



Program Description

- ***The Initiative for a Competitive Brooklyn:*** This is BEDC's new economic development initiative, which is based on Harvard Economist Michael Porter's Initiative for a Competitive Inner City. This program aims to strengthen four business clusters which BEDC has identified as comparative advantages for Brooklyn: Health Care (particularly nursing), Specialty and Ethnic Food Processing, Construction, and Tourism, with a particular interest in workforce readiness activities to drive job growth.
- ***NYC Clean Streets Initiative:*** A new pilot program from the City's Department of Small Business Services (SBS), this program aims to strengthen LDCs, Merchant Associations, and other community groups by providing them with free supplemental sanitation services for one year and subsidized services for the second year. Groups will also receive capacity-building support from SBS with the goal of enabling these groups to finance the services themselves by year three.
- ***Recent Developments in Brooklyn: The Gowanus Canal and the Brooklyn Navy Yard:*** Two exciting areas of development in Brooklyn are the Gowanus Canal and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Phaedra Thomas of the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation will be presenting about the issues of rezoning and development along the canal, while Richard Drucker will present the master plans for the development of the Navy Yard.
- ***Community Blood Drives and Commercial Revitalization:*** There is a desperate need for blood donors nationwide, and Brooklyn is no exception! The NY Blood Center runs community blood drives throughout New York City and is always looking for new locations, while merchants and community groups are always looking for new ways to bring residents and shoppers to their commercial corridors. Holding a blood drive on your main shopping strip can thus be a way to provide a great service to your community while also increasing foot traffic and calling attention to your neighborhood's great stores.