



## **Minutes of the Regular Community Advisory Group**

October 08, 2024  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM EDT  
33 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10045

### **Present:**

Aisha Benson, President and CEO, Nonprofit Finance Fund  
Cali Brooks, President and CEO, Adirondack Foundation  
Brian Byrd, BiByrd LLC.  
Michael Decker, President and CEO, Eden Autism Services  
Robin Leichenko, Co-Director, Rutgers Climate Institute  
Mike Soto-Class, President, Center for a New Economy  
Mendi Blue Paca, Fairfield County's Community Foundation  
Michelle de la Uz, Fifth Avenue Committee

### **Federal Reserve Bank of New York "FRBNY" Attendees:**

John C. Williams  
Jack Gutt  
David Erickson  
Andy Haughwout  
Giorgio Topa  
Kartik Athreya  
Tiffany Hewlin  
Timothy C. Nash, Jr.  
Claire Kramer-Mills  
Javier Silva  
Julian Macrone  
Talor Crawford

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David Erickson, Senior Vice President and Head of Outreach & Education, called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

### **1. Welcome**

John C. Williams, President and CEO, greeted members. Mr. Williams then provided a brief overview of the current state of the economy.

## **2. Opening**

David Erickson provided meeting logistics and introduced the newest CAG Members Mendi Blue Paca and Michelle de la Uz. Ms. Blue Paca and Ms. de la Uz provided brief overviews of their organization's work.

## **3. National and Regional Economic Conditions**

Giorgio Topa, Economic Research Advisor, Labor and Product Market Studies, Research & Statistics and Andrew Haughwout, Director of Household and Public Policy Research, Research & Statistics presented on current economic conditions. John C. Williams answered questions from members on national and regional economic conditions.

## **4. Special Topic: Presentation on What's Possible: Investing NOW For Prosperous, Sustainable Neighborhoods**

Claire Kramer-Mills, Director of Community Development Analysis and Javier Silva, Senior Associate Director, presented on the new Community Development book What's Possible: Investing NOW For Prosperous, Sustainable Neighborhoods. Ms. Kramer-Mills and Mr. Silva then answered questions about the book and the Community Development team's efforts to promote it alongside partners.

## **5. Roundtable Discussion with Community Advisory Group Membership**

Members participated in a roundtable discussion on economic conditions, including opportunities and challenges faced by communities in the district. When discussing climate impacts one attendee noted that the impacts of unstable weather trends on regional economies particularly those in the North Country that rely heavily on outdoor recreation as a significant driver of their local economy. Another member shared that they have seen an increase of catastrophic weather events but a lack of funding and preparedness regionally to respond quickly and effectively to these events.

When discussing the economy, multiple members noted that they have seen an increased number of development projects being delayed due to supply chain and staffing issues leading to the need for extensions and modification to loans and concern that a decade's worth of work to stabilize low- and moderate-income communities might be at risk. Members also noted the current challenging fundraising environment but noted regional differences in current funding and donating activity.

Lastly, members shared numerous topics that are most pressing for them including housing cost burden, the cost of childcare, future impacts of AI on various sectors and communities, and immigration.

## **6. Closing**

Following the discussion, John C. Williams thanked members for their participation. The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.