Mission

Founded in 1991, the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 city-wide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA empowers its member organizations to advocate for improved environmental conditions and against inequitable environmental burdens by the coordination of campaigns designed to inform City and State policies. Through our efforts, member organizations coalesce around specific common issues that threaten the ability for low-income communities of color to thrive. NYC-EJA is led by the community-based organizations that it serves, with its board elected by its member groups, who set policy and guide program development. What distinguishes NYC-EJA is our ability to:

• Create, nurture, and organize a collective voice to mobilize citywide support to resolve environmental justice issues.
• Highlight key environmental justice issues and policies that arise in multiple
• Involve people of color and other stakeholders directly affected by environmental justice issues in leadership roles to resolve them.

NYC-EJA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

• NYC-EJA is a non-profit city-wide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA members include community-based organizations located across New York City.

Partner Organizations

NYC-EJA and our members often work closely with a range of partners committed to advancing environmental and social justice. Some key partners include:

ALIGN: The Alliance for Greater New York

BlueGreen Alliance

Climate Justice Alliance

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives /Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance

Good Jobs New York

Grassroots Research to Action in Sunset Park (GRASP)

Move NY

New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
New Partners for Community Revitalization

NYC Central Labor Council

SEIU Local 32BJ

SEIU Local 1199

Southwest Workers Union

Teamsters Joint Council 16

Teamsters Local 813

Transform Don't Trash NYC

350.org
El Puente is a community human rights institution that promotes leadership for peace and justice through the engagement of members (youth and adult) in the arts, education, scientific research, wellness and environmental action. Founded in 1982 by Luis Garden Acosta, El Puente currently integrates the diverse activities and community campaigns of its Center for Arts and Culture and its Green Light District & Community Wellness Program within its four neighborhood Leadership Centers, and its nationally recognized public high school, the El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice. Organizing in North Brooklyn and beyond, El Puente remains at the forefront of community/youth learning and development issues and as such, initiates and impacts social policy both locally and nationally.
The Sanitation Coalition is a member of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) an organization raising awareness about the impact of climate change on waterfront communities, which is also committed to enacting an effective recycling and waste management program that does not negatively impact any of our Environmental Justice Communities.

Almost 20 years ago groups from two complexes; Grant Houses with 1,940 units and Morningside Gardens with almost 1,000 apartments, formed the coalition in order to work on quality of life issues in our neighborhood together along with various neighborhood groups and block associations.

We decided correctly that “in unity there was strength.” Since that time we have been a force in the community.

A few of our accomplishments are: working to make the elevated section of the #1 train more attractive and less noisy, getting empty lots cleaned up, working across property lines to reduce rat infestations. Most importantly, we have given hands on recycling workshops all over the district. The most Herculean pilot project that we undertook was bringing recycling to Grant Houses, the only public housing development now that recycles above the city average.
Mission

THE POINT Community Development Corporation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. We work with our neighbors to celebrate the life and art of our community, an area traditionally defined solely in terms of its poverty, crime rate, poor schools and substandard housing. We believe the area’s residents, their talents and aspirations, are THE POINT’s greatest assets.

THE POINT offers a multi-faceted approach to asset-based community development. It’s programming falls within three main headings - Youth Development, Arts and Culture and Community Development - all aimed at the comprehensive revitalization of Hunts Point.

Community

THE POINT's programs serve the Hunts Point community on the peninsula of the South Bronx of New York City. Hunts Point is a low-income a community of color. The 2010 Census states: Two-thirds (66.5%) of its residents are Hispanic or Latino and more than one-quarter (28%) is Black or African-American. According to The Citizen's Committee for Children of New York, Inc., in 2011, 40.6% of Hunts Point's total population lived below the Federal Poverty Level. A 2012 Measure of America report indicated that the South Bronx has the highest percentage in New York City (35.6%) of youth who lack a connection to work or school.
Sustainable South Bronx (SSBx) works to address economic and environmental issues in the South Bronx – and throughout New York City – through a combination of green job training, community greening programs, and social enterprise.

Founded in 2001, Sustainable South Bronx (SSBx) began out of a desire to advocate for parks and green development in the South Bronx and to promote environmental justice in a neighborhood that has borne, and continues to bear, a heavy environmental burden for the rest of the city. Every weekday, 15,000 trucks pass through the neighborhood – and produce toxic air pollution – on their way to and from the Hunts Point Market, one of the world’s largest food distribution centers. Facilities in the South Bronx also handle 100% of the waste produced in the Bronx and 23% of all of the city’s commercial waste. Emissions from four power plants additionally contribute to the local air pollution. SSBx’s earliest efforts played a major role in the development of the South Bronx Greenway, which has significantly increased the recreational space, expanded the waterfront access, and improved transportation safety in the South Bronx. We remain very engaged in the development and stewardship of the Greenway.

SSBx’s work has evolved over the past decade and now reflects the belief that the environmental challenges facing the South Bronx cannot be separated from the neighborhood’s economic and social concerns. Over the past 10 years, SSBx has broadened its focus by linking environmental restoration to the economic needs of low-
income New Yorkers who are seeking a fresh start. Today, the mission of SSBx is to address economic and environmental issues in the South Bronx – and throughout New York City – through a combination of green job training, community greening programs, and social enterprise.

We currently have five programs dedicated to improving the environment and the economic prospects of South Bronx residents:

- **BEST Academy.** Our award-winning green job-training program has graduated more than 400 New Yorkers since 2003.

- **SmartRoofs.** Our social enterprise simultaneously improves the city’s environment and creates opportunities for BEST Academy graduates.

- **Bronx Energy Efficiency.** This program is dedicated to promoting energy audits and retrofits throughout the borough.

- **Policy and Planning.** This program includes our work on the South Bronx Greenway as well as our collaborations with other environmental justice organizations.

- **Education.** In addition to working with South Bronx students on a variety of projects, we will soon launch our new AirCasting program.
Nos Quedamos is a coalition of residents and businesspersons who have remained part of the Melrose Commons community and become equal partners with the City of New York in the area’s redevelopment. It is our intention to guide the process of change, progress, and implementation of the housing and urban development goals we defined in the Melrose Commons Urban Renewal Plan. Nos Quedamos views the urban renewal process as not only encompassing physical regeneration, but also addressing socio-economic and environmental conditions in the area. Our goal is to develop an economically productive, sustainable, and healthy community. This vision is one that respects, supports and involves the existing community in the formulation of plans and policies that address the issues of housing, open space, community renewal and its sustainability. This is vital for the continued growth of Melrose Commons, the Bronx and its role in the regional economy, which fosters cohesion, growth, and responsibility. We believe that current members of the community must be afforded the opportunity not only to remain in the neighborhood as it undergoes renewal, but also to play an active and integral role in determining the very process of development.
Who We Are

Incorporated in 1966, UPROSE is Brooklyn’s oldest Latino community based organization. Today, UPROSE is an intergenerational, multi-racial, nationally-recognized community organization that promotes the sustainability and resiliency of the Sunset Park community in Brooklyn through community organizing, education, leadership development and cultural/artistic expression. UPROSE’s work encompasses a variety of environmental justice and public health initiatives, from the development of the waterfront and local brownfields, to transportation, open space and air quality needs, to educational and youth empowerment campaigns.

UPROSE has achieved multiple groundbreaking accomplishments in community-based planning and development. In the wake of Superstorm Sandy in fall 2012, it has intensified its focus on the adaptation of Sunset Park to the changing climate and to deepening its community resiliency.

UPROSE goals are to:

• Foster and strengthen intergenerational and indigenous leadership
• Empower young people to set their own agendas and organize

• Facilitate community-inclusive practices & policies in environmental and land use decisions

• Address environmental neglect and mitigate environmental harms

• Enhance environmental amenities (e.g. open space)

• Advocate and bolster sustainable and just development

• Address and mitigate social inequities

• Promote and preserve the diverse cultures and traditions of Sunset Park residents

• Increase government accountability and transparency
Guided by a prophetic faith, YMPJ's purpose is to transform both the people and the physical infrastructure of blighted South Bronx neighborhoods and change the systems that negatively impact them. Founded in 1994, the mission of Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice (YMPJ) is to rebuild the neighborhoods of Bronx River and Soundview/Bruckner in the South Bronx by preparing young people to become prophetic voices for peace and justice. We accomplish this through political education, spiritual formation, and youth and community development and organizing.

Alexie Torres-Fleming founded Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice as a result of witnessing the destruction of the South Bronx as a child in the sixties and seventies. After moving "up and out" of the neighborhood and realizing professional success outside of the community, Alexie felt called to return home in the fall of 1992.
While volunteering at her parish's community action group, she helped lead an anti-drug prayer march in front of well-known crack houses in the neighborhood. Two days later, drug dealers retaliated by breaking into the church, committing vandalism, smashing statues and setting several fires. Determined not to let the drug dealers win, a second rally mobilized 1,200 people and resulted in national press attention and the ultimate closing and rehabbing of those crack houses. Soon thereafter Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ) was founded as the first and only youth center in a neighborhood of more than 15,000 youth, 50% of who live below the poverty level.

Our vision is the positive transformation of these impoverished neighborhoods, which we work to attain through our mission to re-imagine and rebuild the Bronx River and Soundview/Bruckner neighborhoods by preparing young people to become prophetic voices for peace and justice. We accomplish this mission of inspiring youth through a unique model of political education, spiritual formation, and youth and community development and organizing. As YMPJ values and prioritizes youth and adult voices and leadership in the process of community revitalization, our initiatives involve residents in the planning process in order to ensure that YMPJ's vision for the community coincides with that of its residents.