

## Citizens Committee's Grant Applications Available for Fall 09

**CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY** **NEW YORKERS FOR BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT APPLICATION**

Fall Deadline: September 30, 2009  
Spring Deadline: March 14, 2010

Have a great idea for a community improvement project? Apply for a New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Award!

Through New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods, Citizens Committee for New York City awards grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to volunteer-led groups to work on community improvement projects.

We believe that people can make important change happen on their streets and in their communities by working together. We support New Yorkers across the city in their efforts to build stronger communities. In addition to small grants, we offer one-on-one project planning assistance, skills-building workshops and a resource center with access to computer stations, conference space and an equipment loan library. We also bring people together to share ideas, experiences, and expertise.

**CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY** **MOLLIE PARNIS DRESS UP YOUR SCHOOL AWARDS GRANT APPLICATION**

Fall Deadline: September 30, 2009  
Spring Deadline: March 14, 2010

Have a great idea for a community improvement project? Apply for a Mollie Parnis Dress Up Your School Award!

Through Mollie Parnis, Citizens Committee for New York City awards grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to public school based student-led projects that beautify schools or neighborhoods immediately surrounding schools.

Project examples include transforming an unused lawn on school grounds into an outside classroom, partnering with a neighborhood association to maintain a community garden, and launching a school recycling program and raising awareness about the importance of protecting the environment.

Citizens Committee for New York City supports student groups across the city in their efforts to build stronger schools and communities. In addition to small grants, we offer one-on-one project planning assistance, skills-building workshops, and a resource center with access to computer stations, conference space and an equipment loan library.

Citizens Committee is pleased to announce that applications for the Fall 2009 grant cycle are now available for two programs: the *New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Award* and the *Mollie Parnis Dress Up Your School Award*. Applications are due to Citizens Committee by September 30th.

Through New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods, Citizens Committee offers grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to grassroots community groups in economically under-resourced neighborhoods to work on creative community improvement projects that bring neighbors together. Through the Mollie Parnis Dress Up Your School Awards, Citizens Committee offers grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to support student-led projects that beautify schools or neighborhoods immediately surrounding schools.

These programs offer small grants for volunteer-led projects that improve and strengthen communities, and that involve neighbors in a meaningful way. Our grants are for grassroots community groups in economically under-resourced neighborhoods and are awarded through a competitive application process. We do not award grants to individuals, agencies with paid staff, religious, fraternal, or partisan organizations.

Both applications may be downloaded from Citizens Committee's website at [www.citizensnyc.org/grants](http://www.citizensnyc.org/grants). For more information about New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods, or to request a hard copy application, contact us at [grants@citizensnyc.org](mailto:grants@citizensnyc.org).

## Mayor of Rome Visits Citizens Committee Project in East Harlem



On July 22nd, the mayor of Rome, Gianni Alemanno, met with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg at City Hall, and then went to East Harlem to meet with Citizens Committee President Peter H. Kostmayer and Margarita López, a former City Council member who is now the environmental coordinator for the city's Housing Authority. Mayor Alemanno a guided tour of one of Citizens Committee's projects, the first youth-run garden on New York City Housing Authority property called Mad Fun Farm. "The idea is simple citizenship," Kostmayer told Alemanno through a translator. "Providing people with the capacity to design neighborhood projects of their own."

Citizens Committee supports Mad Fun Farm through a New Yorkers for Better Neighborhood grant and services to Concrete Safaris, a community organization that focuses on environmental

education. Thanks to Citizens Committee's support, Mad Fun Farm not only teaches these kids about gardening, but will provide free, fresh produce to the community, and a much-needed public green space.

Kostmayer, a former Member of Congress, said it was significant that Mayor Alemanno stopped to check out the community garden because "this kind of civic engagement doesn't exist in other parts of the world." He also noted that, based on what he gathered from a recent trip to Italy, Rome is interested in emulating the kind of grass-roots and community-driven projects that flourish in the United States. For more information, contact Pinky Vincent [pvincent@citizensnyc.org](mailto:pvincent@citizensnyc.org).

## NYC Civic Corps Interns Join Citizens Committee Team



In August, Citizens Committee welcomed three AmeriCorps VISTAs to our team: Allison LaPlatney, Nathan Cole, and Alicia Rouault. As a part of his NYC Service initiative, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has launched the NYC Civic Corps, using funding from the money allocated to the AmeriCorps VISTAs in the Federal Recovery Act.

Allison, Nathan, and Alicia will be working on a variety of projects, focusing on outreach to community groups, updating Citizens Committee's program materials, and documenting the work of Citizens Committee's New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods groups. We hope to expand our outreach to encourage New Yorkers who are not already involved in neighborhood improvements to become civically active. VISAs will attend tabling and presentations at community events such as farmers markets and community meetings.

Citizens Committee staff looks forward to working with these talented and enthusiastic people throughout the year, and hope to help them launch long careers in public service. For more information on the NYC Civic Corps Volunteers, contact Scott Codey at [scodey@citizensnyc.org](mailto:scodey@citizensnyc.org).