



**Architecture for
Humanity New York** is
the local NYC affiliate of
Architecture for Humanity.

Center for Architecture
536 LaGuardia Place
New York, NY 10012

www.afhny.org

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From the Managing Director

Architecture for Humanity is founded on the premise that thoughtful, sustainable design matters, especially when resources are scarce. Since the founding of our chapter in 2003, Architecture for Humanity New York has worked with non-profit organizations and City agencies that strengthen communities and provide basic services like food, shelter, and medical care to those who would not otherwise have them.

As the current recession deepens, the work of our clients is more critical than ever, and yet these are the types of organizations that will have to scale back their programs as funding is cut. As an all-volunteer network of design professionals, we at AFHny use our design work as advocacy for the missions of our partner organizations, and to call attention to places and problems in New York City where design can make a difference.

While there is much uncertainty ahead, there is heartening news, especially for New York City. The President-Elect has signaled his intention to establish a new White House Office of Urban Policy, to be chaired by Adolfo Carrion Jr., the current Bronx Borough President (and who we thank for his part in funding assistance for a green roof at The Point - see page 7).

When we succeed in New York City at the community level, we are creating a precedent that is useful to designers and community organizers across the country, and more importantly, we are making the case that thoughtful design is an integral part of community transformation.

As we begin 2009, I would like to thank all of our volunteers, whose ambition, skill, and energy account for the success of all of AFHny's projects. Especially at this moment, when so many designers are working doubly hard or scrambling to find new jobs, we are grateful to have so many people investing their time and talent to create space for the public good.

Happy New Year to all,

Cynthia Barton

AFHny Year In Review

2008 was a year of important changes and accomplishments for AFHny:

We expanded our leadership structure from three to nine directors, to help manage the key elements of our work. This new governance structure is flexible, and will help keep our projects running smoothly, ensure that we continue to offer exciting opportunities to our volunteers, and deliver excellent work to our clients and partner organizations.

The BCI team renovated a medical clinic in Morningside Heights for Care for the Homeless (see page 9). For their work, these AFHny volunteers were honored by NY1 as New Yorkers of the Week.

One of our longest-running partnerships is with The Point Community Development Corporation in the South Bronx, in support of their after-school arts and education programs. Earlier this year a substantial millwork project was completed, providing much-needed storage. Volunteers are currently working to create a green roof and outdoor teaching deck (see page 7).

Our work at Highbridge Park has helped allocate 60 million dollars in funding to the restoration of the park, which will contribute to greenways in the South Bronx and Manhattan. And we have been awarded a High Bridge Catalyst Project mini grant from Partnerships for Parks, which we will use for a design workshop to encourage community investment in transforming the park (see page 8).

The *"What if New York City..."* competition, hosted by New York City's Office of Emergency Management and by the Rockefeller Foundation, addressed post-disaster provisional housing for New York City in the wake of a Category 3 hurricane. The top ten entries make a useful a catalog of approaches for emergency management across the country, and one of the designs may soon be prototyped for New York City.

Large competitions require a large investment of time and resources, and as these are not often in large supply, we have started a model for month-long competitions that can be used to address issues in the City. Our first of these was an ideas competition for a new marketplace for the food vendors in Red Hook Park, Brooklyn. Thirty-one entries were received, and the five selected projects and four honorable mentions are being used to further develop ideas for how the Red Hook Food Vendors can restore the spirit of their old marketplace in the park while meeting new City requirements (see page 5).



A Look Ahead

2009 promises to be a year of great opportunities for AFHny:

With the assistance of lawyers from Sidley Austin (who are offering their services pro bono), we are working to incorporate and secure tax-exempt status for Architecture for Humanity New York as a non-profit organization. This process will likely take between 6 and 9 months and will include finalizing an affiliate agreement between AFHny and Architecture for Humanity.

We aim to become more widely known as a bridge between design firms and pro bono opportunities, and we are building a database of projects and firms that will help link the two. A major step is our recent alliance with the Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, which will refer projects to us. And we will continue to build relationships with City agencies, including the Parks Department, Department of Education, and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

For several years, we've had hundreds of potential volunteers on our mailing list, while only a small percentage have been actively working on projects. One of our main goals for the new year is to create more opportunities that suit both the schedules and the interests of our volunteers.

As part of this effort, starting in January the first Tuesday of every month will be a *Working Meeting* at the Center for Architecture, where volunteers can learn about and work on specific AFHny projects. The third Thursday of each month will be a *Happy Hour* event, typically held at a design showroom, where we present recent news.

We also aim to have more short-term projects and events for our volunteers. In September we had fun with Park(ing) Day NYC (see page 6), and we will continue this effort with the upcoming FLYny event on April 18th (see page 10).

Recent Events

Holiday Party

December 11, 2008

Over 150 people attended our 2008 Holiday Party, which celebrated the entries and finalists for the Red Hook Park Food Vendors competition. Thanks to Environment Furniture for hosting, Veev for providing drinks, and the Red Hook Food Vendors for catering.



Meetups

Thanks to everyone who attended our recent Meetups:

November 6, 2008

Our November Meetup, held at the Peculier Pub in the West Village, was also the deadline for the Red Hook Park Food Vendors competition.

October 7, 2008

October's Meetup served as the kick-off for the Red Hook Park Food Vendors competition. Held at the Chesterfield Furniture showroom in Chelsea, this event also provided an introduction to FlyNY, an upcoming event and AFHny fundraiser.

August 28, 2008

We had great turnout for the Late-August Meetup at the Farrow and Ball showroom, where we announced the selection of new Directors, and previewed Fall projects and volunteer opportunities.

Open House New York

October 4 & 5, 2008

AFHny volunteers helped with this year's Open House New York, serving as aides at activity tables and informational booths at the Center for Architecture.

Park(ing) Day 2008

September 19, 2008

On September 19th, AFHny participated in Park(ing) Day NYC 2008, a city-wide event sponsored by Transportation Alternatives. Over 50 parking spaces around New York were transformed into small, temporary parks, to raise awareness of how we choose to use our public space.

AHFny was responsible for designing, building & maintaining a park on Madison Avenue between 73rd & 74th Streets. Our team utilized palettes, milk crates and sod to create our park, and throughout the day passers-by were encouraged to stop and relax. Materials for sketching were provided, and visitors asked to leave their sketches for display. During the 10 hours our park was operated, we were visited by hundreds of New Yorkers and over 50 sketches were collected.



Competition Update

Red Hook Park Food Vendors

Client:
**Red Hook
Food Vendors**

AFHny is currently working with the Red Hook Food Vendors to generate innovative ideas for a new marketplace that will address the City's concerns for clean and sanitary vending spaces, and still be a great public space for the vendors and their patrons.

Location:
Red Hook, Brooklyn

A short ideas competition was held in October, giving entrants one month to propose new concepts for the Food Vendors' marketplace at Red Hook Park in Brooklyn. The competition brief asked designers to propose spaces that would allow the vendors to cook and serve food according to health department regulations, and also restore the spirit of the marketplace.

Coordinators:
**Andrew Burdick
Matt Charney**

Our goal for the competition was to select a team of design professionals to begin volunteering in collaboration with the Red Hook Vendors and the Department of Parks and Recreation to study a number of design options for the Vendors' site in Red Hook Park, and to put images of the site's possibilities into the public discourse. Designers entered this competition not to win prize money, but rather with the hope of volunteering their expertise and ideas to a public project here in New York City.

There were two juries - the first consisted of design professionals, a food writer and blogger, the Executive Director of the Food Vendors Committee of Red Hook Park, and a representative of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. The second jury consisted of members of the Red Hook Park Vendors.

Designers from each of the five "Selected Entries" listed below will be part of a team that will begin collaborating with AFHny, the Red Hook Vendors, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation at the beginning of 2009.

Selected Entry 1 – "Food Fence" (Mateo Pinto & Carolina Cisneros)

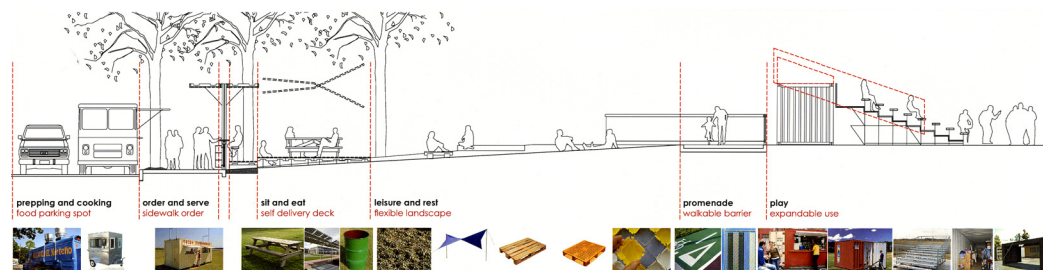
Selected Entry 2 – "Bleachers" (Miki Onodera)

Selected Entry 3 – "Food Coloring" (Asaf Yogev and Craig Tooman AIA, LEED-AP)

Selected Entry 4 – "Double Sided" (Emilie Graham)

Selected Entry 5 – "New Vendor Kiosk" (Jackie Luk)

For more information and to view a gallery of all entries, visit <http://afhny.org>



La Esperanza

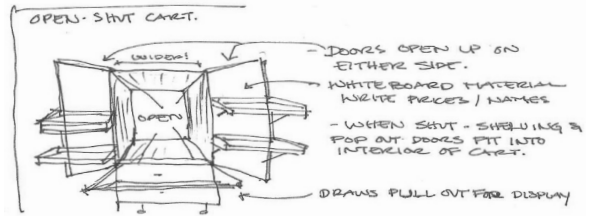
Client:
La Esperanza

Location:
Washington Heights

Centro Social La Esperanza is a not-for-profit organization that has been serving the Washington Heights community for over 55 years. Established in 1952 as an “indoor plaza” for the neighborhood’s rapidly growing Hispanic community, La Esperanza provides basic literacy and adult education classes, as well as services for children with low educational performance.

Project Coordinator:
Julia Hustwit

An initial group meeting and a client meeting were both held in September, with the team dividing into two groups, one to work on the green kiosks, and the other to look at strategies for renovating the organization’s facility. The teams



Green Indoor Plaza Coordinators:
Elaine Juzwick
Marshall Shuster

have begun documenting existing conditions and developing conceptual designs. The Renovation team will work on a marketing package to use for fundraising, and the Green Indoor Plaza team will work towards a set of documents to solicit bids for the plaza project.

Renovation Coordinators:
Josh Heideman
Alex Hoffman

119th Street Gatehouse

Coordinator:
Matt Charney

AFHny is currently in the very early stages of collaboration for the adaptive re-use of the Croton Aqueduct Gatehouse located on Amsterdam Ave. at 119th Street in Manhattan. Several volunteers are currently needed studying the issues of ADA accessibility for the building and site, in preparation for a potentially larger project.

Parsons Class

Coordinator:
Jabari Garland

Design students often come to AFHny with requests for projects and curricula, and we want to encourage their enthusiasm for socially engaged design. We are partnering with Parsons The New School for Design to create an introductory studio that uses Highbridge Park as a project site.



Ongoing Projects

The Point

Client:
The Point CDC

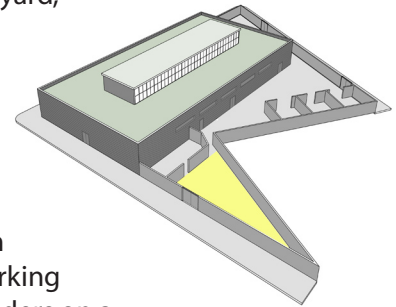
Location:
**Hunts Point,
The South Bronx**

Coordinators:
**Matt Charney
Andrew Hopkins**

AFHny Project Since:
Fall 2004

The AFHny Point team is currently working to create a green roof for The Point's main building, and to revitalize the facility's rear courtyard to create a sustainable teaching garden.

The team recently held a work day at The Point and removed a large amount of debris and refuse from the rear courtyard. A design charrette was held in July to generate ideas for the rear courtyard, including a rainwater catchment system, a hanging planting system, and moss graffiti graphics. Another charrette is planned for early 2009, to work on concepts for the learning garden, teaching deck, and a new entry gate design.



The Point's request for capital funding for the green roof has been approved, and the AFHny team is working with engineers from Arup and Emerging Green Builders on a structural and systems analysis, and with NY GreenRoofs to determine green roof systems options.

Isaac Newton Jr. High School and the Manhattan Center for Science and Math

Location:
East Harlem

Coordinators:
**Jeff Geisinger
Gail Ressler**

AFHny Project Since:
2007

The interior design firm Yabu Pushelberg, with assistance from AFHny, is working on a project to renovate a cafeteria shared by two East Harlem public schools.

Pro-bono estimating services were recently provided by John Alber, Dave Miller, and Andrew Canarte, and will be used to assist in fundraising and coordination with the School Construction Authority.

The project team is currently completing design documents, with construction targeted to take place during summer vacation 2009.

Ongoing Projects (continued)

Highbridge

Client:
**Partnerships
for Parks**

Location:
**Upper Manhattan
& The Bronx**

Coordinator:
Emily Sprague

AFHny Project Since:
2006

Working with Partnerships for Parks, the Highbridge Coalition, and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, AFHny is helping draft a vision for Highbridge and the adjacent parks in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx.

AFHny recently received a High Bridge Catalyst Project grant from Partnerships for Parks, which will be used to organize a community design charrette for the two bridge gatehouses. The event, tentatively scheduled for early January 2009, is intended to generate ideas from the community for the adaptive-reuse of these historic stone buildings, and to encourage community investment in transforming the park.



Biloxi

Location:
Biloxi, MS

Coordinator:
Valeria Bianco

AFHny Project Since:
2006

After Hurricane Katrina, AFHny organized a team of volunteers to travel to Biloxi, Mississippi to do construction work with the non-profit Hands On (an AFH collaborator), and also to assist with AFH's Biloxi Model Home fair.

Funds have been raised for a second trip, thanks in part to the ABC Home and Planet Foundation, and Valeria Bianco has recently taken the leadership role for this team. Valeria and AFHny volunteers are to begin identifying a specific project in Biloxi, and setting target dates for travel to Biloxi.



Completed Projects

Broadway Community Inc.

Client:
Care for the Homeless

Location:
Morningside Heights

Coordinators
**Deborah Buelow
Shelby Doyle
Pollyanna Rhee**

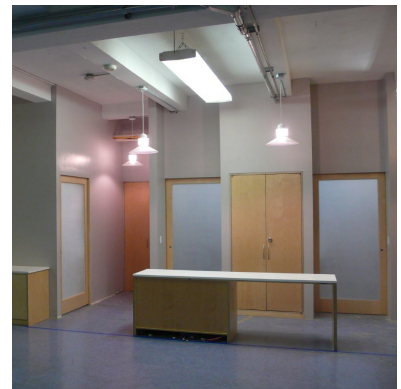
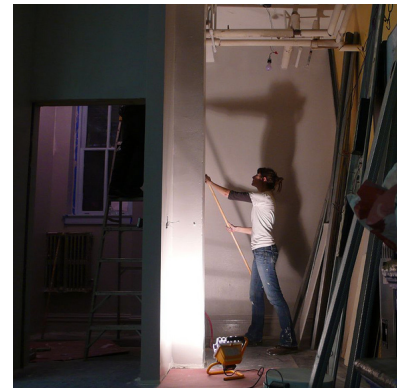
AFHny Project Since:
2006

Started as a soup kitchen in 1981, Broadway Community Inc. (BCI) provides multiple homeless outreach services from the basement of Broadway Presbyterian Church in Morningside Heights. AFHny volunteers recently completed the renovation of the medical services space within the BCI facility, which is operated by Care for the Homeless.

Care for the Homeless received a small grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the renovation, and the AFHny team worked to maximize the limited budget. The team provided a design for the renovation, and paired with a local contractor G.O. Construction Corporation to complete the project's construction. Through creative thinking and the generous donation of time, services and materials, the renovation came in on time and on budget.

The project was too small to consider LEED certification, but AFHny worked to create a design process which fostered new relationships between the nonprofit clients and the local building community. Each team member brought an expertise to the process which made the project possible. It is this collaboration which best embodies the spirit of sustainability Architecture for Humanity pursues in providing architectural solutions to communities in need. The resulting renovation supports the belief that when resources are scarce, innovative, sustainable and collaborative design can make a difference.

The renovation was made possible by the donation of time, services and material by people and organizations including, but not limited to: 3-Form (Ecoresin Doors), Hafele (Door + Cabinet Hardware), Bettencourt Green Building Supplies (AFM Safecoat Paint + Bonded Logic Denim Insulation), Evans+Paul (Corian, Fabrication), Elkay (Sink + Faucet), Gateway (Plumbing Services), The Door Stop (Door Frames) and Aura Lighting (Lighting).





Upcoming Meetings & Events

Working Meetings

Working Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 - 8:00pm at the Center for Architecture (536 LaGuardia Place, between Bleecker and West 3rd Streets). Each working meeting will focus on a specific AFHny project.

- **January 6th** Tentatively Scheduled: FlyNY
- **February 3rd** Tentatively Scheduled: Mobile
- **March 3rd** Agenda TBD

Happy Hours

New for 2009, AFHny Happy Hour events will be held the third Thursday of each month at locations around the city. Join us for drinks, conversation, and presentations.

Happy Hour events are currently scheduled for **January 15th, February 19,** and **March 19th**. Locations and details are still in the works, check our website for updates.

FlyNY

Scheduled for April 2009, FlyNY is a kite design competition and flying event for adults and children, with proceeds to benefit AFHny. For more information, visit <http://flyny.org>

Volunteer Opportunities

- The La Esperanza project team is currently looking for volunteers, especially MEP engineers. Please email Julie Brooke Hustwit (j.hustwit@gmail.com) for more information.
- Four volunteers are needed for the Highbridge Gatehouse project, to finish a physical model, and to organize and run the half-day public charrette. Please email Andrew Burdick (aburdick@afhny.org) for more information.
- Volunteers are needed for the FlyNY event in April. Contact Matt Charney (mcharney@afhny.org) for more information.