

# MAYOR'S FUND TO ADVANCE NEW YORK CITY NEWSLETTER

## SAVE THE DATE...

- MillionTreesNYC Month - April
- Immigrant History Week - April 14-20
- Poem in Your Pocket Day - April 17
- It's My Park! Day - May 17
- 125<sup>th</sup> Brooklyn Bridge Celebration - May 23-25
- New York City Waterfalls Exhibit - July—Mid-October
- 5th Annual Fete de Swifty Benefit - September 18, 6-9 PM

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- The New York City Waterfalls Public Art Installation on View this Summer
- MillionTreesNYC Embarks on Aggressive Planting Strategy and You Can Help!
- Out-Of-School Time Grows as City is Acknowledged for Youth Programming
- NYC Ladders for Leaders Works to Establish More Internship Opportunities
- Extensive Outreach Campaign Helps New Yorkers Claim Earned Income Tax Credit
- Brooklyn Bridge Celebrates Big Milestone



## WATERFALLS SET TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH

This summer residents and visitors from around the world will be able to view the incredible sight of *The New York City Waterfalls*, a temporary installation by artist Olafur Eliasson, commissioned by the Public Art Fund. The display consists of four man-made waterfalls at sites along the banks of the East River. The project highlights the renaissance of the City's waterfront, as well as the environmental priorities of Mayor Bloomberg. The New York City Waterfalls recognizes and respects the value of the river, its wild-life and shoreline, and also runs on "green power," electricity generated from renewable resources.

*The New York City Waterfalls* will be located by the Brooklyn anchorage of the Brooklyn Bridge, between Piers 4 and 5 in Brooklyn, in Lower Manhattan at Pier 35, and on the north shore of Governors Island. The display will take place from July to mid-October 2008 and will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. To learn more go to: <http://www.nycwaterfalls.org>.



## MILLIONTREESNYC GETS GROWING

MillionTreesNYC, the City and New York Restoration Project's (NYRP) citywide public-private initiative to plant one million trees in the next decade, is sprouting! Since the fall of 2007, over 30,500 trees have been planted across the five boroughs. With three weeks left to go until the start of the spring planting season, the New York City Parks Department, NYRP, and their many non-profit partners are gearing up for a big effort. April 2008 is MillionTreesNYC Month, during which there will be numerous events throughout the City highlighting the goals of the initiative and ways to get involved.



While Mayor Bloomberg committed \$400 million in the City's budget over the next ten years to plant new street trees, create Greenstreets and reforest existing parkland, we need your help to complete a community-based tree planting strategy in neighborhoods with high asthma rates and low canopy cover. Private support helps us work with community partners to plant trees within schoolyards, public housing sites, health care facilities, business districts, commercial and residential developments, front yards and on other private lands.

Please join us during one of the many MillionTreesNYC Month tree planting opportunities, including New York Cares "Hands On New York" Day on April 12, when volunteers will plant 20,000 trees throughout the City, or Arbor Day on April 25, during which you can join youth and corporate volunteers to plant trees in schoolyards and in surrounding areas. With your help we can reach a million!

To support the initiative or register to volunteer for any of these tree plantings, please go to <http://www.milliontreesnyc.org>.



## CITY RECOGNIZED FOR FOCUS ON YOUTH

In October Mayor Bloomberg announced that New York City's Out-of-School Time (OST) initiative will serve at least 80,000 young people in the 2007-2008 school year as a result of new funding supporting 14,000 additional slots in 112 new programs. OST, the nation's largest municipally-funded afterschool system, provides academic, recreational and cultural activities for young people (grades K-12) during holidays, in the summer and after school. The program now consists of 658 free programs that are primarily located in areas identified through demographic analysis as those in most need of afterschool programming.

In recognition of OST and the City's many efforts on behalf of its youth, America's Promise named New York City one of the country's 100 Best Communities for Young People for the second consecutive year. America's Promise acknowledged the efforts of the Department of Youth and Community Development and support from other City agencies, foundations, community based organizations, and the Mayor's Fund. To find out more about OST and other youth programs go to <http://www.nyc.gov/dyccd>.



## NYC LADDERS FOR LEADERS EXPANDS THIS SUMMER

This summer NYC Ladders for Leaders hopes to give 300 high school and college students access to corporate and public-sector internships that highlight the importance of a post-secondary education for career success. The program, jointly administered by the Commission on Women's Issues and the Department of Youth and Community Development, relies on private support from donors and companies for both the internship placements, as well as workshops that focus on work readiness, college preparation, and leadership development. Donations

also provide partial college scholarships to several participants who complete the program. To sponsor an intern or contribute to the program, please contact the Mayor's Fund.



## TAX CREDIT CAMPAIGN EXTENDS ITS REACH

Tax time is just around the corner, but the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and its Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) are helping New Yorkers get some of their hard earned money back! In January, DCA and OFE kicked off the 6th Annual New York City Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition Campaign to help working families

and individuals with low incomes claim up to \$6,000 when filing their taxes. DCA is distributing more than two million brochures in 12 languages to spread the word about the EITC and working to expand options for tax preparation to help eligible New Yorkers claim the credit. There are 49 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites citywide where tax returns are prepared for free and a new Tax Prep Plus pilot that offers tax preparation to eligible New Yorkers for only \$10. During the 2007 tax season, New Yorkers claimed more than \$2 billion in total EITC tax credits and VITA sites helped 65,000 New Yorkers obtain an average EITC refund of \$2,544. For more information on these refunds, call 311 or go to [www.nyc.gov/eitc](http://www.nyc.gov/eitc).



## BROOKLYN BRIDGE CELEBRATES 125TH BIRTHDAY

This year the City will mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brooklyn Bridge with a celebration of its prominence as a feat of modern architecture and an enduring City landmark. During the weekend of May 23-25, New Yorkers will enjoy entertainment and activities in Brooklyn and in Lower Manhattan. All New Yorkers are encouraged to take part in celebrating this significant milestone.

To support any of these or other innovative public projects, please visit [www.nyc.gov/fund](http://www.nyc.gov/fund).

Together we can make a difference.

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