



ANNUAL REPORT
2014

2014 Power Breakfasts:

2014 was a year of transition for the ABNY Power Breakfast as we welcomed new leaders at City Hall and showcased our innovative original research. Below is the complete list of ABNY's 2014 events:



Thomas P. DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller
March 12, 2014 | Roosevelt Hotel

Comptroller DiNapoli addressed the state of New York's economy and provided an update on the importance of Wall Street to New York City.



Andrew M. Cuomo, New York State Governor
March 14, 2014 | Cipriani 42nd Street

Governor Cuomo presented his New York State Budget proposals, and was joined by the Economic Development Advisor to the State of New York and Special Advisor to the Board of Empire State Development (ESD) John Mack, who updated ABNY on StartUp New York and the Governor's economic development initiatives.



Alicia Glen, New York City Deputy Mayor for Housing & Economic Development
April 2, 2014 | Hilton New York

Deputy Mayor Glen addressed New York's economic development policy and 21st century job creation. She also helped unveil a new report entitled, "The New York City Tech Ecosystem: Generating Economic Opportunity for All New Yorkers", sponsored by ABNY, Citi, Google, NY Tech Meetup and prepared by HR&A Advisors.



"Caution Ahead: Overdue Investments For New York's Aging Infrastructure"
April 23, 2014 | NY Genome Center

ABNY hosted a panel discussion that focused on a report written by the Center for an Urban Future and sponsored by ABNY and RBC Capital Markets, which identified a significant portion of New York City's essential infrastructure that is more than 50 years old and in need of repair. The panel included: Chris Hamel, RBC Capital Markets; Denise Richardson, General Contractors Association of New York; Sam Schwartz, Sam Schwartz Engineering D.P.C.; Polly Trottenberg, NYC Department of Transportation; and Chris Ward, Executive VP, Dragados.



John B. King, Jr, New York State Education Commissioner
May 28, 2014 | Warwick Hotel

Commissioner King delivered remarks on the future of education in New York State, focusing on the Common Core standards.



Cyrus R. Vance, Jr, Manhattan District Attorney
June 10, 2014 | John Jay College of Criminal Justice

District Attorney Vance discussed the ways in which he is making the city a safer and more fair place for people to live, work, and do business.



Robert P. Astorino, Westchester County Executive
October 1, 2014 | Warwick Hotel

Mr. Astorino delivered remarks on his vision for New York State, including the need to improve the state's economic outlook.



Thomas F. Prendergast, Chair & Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority
October 7, 2014 | Hilton Hotel

Mr. Prendergast discussed the MTA's existing and outstanding funding needs, and dove into the details of the recently proposed five year capital plan.



Election Day 2014: What Does It Mean for New York?

November 5, 2014 | Westin Grand Central

ABNY hosted a panel discussion analyzing the city, state and federal election results. Panel included Wayne Berman, Blackstone; Robert George, New York Post; Alison Hirsch, SEIU 32BJ; Mitchell Moss, NYU Wagner; and Jeffrey Pollock, Global Strategy Group.



Letitia James, New York City Public Advocate

November 12, 2014 | Grand Hyatt New York

Public Advocate James spoke about her vision for the office of Public Advocate, the importance of growing the middle class, and her ideas for pension reform.



James B. Milliken, Chancellor of the City University of New York

November 19, 2014 | New York Public Library

Chancellor Milliken discussed the preeminent role the CUNY system plays in New York City's educational system and economy.



William J. Bratton, Commissioner of the NYPD

December 9, 2014 | Hilton New York

Commissioner Bratton discussed the police department's community relations, his efforts to balance the rights of protesters with his duty to protect the residents of New York City, and the continued maintenance of our city's historically low crime rates.

2014 Young Professionals Meetings:

ABNY's Young Professionals program continued to grow steadily in 2014, and today includes over 1,200 members. Below is a listing of the Young Professionals meetings ABNY hosted in 2014.

- **Young Professionals Panel Discussion: “Women In Tech”**
 - June 2, 2014 | Edelman

- **Young Professionals Cocktail Reception with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz**
 - July 24th 2014 | Rare Bar & Grill

- **Young Professionals Panel Discussion: “A Conversation About New York City’s Public Schools”**
 - September 30th 2014 | GLG

2014 Advocacy Topics:

At ABNY, we've always been advocates for making New York City a better place to live, work and visit. We've also always supported the interests of our broad and diverse membership whether through testimony, letter writing or press releases. If there are issues that you are managing where ABNY's support could be helpful, please let us know.

Below please find a sampling of ABNY's advocacy work in 2014:

- **Brookfield Properties Testimony** – On January 8, 2014, ABNY Program Director Eftihia Thomopoulos submitted testimony to Manhattan Community Board 4 to express ABNY's support of the expansion of Brookfield Properties' Manhattan West Development's Outdoor Plaza.
- **Age Smart Employer Awards Support Letter** - On January 14, 2014, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to Ruth Finkelstein, Senior Vice President for Policy and Planning at The New York Academy of Medicine, in support of the Age Smart Employer Awards.
- **Lyft Support Letter** – On April 10, 2014, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to Chairwoman Meera Joshi of the Taxi and Limousine Commission in support of peer-to-peer ridesharing.
- **Brookfield Properties Support Letter** – On April 23, 2014, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent a letter to Councilmember Corey Johnson in support of Brookfield Properties' Manhattan West Development Project.
- **Atlantic Yards' draft supplemental environmental impact study (DSEIS) Testimony** – On April 30, 2014, a representative on behalf of ABNY submitted testimony to a public hearing of the Empire State Development Corporation to express ABNY's support of the Atlantic Yards' DSEIS.
- **Comcast & Time Warner Cable Merger Testimony** – On June 19, 2014, ABNY Deputy Director Jordan Isenstadt submitted testimony before the New York State Public Service Commission to express ABNY's support of the merger between Time Warner Cable and Comcast.
- **Reality Television Production in New York City Testimony** – On June 25, 2014, ABNY Program Director Eftihia Thomopoulos submitted testimony before the New York City Council to express ABNY's support of unscripted and reality TV production in New York City.
- **One Vanderbilt Project Testimony** – On July 16, 2014, ABNY Deputy Director Jordan Isenstadt submitted testimony before a New York City Planning Commission Public Scoping Session to express ABNY's support of the One Vanderbilt project proposed by SL Green.
- **Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Testimony** – On July 17, 2014, a representative on behalf of ABNY submitted testimony before the MTA Transportation

Reinvention Commission to express ABNY's support of current and future investments regarding public transportation.

- **One Vanderbilt Testimony** – On July 22, 2014, ABNY Deputy Director Jordan Isenstadt submitted testimony before the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission to express ABNY's support of the proposal to transfer development rights from 110 East 42nd Street to One Vanderbilt.
- **MTA Capital Budget Testimony** – On August 7, 2014, ABNY Deputy Director Jordan Isenstadt submitted testimony before the Assembly Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions to express ABNY's support for the MTA's Capital Program and transit priorities for Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.
- **South Street Seaport Testimony** – On November 10, 2014, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley submitted testimony at a South Street Seaport Public meeting to express ABNY's support of the Howard Hughes Corporation's plan for redeveloping the Seaport.
- **One Vanderbilt Project Testimony** – On November 17, 2014, ABNY Program Director Eftihia Thomopoulos submitted testimony before a multi-board task force to express ABNY's support of the One Vanderbilt project proposed by SL Green.
- **LinkNYC Support Letter** – On December 5, 2014, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley sent letters to members of the FCRC in support of LinkNYC and establishing public Wi-Fi hotspots citywide.
- **South Street Seaport Testimony** – On December 10, 2014, a representative on behalf of ABNY submitted testimony to the Community Board 1 Landmarks/Seaport Committee to express ABNY's support of the Howard Hughes Corporation's plan for redeveloping the Seaport.
- **Comcast & Time Warner Cable Merger Testimony** – On December 11, 2014, ABNY Executive Director Jennifer Hensley submitted testimony before the New York City Public Advocate and the Manhattan Borough President to express ABNY's support of the merger between Time Warner Cable and Comcast.

2014 Other Activities:

ABNY engaged in a host of other activities throughout the year as well. Here is an overview of what we've released and announced in 2014:

- **“Caution Ahead: Overdue Investments for New York’s Aging Infrastructure::** ABNY, along with the Center for an Urban Future and RBC Capital Markets, released this report in March 2014. The study examined the priorities and scope of the infrastructure challenges facing New York City, and found that billions of dollars are needed simply to repair, replace or maintain New York’s existing infrastructure. The report sparked the creation of Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Underground Infrastructure Working Group and prompted the City Council to convene a hearing focused on the city’s aging underground infrastructure.
- **“The New York City Tech Ecosystem”:** ABNY, along with HR&A Advisors, Citi, Google, and the New York Tech Meetup released this report in April 2014. The study took a closer look at the breadth and scope of jobs within New York’s tech ‘ecosystem’ and found that 44% of tech ecosystem jobs do not require a college degree. The report was released at an ABNY breakfast by Deputy Mayor for Housing & Economic Development Alicia Glen and influenced the development of Mayor de Blasio’s Tech Talent Pipeline.
- **Real Estate Roundtable:** In September 2014, the Real Estate Roundtable announced ABNY Chairman Bill Rudin as their new Chairman-Elect. Bill will succeed Robert S. Taubman (Taubman Centers, Inc.) as Roundtable Chairman in June 2015 for a three-year term.
- **ABNY Small Meetings Initiative:** ABNY hosted several small meetings this year, including a lunch with New York State Senate Majority Co-Leader Dean Skelos and an exclusive tour of One World Trade Center courtesy of ABNY member the Durst Organization.

ABNY Foundation & Spirit of ABNY:

The ABNY Foundation's eighth annual Spirit of ABNY Awards honored outstanding public officials, philanthropic organizations and advocates that have had meaningful impact in workforce development. Honorees included:

- **Maria Torres Springer**, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Small Business Services
- **Jukay Hsu**, Founder of the Coalition for Queens
- **STRIVE** New York
- **JP Morgan Chase**
- **Joanne Jaffe**, Bureau Chief, NYPD Community Affairs (recipient of the Lew Rudin Founder's Award)



Together we raised more than \$250,000. The proceeds were allocated to Jobs First NYC, the Coalition for Queens, Vaughn College of Aeronautics & Technology, and other organizations throughout New York City.

The ABNY Foundation is one of the most important tools we have to support the organizations and programs that are working to make New York a better place. We thank you for your ongoing support and dedication.