

## COOPER SQUARE COMMITTEE – HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009

- We conducted a Community Needs Assessment, which included surveys of 180 of our members and Lower East Side residents. We also held strategic planning meetings and two community workshops, attended by over 50 members, to prepare a 3-Year Strategic Plan (2009 – 2012). The documents are available on our website.
- We held our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, which was attended by over 250 people, and raised nearly \$30,000 towards our tenant counseling, housing preservation and social service programs.
- We worked with the tenants of 10 Stanton Street and elected officials to negotiate an agreement with their landlord to extend the Section 8 contract until June, 2015.
- We worked in partnership with Fourth Arts Block on a Streetscape project and a Façade Improvement Project. Together we raised over \$100,000 in public and private funds and provided matching funds to improve the facades of 4 cultural buildings on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street: 59-61 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street (home to Cooper Square Committee & the MHA, 62 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street (Rod Rodgers Dance Co. & Duo Theatre) and 79-83 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street (NY Theatre Workshop).
- Our staff counseled over 600 people in 2009, and prevented more than a dozen evictions, helped find housing for people with Section 8 vouchers, and assisted scores of people in applying/recertifying for Section 8, as well as SCRIE, Food Stamps, Medicaid & NYCHA.
- We joined in a series of community visioning sessions called SPURA Matters to build community consensus about what Lower East Side residents want to see developed in the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area, a vacant 7-acre city-owned site. We also helped organize a Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> rally & community vigil at the site on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- We organized the tenants of the Sunshine Hotel and the Whitehouse Hotel on the Bowery to address housing conditions and allegations of harassment. We organized half a dozen other tenant associations around the neighborhood.
- We received a grant from a major foundation in early December, 2009, and will be hiring an MHA Organizer early next year to organize workshops about the co-op offering plan.
- We hired a consultant to update our website, making it more user friendly. We also created a merchant account so that we can accept online donations.
- We launched an Accessible Lower East Side project to identify programs being run in spaces that are not accessible to disabled people. We will issue a report, and create an action plan.
- We participated in the “Go Green Lower East Side Initiative”, and in the NYU Task Force, both of which meet periodically at the Borough President’s office. We co-sponsored a “Go Green” workshop in May for property owners and HDFCs to teach them about energy efficiency, recycling and solar power.