

**We're the people
who make this
a neighborhood**

Latino Polish

African American

Italian Jewish

Chinese Ukrainian

Tenants Artists

**Blue Collar and
White Collar Workers**

Shopkeepers

Families Seniors

Gays and Lesbians

And more...

**If you live or work in the Cooper
Square area, join Cooper Square!**

The Cooper Square Committee has over 600 members, a dedicated staff and an elected Steering Committee. You can become a voting member if you live between East 14th Street and Delancey Street and between the Bowery and Avenue D.

Help us fight to preserve rent regulated housing; to promote new affordable housing; and increase the greening and accessibility in our neighborhood.

Become involved in one of our committees, such as Housing, Fundraising, Publicity.

It's just \$1 per year

Join the fight to preserve rent regulated housing, promote new affordable housing, and contextual rezoning of the community. Become involved in one of our committees, such as Housing, Fundraising, Publicity.

The Cooper Square Committee is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.

**Cooper Square Community
Development Committee and
Businessmen's Association**

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**If you want more
information on
Cooper Square:**

**If you would
like your building
inspected:**

please call (212) 228-8210

We appreciate the support of the following funders who have helped sustain our capacity to serve the community: NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development, NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal, NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development, North Star Fund, Surdna Foundation, New York Foundation, St. James Church, North Fork Bank, Commerce Bank, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, Emigrant Savings Bank, NYU Community Fund, the United Way, Washington Mutual Foundation, and individual donors.

Brochure design: Adam Fredericks

**CALL US
COOPER
SQUARE**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION**



Demonstrators outside Rent Guidelines Board hearing, 2008



**Cooper
Square
Committee**

HERE TODAY, HERE TO STAY

Who We Are

We work with area residents to preserve and develop affordable, environmentally healthy housing and community/cultural spaces.

We're tenacious organizers who

have been fighting for 50 years to preserve this community as the racially, economically, and culturally integrated community that it is. This ensures that the residents are the beneficiaries of community change, not the victims.

We are oldest anti-displacement organization in the U.S.



Board member Georgina Christ and former Seward Park site tenant Tito Delgado at demonstration, Seward Park Urban Renewal Area, November 2007

We Stopped the Bulldozers

In our early years we blocked the City's plans to demolish the area from East 14th Street to Delancey Street. We went up against New York's power broker Robert Moses and saved hundreds of buildings.

We Created a Community Plan for Cooper Square

In 1970, New York City officially adopted our Alternative Cooper Square Plan that called for staged development, limited relocation and no displacement of current residents.

We Fight for and Develop Affordable Housing

We've helped create housing that our community can be proud of. In 1984 we developed 146 apartments of low income housing on Stanton Street. In 1985 we fought for 150 units of senior housing on the Bowery and East 5th Street. We made sure that 49% of the apartments were set aside for local residents.

In 1988, we sponsored the first co-op for formerly homeless families in the United States, a 22-unit co-op known as the Cube Building. In 2008 we developed 54 units of supportive housing at 29 East 2nd Street.

We Develop and Mobilize Community Leadership

We created the Bowery Residents Committee, started the Good Food Co-op, the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union and several block associations.

We formed the Cooper Square Mutual Housing Association (CSMHA) in 1991. CSMHA now manages nearly 400 low income apartments in 23 formerly city-owned buildings, mainly on East 3rd and 4th Streets between Second Avenue and the Bowery. We continue to work closely with CSMHA by providing services to its tenants.

We Bring Affordable Housing and Recreational Resources to our Community

Our participation in the Cooper Square Task Force meant that what might otherwise have been blocks of luxury housing instead includes 764 units of mixed income housing, 231 of them low income units. It also brought to the neighborhood a 42,000 sq. ft. community center with a gymnasium and swimming pool on Houston Street, jointly run by the YMCA and University Settlement, which opened its doors in April, 2006.

We Inspect Buildings and Organize Tenant Associations

We help tenants get what they need. We have inspected hundreds of area buildings and organized tenants in dozens of buildings to help them negotiate with their landlords for repairs, fight rent overcharges, prevent evictions and get Housing Preservation and Development and the Department of Buildings to do inspections and record code violations.

We Work to Keep the Arts Alive in Our Neighborhood

We were a catalyst for the formation of Fourth Arts Block (FAB) a cultural association on East 4th Street that succeeded in buying 6 buildings from HPD for cultural use in 2005. The Cooper Square Committee is working closely with FAB to implement a Streetscape Design for East 4th Street to enhance the cultural and historic identity of the block.

What We Do

29 East 2nd Street developed jointly by Cooper Square Committee and Community Access

47 East 3rd Street

East 3rd Street tenants strike against landlord

Executive Director Steve Herrick speaking at a press conference regarding a vacate order at 128 Hester Street on August 18, 2009



Our Programs and Services

Tenant Organizing and Counseling

Our Housing Staff advises tenants on questions they bring to us on how to fight evictions, harassment, rent overcharges and preferential rents. We guide people how to sublet legally, get repairs, lease renewals, and much more.

We organize tenants to fight evictions based on landlord's false claims that they plan to live in the building themselves or demolish it. Our staff can inspect your building cellar to roof.

Social Services

We assist income-eligible residents in applying for income support, health care and housing entitlements so a diverse population can remain in the community.

Greening and Development

We partner with non-profits to develop and preserve affordable housing and cultural spaces. In our work with the Mutual Housing Association we are greening multifamily housing. In our facade and streetscape improvements projects, we are working with the Fourth Arts Block to improve East 4th Street.