FROM HARLEM, WITH LOVE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

2022 was a year that showed the resilience of New Yorkers.

At CitizensNYC, we witnessed community leaders, grassroots groups, neighborhood businesses, local officials, donors, and volunteers coming together to revitalize their communities. NYC is a beautiful mosaic, and it takes every one of us – from the organizers in the streets to the leaders at City Hall to our dedicated supporters – to make it the city we want it to become.

It was not an easy year for many people in the city. Families and communities had to deal with rising costs on food and housing, missed learning opportunities for youth, a year-end surge in illnesses, and other challenges. But it was the power of us joining forces and taking action that helped us to overcome these hurdles – block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood.

In this year’s Impact Report, you’ll learn about the inspiring work of our grantee partners and how they brought positive change and renewal to their communities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your partnership has made an incredible difference citywide, and we’re grateful to have you as a member of the CitizensNYC community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rahsaan K. Harris
Chief Executive Officer
Citizens Committee for New York City
# 2022 Impact

**Meet Our Community Leaders**

## $1M+ in Grants

| WHAT ISSUES ARE THEY ADDRESSING? | 20% Arts & Culture  
20% Education & Youth  
21% Environment  
27% Health/Food Security  
12% Public Safety/Economic Security |
| --- | --- |
| WHERE ARE THEY MAKING A DIFFERENCE? | 21% Bronx  
32% Brooklyn  
23% Manhattan  
19% Queens  
5% Staten Island |
| WHO LEADS THESE INITIATIVES? | 15,000 applicants from across NYC  
72% identify as people of color  
71% identify as women or non-binary |
| HOW DID THEY IMPROVE NYC? | 328 unique and innovative projects across 119 NYC neighborhoods  
100,000+ New Yorkers reached by grantee partner initiatives and CitizensNYC: LIVE communications |
CitizensNYC Snapshot

At CitizensNYC, our mission is to bring New Yorkers together and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. We drive community leadership and civic engagement across NYC through a holistic model of support that includes:

Leadership Development: Investing in our city’s greatest asset — its people — by providing platforms to make invisible leaders visible. We provide early stage support for grassroots community leaders, where most funders are unable to access, and play a critical role in helping them access new networks and resources.

Network Convening: Bringing together community leaders with each other and key decision makers such as elected officials, business leaders, and philanthropists.

Micro-grantmaking: Awarding micro-grants to community projects and neighborhood businesses, including making more than $1M grants to support over 300 projects across all five boroughs in 2022. We support projects addressing areas such as arts and culture, education, youth engagement, the environment, health, food security, public safety, and economic security.

"Community has always been a verb, an opportunity to create a safe, creative, joyful space, where individuals, especially young people, feel they have a voice and that voice matters."

CitizensNYC grantee partner Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario, Art and Resistance Through Education (ARTE)

We believe that working with citizens directly is the most effective way to create a meaningful and lasting impact in our communities. Together, we can make a real difference in reshaping the future of New York City.
PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: RIVER & RUSTY FIELDS

From leading their block association to creating a tech incubator in Bed-Stuy, the Fields brothers excel at building communities.

River and Rusty Fields exemplify the way that the three elements of our approach accelerate the change that community leaders can create in their neighborhoods.

Leadership Development: River and Rusty first received CitizensNYC support in 2017 as teenage presidents of their block association in Bedford Stuyvesant. Today, they lead RHouse, a tech incubator in Bed-Stuy for Black engineers, founders, creators, and allies who are launching ambitious startups. CitizensNYC has supported their path from community volunteers to social entrepreneurs through leadership training, mentorship, and connections to internship opportunities.

Network Convening: Communities thrive on connection, and the grantee partners we support excel at bringing people together. As River and Rusty opened the doors of RHouse to emerging tech leaders and community members from Bed-Stuy, CitizensNYC provided them with connections to business leaders and investors, who participated in their startup-pitch competitions, and secured additional support from our partners at the Wells Fargo Foundation.

Micro-grantmaking: CitizensNYC grants have long supported River and Rusty’s leadership in the community for projects such as neighborhood beautification and urban agriculture to address food insecurity. In 2022, we were proud to award them with a CitizensNYC Neighborhood Business Grant as they launched RHouse.
CITIZENSNYC IN THE NEWS

CitizensNYC’s work aims to reach every corner of New York City, which is exemplified by the coverage we receive in the local media. When we have the opportunity to be featured in the news, we are thrilled to spotlight our grantee partners and the impact they’re making in each of their boroughs.

Click logo for corresponding news piece:
As a community-based designer and curator, Yin Kong has focused her career on leading urban revitalization projects that celebrate the beauty and history of a neighborhood, while using the arts and innovation to move it forward.

CitizensNYC awarded Yin her first Community Leaders Grant in 2017, which supported the development of a neighborhood art project in Manhattan’s Chinatown, where she works and lives. The art project centered on creating a more authentic representation of the Chinatown neighborhood and presenting opportunities for visitors from all around the world to learn and engage with its vibrant community.

This small neighborhood art project was a spark that showed Yin how many community members were ready to take action to make the Chinatown neighborhood even stronger. She was inspired by the wave of interest from people who wanted to volunteer and improve the quality of life in their community.

CitizensNYC acted as the bridge between Yin, a trusted community leader, and the people and resources who could take her efforts to the next level, including the Nonprofit Finance Fund. Their expertise in financial management helped her grow as a leader and think about how she could expand a nonprofit organization starting with a single staff member.

From that first neighborhood art project, Yin has built **Think!Chinatown**, an intergenerational non-profit based in Manhattan’s Chinatown, whose projects sit at the cross-section of civic and neighborhood engagement, storytelling, and the arts. We are proud to support Think!Chinatown’s mission – to listen, respond to and build Chinatown’s capacities as a strong immigrant neighborhood of NYC – which truly embodies the spirit of CitizensNYC.
THANK YOU TO CITIZENSNYC SUPPORTERS

CitizensNYC's work would not be possible without the support of our donor community, elected officials, nonprofit and corporate partners, and all New Yorkers invested in lifting up grassroots leaders who are dedicated to transforming their communities for the better.

We’re proud to be the connector that ensures community leaders are supported in their unique and innovative projects and New Yorkers who want to make a difference have the avenue to do so.

CitizensNYC is particularly grateful for the generous leadership support of our Board of Directors, the Wells Fargo Foundation, Trinity Church Wall Street Philanthropies, A&E Real Estate, Bessemer Trust Company, the Booth Ferris Foundation, Citi, Magnitude Capital, the MetLife Foundation, the Mollie Parnis Livingston Foundation, the National Grid Foundation, the Pinkerton Foundation, Siegel Family Endowment, the Staten Island Foundation, and TD Bank.

JOIN US & GET INVOLVED!

SUPPORT

Donate to support CitizensNYC grantee partners and community leaders across NYC, including as part of our annual New Yorkers for New York Campaign

VOLUNTEER

Sign up to stay updated about CitizensNYC volunteer days, including during our annual All in For New York City Week

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www.citizensnyc.org