Neighborhood Women Renaissance Houses

and

Neighborhood Women of Williamsburg/Greenpoint

Neighborhood Women Renaissance strives to be a safe, caring community that provides low-income housing for families from the community of Williamsburg and Greenpoint.
Who is Neighborhood Women of Williamsburg and Greenpoint (NWWG)?

An offshoot of National Congress of Neighborhood Women, Neighborhood Women of Williamsburg and Greenpoint (NWWG) was created as an autonomous organization of women to operate local programs in the neighborhood. The National Congress of Neighborhood Women (NCNW) is a national network of grassroots women's organizations with both local and national programs that has operated primarily from its Williamsburg office since 1974.

We at NWWG believe that a critical way to improve neighborhood life is to enhance and expand participation by women in local development. Our goal is to build a community that provides a safe space and a shared power base for women from diverse racial, ethnic, class and religious backgrounds.

NWWG currently runs the Neighborhood Women Renaissance Houses at the former site of the Greenpoint hospital. We also run the You Can Community School, which offers GED and ESL classes to teenagers and adults in the community.

How can I sign up for an apartment?

Low-income residents of Williamsburg and Greenpoint who are interested in living in a supportive, participatory community should sign up for the waiting list. After signing up, we'll send you an application, and if you are eligible for low-income housing you will be contacted when an apartment becomes available. Please call or drop by our office to inquire about the list!

Contact us: 249 Manhattan Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11211
Phone: 718-388-8915
Fax: 718-388-0285

What are the Neighborhood Women Renaissance Houses (NWR)?

NWWG is the sponsor of 33 low-income housing units, ranging from studios to 3 bedroom apartments, on the grounds of the former hospital. The apartments are known as Neighborhood Women Renaissance Houses (NWR).

The Houses are tax credit apartment buildings. Through the Enterprise Foundation, NWWG formed a General Partnership with the New York Equity Fund for the duration of the tax credit program.

NWWG developed and rehabilitated the buildings with the collaboration of an architect, Katrin Adam, who shared a desire for empowered women and families to live in dignified housing. Together we worked on creative designs that would fit the needs of working families. Women expressed a desire for elements such as open kitchens to promote family communication and a community room for neighbors to come together. Today, neighborhood families benefit from these features, and residents say that the outdoor common space shared by the buildings has created space for children to grow up together and develop positive relationships.

NWWG has a Neighborhood Women Renaissance board. “NWR General Partners Inc.” comprised of residents of the houses and local community members. The Lower East Side People’s Mutual Housing Association is hired to manage the buildings.

How did the Houses come about?

The NWR houses came about through a long community struggle over the future of the Greenpoint Hospital. Members of the National Congress of Neighborhood Women, the Conselyea St. Block Association and other community organizations in the Williamsburg and Greenpoint area worked together, initially to fight the closing of the hospital.

The hospital closed, leaving the neighborhood with less access to healthcare. The community worked with the City to open three smaller community health centers in the neighborhood.

Next, they protested and organized to reclaim the abandoned hospital grounds for community use. While the City had plans for an immense homeless shelter for single men, the community believed that the space could better strengthen and sustain the neighborhood by providing affordable housing for families.

After much organizing and political action, the community achieved unity and gained control over the grounds, achieving a balance of affordable housing and shelter space at the site. The community groups formed the Greenpoint Renaissance Enterprise Corporation to govern the use of the grounds. The City of New York also formed a committee on homelessness out of this community struggle.
How Can You Participate?

NWWG has a Neighborhood Women Renaissance board, “NWR GP, Inc.,” comprised of residents of the houses and local community members.

You can:
- Join the board
- Do gardening
- Lead or participate in activities with youth or adults
- Give input for decisions about the management and maintenance of the buildings.

The board makes decisions regarding the management, maintenance, and community activities of Neighborhood Women Renaissance. This participatory nature holds true to the mission of NWWG of empowering neighborhood women by giving the active residents (who are mostly women, and often single mothers) power to make decisions affecting their housing development.

Neighborhood Women Renaissance House

Neighborhood Women Renaissance Board Members:
Jan Peterson
Chair
Paulette O’Neal
Vice President
John Wasintynski
Secretary
Juanita Rodriguez
Treasurer
Dahlia Goldenberg
Diana Maisonet
Elizabeth Marrero

Neighborhood Women of Williamsburg/
Greenpoint Board:
Chair: Dahlia Goldenberg Secretary: Shannon Hayes
Jan Peterson Lisel Burns Juanita Rodriguez

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