Dear ABNY Members and Friends,

Back in January 2020, there was no way of knowing what lay ahead. We started the year in a packed ballroom at the Ziegfeld Theatre, hosting Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. Just weeks later, we would be in the throes of an unprecedented pandemic and a series of health, economic, social, environmental, and political crises.

With all of the tragedy and suffering, 2020 was a year many of us would like to forget. But, there are things we must remember. Our City showed great resilience. We demonstrated to the world what being “New York Tough” really means.

We must remember the names of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. Their murders sparked a movement for justice and equality that is long overdue. As our City recovers, we must continue to acknowledge the systemic racism and inequity that affects Black communities and other communities of color and fight for a more equitable New York.

At ABNY, we will also remember how we built on our legacy to help our City. Last spring, we worked to keep our members informed with updates from our elected officials and State and City leadership. We quickly transitioned to Zoom, providing real-time information and resources for our member organizations and to the public, including virtual meetings, webinars, and events through our Young Professionals and ABNY Women. We joined together with government partners, civic associations, nonprofit groups, and businesses to build coalitions to help New York respond to and recover from the pandemic. And we provided opportunities to give back.

Our work toward a fair and accurate count in 2020 Decennial Census remained a key focus—more important than ever as New York navigated the impact of the pandemic on our communities. The team, with partners across the city and the state, provided online programming, adjusted tactics and strategies, and shifted areas of focus in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenging federal landscape. As a result, New York City’s response rate—despite so many challenges—reached nearly 62 percent, edging out other peer cities across the United States, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Detroit, Atlanta, Miami, Orlando, Houston, and Dallas.

This would not have been possible without your partnership—the people, businesses, and communities that make New York the greatest city in the world. Thank you. Our work has only just begun, but together, we will keep moving forward.

Yours for a Better New York,

Steven Rubenstein
Chairman

Melva M. Miller
Chief Executive Officer
In 2020, ABNY hosted 19 Power Events. ABNY members received regular updates by government and private sector leaders including important briefings from New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer, and United Federation of Teachers President Michael Mulgrew on a range of topics, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and economic crises. The Black Leadership in New York City Conversation Series and The X Factor: The Latinx Community and the Future of New York/Hispanic Heritage Month Event offered timely discussions around equity and justice in New York City as we seek an inclusive recovery.

01/06
Power Luncheon with Andrew M. Cuomo, New York State Governor
Governor Cuomo previewed the 2020 infrastructure and transportation agenda and unveiled the creation of the Empire Station Complex and improvements to the areas surrounding Penn Station in midtown Manhattan.

01/22
Power Breakfast with Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President
Borough President Adams spoke about his priorities for New York City and his vision for the future, covering topics from criminal justice to educational and economic opportunities for all communities.

03/11
Conference Call with Andrew M. Cuomo, New York State Governor
Governor Cuomo briefed the ABNY Steering Committee on New York State’s early response plan to the COVID-19 crisis.

03/27
Conference Call with Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senate Democratic Leader
Senator Schumer discussed the CARES Act and provided a description of how the funds would be allocated. While he highlighted the benefits due to New York live before the ABNY network, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the historic bill at the same time as the briefing.
04/08  
**Conference Call with Dermot Shea, Commissioner, New York City Police Department**

Commissioner Shea discussed policing issues in New York City, including the unprecedented challenges of personnel and resource allocation during the COVID-19 crisis, and how the NYPD continues to address crime and deliver public safety to New Yorkers.

04/16  
**Conference Call with Dr. Steven Corwin, Chief Executive Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian & Kenneth Raske, Chief Executive Officer, Greater New York Hospital Association**

Dr. Corwin and Mr. Raske provided an update on how New York was coping with COVID-19 from inside New York City hospitals and their plans and projections for what was to come.

04/28  
**Conference Call with Steven Cohen & Bill Mulrow, New York State Forward**

Mr. Cohen and Mr. Mulrow, former Secretaries to Governor Cuomo and NYS Forward appointees, discussed the task force's plans for revitalizing New York and strategies to restart the economy following the New York State on PAUSE Executive Order.

05/06  
**Conference Call with Pat Foye, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

Chairman Foye provided an update on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA's) response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges the agency faced in the spring of 2020, including eliminating overnight service to clean and sanitize the fleet of subway cars.

05/19  
**Conference Call with James Patchett, President, New York City Economic Development Corporation**

Mr. Patchett discussed the New York City Economic Development Corporation's (NYCEDC's) immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including helping New York City businesses pivot to manufacturing personal protective equipment (PPE), and the recovery ahead.
Following the murder of George Floyd, ABNY committed to convening virtual meetings with Black leaders across New York City to listen and to learn how to help drive positive change. The series aimed to provide the ABNY community with insights to help make all of New York more just, equitable, and inclusive.

07/28
New York City Public Advocate
Jumaane Williams
Moderated by ABNY Steering Committee Member
Larry Scott Blackmon, Fresh Direct
Public Advocate Williams gave insight on activism, public safety, and how New York City can take meaningful strides to affect real change.

08/11
Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation
Moderated by ABNY Census 2020 Organizing and Action Committee Member Jennifer Jones Austin, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Mr. Walker used a philanthropic lens to deliver an inspiring conversation on the racial injustices facing New York City and the ways that leaders in government, businesses, and foundation/nonprofits can begin to take steps to move forward.

08/24
George Gresham, President, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
Moderated by ABNY Member and ABNY Census 2020 Organizing and Action Committee Member Kyle Bragg, 32BJ SEIU
Mr. Gresham looked at social justice through a labor perspective and discussed the importance of fighting for the economic and civil rights of all workers.

08/19
Cheryl Wills, Emmy Award Winning Journalist, Author, Talk Show Host & Motivational Speaker
Moderated by ABNY Member Camille Joseph Goldman, Charter Communications
Ms. Wills drove a powerful conversation around racial equity, journalistic integrity, and how to hold the private sector accountable in dismantling systemic racism.

08/06
New York City Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives J. Phillip Thompson
Moderated by ABNY Board Member Julio Peterson, The Shubert Organization
Deputy Mayor Thompson provided a look at the historical context of racial inequality in New York City.

09/15
Hon. Letitia James, New York State Attorney General
Moderated by Melva M. Miller, Chief Executive Officer, ABNY
Attorney General James focused on police reform and gun control in an inspiring conversation that called upon the audience to continue to work towards equality for all New Yorkers.
08/31
Special Briefing on School Reopening with Michael Mulgrew, President, United Federation of Teachers

President Mulgrew discussed the union’s efforts and plans to ensure a safe return to school for students, educators, and school communities and participated in a moderated Q&A session with public school parent and ABNY Board Member, Jen Hensley, Senior Director of Public Policy, Lyft.

09/21
Special Briefing on AirTrain LaGuardia with Rick Cotton, Port Authority Executive Director

Rick Cotton, Executive Director, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, along with the AirTrain project team, detailed the plans for “AirTrain LaGuardia” envisioned to provide sustainable, reliable, predictable, and efficient travel between LaGuardia and midtown Manhattan for air travelers, the airport’s workforce, and nearby communities. The presentation was followed by a moderated Q&A session with ABNY Steering Committee Member, Patricia Ornst, Managing Director of New York State and Local Government Affairs, Delta Air Lines.

10/14
The X Factor: The Latinx Community and The Future of New York

ABNY celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by bringing together leaders to discuss key issues facing Hispanic-Latinx communities in New York City including education, affordable housing, health care, and criminal justice reform. Speakers included Vincent Alvarez, President, AFL-CIO New York City Central Labor Council; Marlene Cintron, President, Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation; Carmen De La Rosa, Candidate for NYC Council District 10; Dr. Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Chancellor, City University of New York (CUNY) and Ritchie Torres, then Candidate for U.S. Congressional District NY-15. The panel was introduced by ABNY Foundation Board member Tonio Burgos, Chief Executive Officer, Tonio Burgos & Associates and moderated by ABNY Member Aimee J. Vargas, Vice President, Communications & Community Affairs.
10/15
Special Briefing with Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senate Democratic Leader
Senator Schumer discussed the next COVID-19 stimulus package and the resiliency of New Yorkers during the challenges of the fall season.

11/20
Special Briefing with Top NYC Health Officials
James Patchett, President and Chief Executive Officer, NYCEDC, and top New York City health, Senior Advisor for Public Health, NYC Mayor’s Office, and Jackie Bray, Deputy Executive Director, NYC Test and Trace Corps, briefed ABNY members on the status of COVID-19 cases in New York City, reviewed the City’s public health response, and shared more on how all New Yorkers can help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

ABNY WOMEN
Throughout this challenging year, ABNY Women, led by Chair Samantha Rudin Earls, worked to uplift members through messages of support and inspiration. NYS Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul recorded an empowering and reassuring video that relayed the message of “rebuilding and reimagining” a New York that honors the strengths of the past, but also seeks to discover better and adaptive future for women—and for all New Yorkers.

08/13
Confidence through Conversation: Harriette Cole & Mikki Taylor
In conjunction with the ABNY series, Black Leadership in New York City: Conversations on Power, Politics, and Racial Justice, ABNY Women presented ideas and inspiration from two prominent Black female lifestyle influencers: Harriette Cole and Mikki Taylor. Harriette Cole, founder of Dreamleapers, an educational platform designed to help people access and activate their dreams, walked the audience through exercises to build confidence, to uplift ourselves and each other, and to tell our stories with passion and pizzazz. Ms. Cole was joined by Mikki Taylor, a leading authority on inner and outer beauty for women of color. Ms. Taylor brought insight from her several critically acclaimed books, including Editor in Chic: How to Style and Be Your Most Empowered Self and Commander in Chic: Every Woman’s Guide to Managing Her Style Like a First Lady, as well from her former role as Beauty and Cover Director at ESSENCE magazine.
Young Professionals Events

ABNY’s Young Professionals (YPs) held 37 events in 2020—many of them virtually. Highlights include hearing from MTA Inspector General Carolyn Pokorny, discussing mail-in voting with Rachel Bloom of Citizens Union, and learning how to prepare for personal financial recovery post COVID-19 with Adrienne Harris, University of Michigan; Norm Champ, formerly of the SEC and author of *Mastering Money*; and Ratesh Dhir, Earnin.

01/14  
**Policy Brief: Climate Change Litigation**
Michael Burger, Executive Director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School, discussed the history of climate change court cases and how the issue has been litigated, both in the U.S. generally, and in New York specifically. Following the presentation, Ellis Calvin, Data Research Manager with the Regional Plan Association and one of the organization’s lead planners on climate change adaptation, moderated a Q&A session with Professor Burger.

02/13  
**Boardroom Breakfast with Donna De Constanzo, Director, Eastern Region, Climate & Clean Energy Program of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**
Ms. De Constanzo discussed her career path and her policy work addressing climate pollution, energy efficiency, renewable energy deployment, and clean transportation.

02/27  
**What’s On Tap? with New York City Councilmember Rafael Salamanca, Jr.**
Councilmember Salamanca shared his path to office, experiences in government, and vision for New York City. He also discussed his experiences as Chair of the influential Land Use Committee.

03/05  
**YP Steering Committee Focus Group: Blue Ripple Politics**
Blue Ripple Politics founders Adam Conner-Sax and Frank David presented on key “down-ballot” races, which are races not seen at the top of the ballot and are often smaller, local races, in 2020 and beyond and how they use data to help focus analyses and advice. Following the presentation, Mr. Conner-Sax and Mr. David engaged in a focus group-type format to collect reactions and responses.
Ms. Bhatia addressed the most pressing questions from YPs about the Census, from explaining how the ongoing public health crisis would affect results, to which of your roommates should fill out the form, and everything in between.

Dr. Frida Polli, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, pymetrics, discussed how the platform leverages behavioral science and audited AI technology to help enterprise companies build diverse teams of top performers while reducing bias.

Adam Grossman Meagher, Vice President, Neighborhood Strategies, Planning Division, NYCEDC presented the Sunnyside Yard Master Plan, a new framework focused on building new public transit and affordable housing. The plan calls for the creation of the long-sought Sunnyside Station, 100 percent affordable housing with 12,000 homes, 60 acres of new open space, equitable homeownership opportunities, and infrastructure and other public amenities on a publicly controlled site.

 Inspector General Pokorny discussed her career path and her efforts to help the MTA improve its performance before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ana Champeny, Director of City Studies, Citizens Budget Commission, discussed the property tax system in New York City. Ms. Champeny illustrated how properties are assessed and taxed, what classes of property exist, and at what rate properties are taxed.

Sana Arshad, Program Manager, Cubic Transportation Systems, discussed the ins and outs One Metro New York (OMNY), the MTA’s new electronic fare payment system. Ms. Arshad also elaborated on the role of technology in NYC Transit and some of the impacts of the pandemic on the system.
06/10
Boardroom Breakfast with Jessica Lappin, President, Downtown Alliance
Ms. Lappin discussed her work as President at Downtown Alliance, how the organization addressed COVID-19’s impact on Lower Manhattan, and her vision for the district.

07/07
ABNY Talks: Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP)
Richard Barth and Susan Hinkson-Carling, Group Leaders for the Land Use, Housing, and Real Estate Practice Group at Capalino+Company, explained the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process, the land use actions that require approval through ULURP, and why the process is so drawn out.

07/21
Policy Brief: Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)
Yojaira Alvarez, Director of Outreach and Intergovernmental Affairs and Harya Tarekegn, Senior Counsel for Policy and Advocacy at the CCRB discussed the independent agency responsible for receiving, investigating, mediating, hearing, prosecuting, making findings, and recommending action on complaints against New York City police officers alleging the use of excessive or unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or the use of offensive language. They also addressed the history of the organization and its role as the largest civilian oversight agency in the country today.

08/10
Boardroom Breakfast with Nick E. Smith, First Deputy Public Advocate
First Deputy Public Advocate Smith discussed his path to government, his office's roles and responsibilities, and his vision for NYC. He outlined the role of the Public Advocate's Office which provides oversight for city agencies, investigates citizens' complaints about city services, and makes proposals to address perceived shortcomings or failures of those services.

08/25
What's On Tap? with NYC Department of Small Business Services Commissioner Jonnel Doris
Commissioner Doris discussed his path to office, experiences in government, and vision for New York City. He also gave insight into how small businesses are dealing with the effects of the pandemic.
ABNY University: How to Prepare for Personal Financial Recovery Post COVID-19
Adrienne A. Harris, Professor of the Practice and Gates Foundation Senior Research Fellow with the Center for Finance, Law, and Policy at the University of Michigan; Norm Champ, former Director of the Division of Investment Management at the SEC and Author of Mastering Money: How to Beat Debt, Build Wealth, and Be Prepared for Any Financial Crisis; and Ratesh Dhir, Head of Business Development and B2B at Earnin, a financial technology startup, discussed the economic impact of COVID-19 and what it means for the financial recovery of young professionals in New York City, including ways to better manage personal finances and prepare for the future.

What's On Tap? with New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson
Mayor Bramson discussed his decisive actions in response to New Rochelle becoming one of the nation’s first COVID-19 epicenters, lessons learned from leading the city through this unprecedented time, and his vision for New York State.

Boardroom Breakfast with Andrew Rigie, Executive Director, NYC Hospitality Alliance
Mr. Rigie discussed his career path, the impact of COVID-19, how his organization is supporting and advocating for restaurants and nightlife establishments, and the future of the hospitality industry in New York City.

Policy Brief: New York City Budget
After the November modification was released, Preston Niblack, Deputy Comptroller for Budget, Office of the New York City Comptroller, reviewed the fiscal year 2021 budget in detail and discussed the implications of current events and the City’s outlook for the future.

ABNY Volunteer Events
Throughout the year, ABNY supported organizations by soliciting volunteers for their efforts in making New York a better place to live, work, and visit. These opportunities allowed our network to connect with different communities across NYC and work with incredible nonprofits including community-based organizations working on Get Out the Count efforts for the 2020 Decennial Census, Braven, PENCIL, and WhyHunger.
ABNY Census 2020 for a Better New York hosted 78 informative events including 12 instructional webinars, 34 virtual events, and 30 outreach events. In addition, ABNY Census translated materials to 15 non-English languages, partnered with all five chambers of commerce to distribute Census messaging, and created PSAs with the New York Mets and New York Islanders.

In the midst of unprecedented challenges, including a global pandemic that up-ended plans to get New Yorkers counted in the 2020 Census, ABNY worked together, tirelessly, in support of a mission that is more important than ever for New York. ABNY worked with community-based organizations to help them tell their stories and reach New Yorkers in undercounted communities through a pro bono, pop-up PR agency. This work would not have been possible without our partners—the many people and organizations that used their networks and resources to spread the word about the importance of the 2020 Census to communities across the City.

With the vision and leadership of the ABNY Census 2020 Organizing and Action Committee, co-chaired by Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation, Carl Weisbrod, Senior Advisor at HR&A, and ABNY Chairman Steven Rubenstein, ABNY secured over 50 corporate partners, produced a Census Summit with more than 500 attendees and 14 organizing partner organizations, hosted dozens of Census events and webinars, gathered important data for Census outreach messaging through 20 Focus Groups in six different languages, and participated in the court case that successfully defeated the addition of a citizenship question.

In a final push to get New Yorkers counted, ABNY produced a socially distanced flash mob to remind New Yorkers that it was not too late to get counted. Held during NYC’s Census week of action, the event aimed to raise awareness about the end of the Census self-response period, get New Yorkers to fill out their Census forms at the event, and show that New York is still a vibrant, creative, and civically engaged City despite current challenges due to COVID-19.

As a result of these efforts, New York City’s response rate—despite so many challenges—reached nearly 62 percent, edging out other peer cities across the United States, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Detroit, Atlanta, Miami, Orlando, Houston, and Dallas.

For a comprehensive project recap, please visit our website at www.abnycensus2020.org.
On December 16, The ABNY Foundation hosted its annual Spirit of ABNY Awards to celebrate civic leaders and partners who are tireless advocates for the City of New York as well as those who worked to ensure a fair and accurate Census count despite unprecedented challenges: New York State Attorney General Letitia James; Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice; and Carl Weisbrod, Senior Advisor, HR&A Advisors.

The ABNY Foundation also recognized New Yorkers who fearlessly served the city during the peak and in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic: Dr. Steven J. Corwin, President and Chief Executive Officer of NewYork-Presbyterian and Michael Mulgrew, President of the United Federation of Teachers. Lastly, Robert Lehrman was awarded the ABNY Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to ABNY Inc. and The ABNY Foundation during his many years of service as Audit & Finance Committee Chair.

Importantly, during the virtual ceremony the ABNY network remembered with great pride and admiration the contributions of the late Mayor David N. Dinkins and his lasting legacy in New York City and among the ABNY community.

Prior to the livestream event, VIP reception attendees were privy to remarks from Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hocul, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Congressman Gregory Meeks, Congresswoman Grace Meng, and Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz.

Thank you to the Martina DaSilva Quartet, DJ Zeke, and our After Party sponsors: Doordash, Lyft, Starbucks, and Dear Irving. We are grateful to all the honorees, presenters, and esteemed guests who attended the VIP Reception, virtual awards ceremony, and After Party.
ABNY is proud to partner with civic organizations and community groups to support efforts across New York City that seek to improve the quality of life for all residents, workers, and visitors to the five boroughs. ABNY was a coalition member organization of the following groups and initiatives in 2020:

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<th>Coalitions</th>
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<td>NYC &amp; Co. and NYCEDC: All in NYC Campaign</td>
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<td>NYC DOT Better Buses Advisory Group</td>
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<td>New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC)</td>
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<td>New Yorkers for 5G</td>
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<td>New York University Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy Advisory Board</td>
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GCOM Software
General Contractors Association
The ABNY Team

Madeline McCormack, John Napisa, Sarah Samuels, Melva M. Miller, and Laura Colacurcio
For membership information or to get involved, please email us at info@abny.org.

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Madeline McCormack
Membership and Events Manager

John Napisa
Special Events Coordinator

About the Association for a Better New York (ABNY), Inc.

For nearly 50 years, ABNY has worked as a catalyst to bring business, political, labor, and nonprofit leaders together to address problems facing the economic and social well-being of the city. The organization continues to carry out its mission by providing forums and programs that work to build a better New York.

About The ABNY Foundation

The ABNY Foundation was created to provide funds for social, educational, and civic initiatives that enhance the quality of life in the five boroughs of New York City. It is a tax-exempt non-profit corporation established in 1987.

In fond memory of founding ABNY member and forever champion of New York City, Howard J. Rubenstein (1932–2020).