitude in business. The Chamber's knowledge of small business, the corporate world and government agencies allows them the distinct ability to help many businesses achieve their maximum potential to achieve success in their business."

– Glenn Schalk, President of Distinguished Sports, Inc.

During 2007, we also selectively co-sponsored thought-provoking conferences, business summits and networking events with other well-known not-for-profits, corporations and conference promoters. In 2007, we increased our already substantial number of sponsored and co-sponsored events over the prior year.

Some of our 2007 co-sponsored events include:

- ***Using Flexible Work Arrangements to Help Your Business and Employees Thrive***, co-sponsored with The US Department of Labor Women's Bureau
- ***5 Borough Chamber Networking Event*** at the Brooklyn Aquarium, exclusively for members of the five borough chambers
- ***The Women's Leadership Exchange***, a full day of networking, educational seminars and keynote speakers focused on issues pertaining to the growth of women-owned businesses
- ***The Economist Conference: The Future of NYC as the World's Business Hub***, featuring Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly
- ***The New York Times Small Business Summit***, a full day summit featuring educational seminars and speakers supporting the growth of small businesses
- ***NY XPO for Business*** at the Javits Center, which attracted over 14,000 attendees and featured over 400 booths, 16 educational seminars and the Crain's New York Business/5 Borough Chamber luncheon with CNBC's Donny Deutsch (pictured above right)
- ***Green Communications: The Case Studies***, a half day conference for corporate communications and marketing professionals addressing clean technology and green initiatives, co-sponsored with the Business Development Institute and PR Newswire
- ***Convergence 2007***, a full day conference exploring the internet's impact on advertising, media and PR, co-sponsored with the Business Development Institute

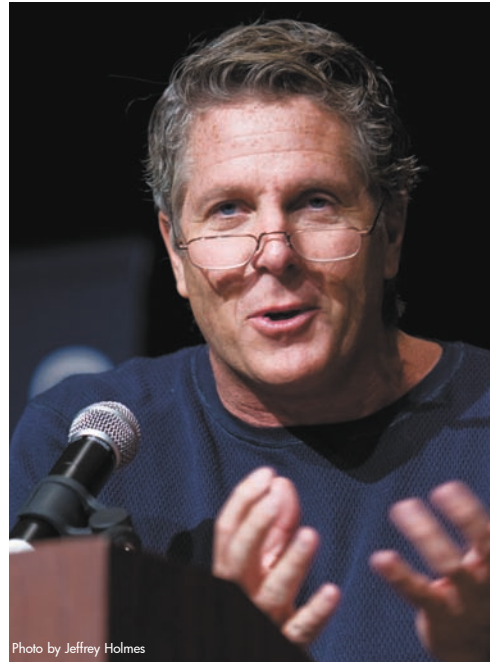


Photo by Jeffrey Holmes



Photo by Jeffrey Holmes

This year we kicked up our Awards Breakfast a notch!

Early in 2007, we opened up nominations to the general public, heavily promoting the awards both in print and online.

After extensive deliberations, our Awards Committee selected our 2007 awardees from a long list of nominees. This year's awardees were the best of the best.

And the Award Goes To.....



Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Jim Lebenthal, entertains the audience with a lively speech.

All Photos by Jeffrey Holmes



Tim Zagat honors David Burke with the 2007 MCC Restaurant of the Year Award sponsored by Verizon.



Robert Selsam, the Senior Vice President and Regional Manager for Boston Properties accepting for Mort Zuckerman. Boston Properties was awarded the 2007 MCC Large Business Award sponsored by AIG.



Assemblyman Jonathan Bing honors Philippe de Montebello with the 2007 MCC Cultural Achievement Award sponsored by Time Warner Cable.

Presenting Sponsor:



Hosted By:



Schulte Roth & Zabel



As in prior years, our awards were presented by well-known New Yorkers from business, politics and the arts, including Tim Zagat, NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn, *Fortune Magazine's* Senior Editor at Large Geoff Colvin and NY State Assemblyman Jonathan Bing.

In addition, the audience was treated with a rousing keynote speech about entrepreneurship and his love of NYC by Jim Leenthal.

Our Awards Breakfast was a standing room only event. **Save the date: our 2008 Awards Breakfast will be held on October 28, 2008.** Pre-sale advance tickets may be purchased by contacting the Chamber office. In addition, 2008 sponsorship opportunities are now available.



2007 OPEN from American Express® Small Business Awardee Laurel Touby, MediaBistro, poses with OPEN's Michelle Thompson-Dolbery.



Christoph Schmidinger, General Manager Four Seasons Hotel thanks MCC for the 2007 MCC Award for Foreign-Based Business of the Year sponsored by RSM McGladrey.



Due to an out of town trip, Dana Telsey sent Arnold Kanarick, Executive Vice President to accept the Women Owned Business of the Year Award to Telsey Advisory Group, which was sponsored by TruFoods.



John and Steven Stark of Stark Carpet accept their award for Mid-Size Business of the Year Award sponsored by Chase.



Tim Zagat honors Sherry-Lehmann with the 2007 MCC Retailer of the Year Award sponsored by 1010 Wins. Accepting is Michael Yurch, President.



Marcos Rodriguez of Palladium Equity Partners accepting the 2007 MCC Minority Business of the Year Award, sponsored by McGuire Woods, from NYC Councilspeaker Christine Quinn.

All Photos by Jeffrey Holmes



The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce is a “go-to” organization for inbound and outbound international business. We maintain strong relationships with local, state and federal agencies focused on cross-border business, as well as with foreign chambers and trade associations.

- We hosted numerous foreign delegations in 2007, including delegations from China, Korea, India and Thailand. We provided educational content to these delegations, facilitated local direct investment and helped them to establish commercial ties with local member companies.
- In partnership with the Indian American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) from New Dehli, we co-hosted a delegation of Indian Food Manufacturers and Exporters, facilitating business opportunities between our members and the delegates. We had previously entered into an MOU with the AICC to introduce our respective members to potential business opportunities and partners.
- We supported Free Trade Agreements for Columbia, Peru, Panama and Korea in conjunction with the US Chamber of Commerce.
- Together with the Weissman Center for International Business at Baruch College, we conducted The Small Business Global Survey. The survey results were published in a report that was sent to all our local city, state and federal legislators to encourage educational initiatives and services to better enable local small businesses to benefit from globalization.
- Also in conjunction with the Weissman Center for International Business at Baruch College, we held our annual Meet Your International Business Partners expo featuring foreign-based trade associations and businesses promoting their countries and services. Over 250 NYC-based business owners attended.



Photo by Jeffrey Holmes



- We were a leading participant in World Trade Week NYC, a week-long celebration of global business. MCC was on the event Steering Committee and supported the kickoff Awards Breakfast honoring NYC businesses who have exhibited excellence in international business.
- We entered into an MOU with The Korean Chamber of Commerce providing for economic development and inward and outbound investment opportunities for our members.
- The first International Women’s Entrepreneurial Challenge (IWEC) Awards Week which MCC helped organize, was held in Barcelona in Feb. 2007. IWEC featured women business owners from the US, Spain and India. The 2008 IWEC awards week will be held in June 2008 in New York City and will be hosted by MCC.

“The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce motto is ‘We Mean Business’ and I have had many opportunities since becoming involved with the Chamber to find out what that really means. Operating a business in Manhattan can be a challenge and under Nancy Ploeger’s outstanding leadership, MCC steps up to the plate time after time. Whether the goal is legislative support, information gathering and dissemination or networking, MCC is the place to be for Manhattan business.”

– Jeffrey Bernstein, President & CEO, TruFoods



Photo by Jeffrey Holmes

During 2007, we worked extensively both publicly and behind the scenes with federal, state and local legislators on behalf of the business community.

Some of the issues that we were engaged in during 2007 included:

- The reduction in State workers’ compensation premiums
- The elimination of the S-Corp tax on local businesses
- Health insurance reform
- Reinstatement of several SBA programs
- The elimination of the AMT
- Passage of Free Trade Agreements with Columbia, Korea, Panama and Peru
- The Mayor’s PlaNYC2030, and, in particular, congestion pricing
- The City’s trans fat ban
- Development of the High Line and the Hudson Rail Yards

During the course of the year, Chamber staff met one-on-one with many local, state and federal legislators and their staffs on these and other issues, including issues of importance to individual Chamber members. Our legislative efforts took us to both Washington and Albany on numerous occasions. The Chamber is a registered lobbyist.

The Chamber supplemented its legislative initiatives by working with many other advocacy groups. We worked extensively with the US Chamber of Commerce and the Business Council of New York State on several issues, as well as with the Chamber Alliance of New York State.

MCC President Nancy Ploeger was the Chairperson of the Chamber Alliance in 2007, an honor that was bestowed on her by other chamber executives in recognition of both Nancy’s and the Manhattan Chamber’s significant involvement in the legislative arena.

In support of our legislative initiatives, we also conducted both electronic and telephonic polls of our members generally and in particular industries, increasing our use of polling over the prior year.



Photo by Jeffrey Holmes

During 2007, MCC was one of the foremost providers of educational content for the New York City business community.

Our educational programs ranged from small, informal events covering discreet topics to large programs on topics of broad interest.

In 2007, our educational events included:

- ***Everything Women Business Owners Need to Know About the MWBE Program in NYS But Were Afraid to Ask***, featuring NY State Lt. Governor David Paterson
- ***Investors Forum Breakfast Meeting***, in conjunction with Standard & Poor's and featuring well-known Chief Economists Sam Stovall and Beth Ann Bovino (pictured on left)
- ***Is New York City Still the Fashion Capital of the World?***, in partnership with The Fashion Institute of Technology, featuring a panel discussion moderated by fashion great Stan Herman and other industry notables
- ***Gr\$\$ning Your Business: Practical Ideas and Bottom Line Benefits Of Environmental Sustainability For Small to Mid-Sized Businesses***, with panelists in the green space
- ***New Technology for Legal Professionals***, sponsored with Verizon Wireless and featuring a review of new technologies available to legal professionals
- ***"Wake Up Your Business" Sales & Marketing Series***, a four-part series sponsored with Commerce Bank
- ***Important Energy-Savings Webinar***, presented in conjunction with NYSERDA
- ***Women on a Mission: Lesbian Pioneers, Mavericks and Mavens in a Mastermind Session About Leadership***, sponsored with Verizon, Verizon Wireless and Novartis

"The first thing I did when I set up my new business in New York was to join the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. It was one of my best moves... I have made so many new friends and business contacts, it's unbelievable. A large part of my business can be attributed to leads and referrals I receive from these new contacts."

– Johan du Plooy, Internet Business Consultant, eXtreme eBusiness Solutions Inc.

During 2007, the Chamber undertook a number of other significant ongoing initiatives to support our members' businesses and to benefit the local business community at large by creating business and job opportunities.

WMBE Certification Guide

During 2007, we distributed widely in both hard copy and electronically our *NYC Women and Minority Business Enterprise Certification Guide*. This guide was the first of its kind and has become a go-to resource for WMBE's. We continue to update the Guide on a daily basis and will be completing the second printing of the Guide in early 2008.

Workforce Guide

In response to the tremendous need of our members and the local business community generally to locate high quality employees, the MCC distributed its updated *2007 Workforce Guide*. This Guide features all workforce agencies and organizations throughout NYC that provide employee resources and allows users to search by both industry and population. This Guide has now been added to the MCC website.



Photo by Jeffrey Holmes

NYC Part-time Job Web Site

We created New York City's first site focused exclusively on part-time job opportunities. The site, www.nycpart-timejobs.org, is sponsored by the MCC Foundation, a 501c(3) affiliate of MCC. The site enables employers to post their jobs for free and prospective employees to search the site for potential jobs in their field of expertise.

NYC Part-Time Jobs

HOME ABOUT POST A JOB REGISTER VIEW JOBS CONTACT

Friday, February 8, 2008

Welcome to the NYC Part-Time Job website.

Sponsored by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, this site has been created to help businesses find part-time workers and to help students, retirees, independent contractors, moms/ dads, actors/actresses all find part-time work. In today's world, flexibility is key to job satisfaction and we hope that by creating this site, we help both employers and employees connect and develop solid working relationships. Posting is free!

If you are an employer, we hope you are able to find an employee to fill your job needs! And if you are a job seeker, that you find a job suited to your needs!

Best of luck!

"As the principal of a New York City based architecture firm I have come to rely on MCC and Nancy Ploeger for information about valuable programs and benefits designed to help small businesses like mine be successful. Nancy was instrumental in encouraging my firm to apply for Woman-owned Business Enterprise (WBE) Certification. We were successful and today are helping to build the Manhattan of tomorrow through new government procurement opportunities."

– Karen Bausman, Principal, Karen Bausman & Associates

“We believe that business does well by doing good.”

Chamber philanthropy is conducted by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce Community Benefit Fund (CBF), our 501(c)(3) affiliate. Through the CBF’s philanthropy, we help to create a more livable, vibrant city, which also benefits the business community.

Street Fairs and Raffle Programs

The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce runs two of the oldest and largest street fairs in New York City, the 2nd and 3rd Avenue Community Benefit Festivals. The profits from these events are used by the CBF to fund grants for non-profits providing programs directly affecting the Community Board 8 area (East 59th St. to East 96th St. from 5th Ave. to the East River). In addition to the funds that the CBF receives from the street fairs, the CBF also runs an annual raffle to benefit local non-profits.

The Chamber has given over \$2,000,000 back to the community through the CBF. In 2007, 34 non-profits received \$78,000 in grants and 33 non-profits garnered an additional \$71,000 from raffle ticket contributions, including organizations such as the Children’s Advocacy Center, The Doe Fund, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House and Robert Kennedy School PTA.

Our CBF also provides \$10,000 annually to the new Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Manhattan’s Upper East Side to help them establish and maintain their college preparatory office.

Volunteer Expos

Our Volunteer Expos throughout Manhattan drive new volunteers to small and mid-sized community-based non-profits that do not have the visibility or funding of larger organizations. For many of these organizations, volunteers are crucial to helping them fulfill their mission. By featuring a large number of community-based organizations with a variety of missions – from social services to the arts – in a single location, we are able to match up youth, residents and business owners with the perfect local volunteer opportunity.

In 2007, we ran two local Volunteer Expos. Over the last three years, our Volunteer Expos have attracted over 3,500 new volunteers to nearly 200 non-profit entities such as the ASPCA, Children For Children, Harlem RBI, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, New Dance Alliance and Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic.



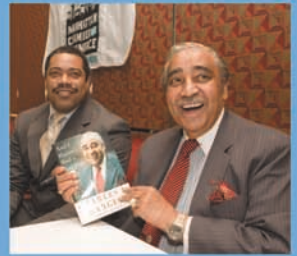
Sponsored by:



Saturday, October 13, 2007
10am - 3pm
Raffle Prizes!
Light refreshments served all day long.

Campos Plaza Community Center
611 East 13th Street
(Between Avenues B & C)

For more information, please contact:
Brenda@manhattancoc.org



Photos by Jeffrey Adams • design by www.gottliedesign.com