

Striving to Build Diverse Communities and Economic Progress in Brooklyn

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Founded in 1964, the Pratt Area Community Council (PACC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to affordable housing, tenant rights and community revitalization in Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Bedford Stuyvesant. Originally formed as a neighborhood improvement association, PACC has grown and evolved in response to the changing needs of the residents and businesses it serves.

The serious issue of housing abandonment in 1980 prompted PACC to establish a full-time, professionally staffed headquarters and focus its services on preserving affordable buildings, helping people achieve the dream of homeownership and protecting tenant rights. Over the years, PACC has rehabilitated 550 permanent low- and moderate-income rental units and 16 storefronts occupied by an eclectic mix of small businesses. Nine distressed properties have been converted into tenant-owned buildings and the organization has advocated for tenant rights in more than 400 properties. To assist people in purchasing homes of their own, the nonprofit offers a series of workshops and financial education counseling services. Over 1,000 homeowners have also benefited from repair loan and grant-packaging assistance. Some of its many community improvement initiatives include creating and preserving green spaces and facilitating public art and community gardens.



Isabel Aulestia (lender) with Evelyn Aguila and Aimee Hazuda of PACC look over building plans with Christing Bruncati, continuing PACC's mission of providing affordable housing, protecting and helping to revitalize several Brooklyn communities.

PACC actively works to attract and retain quality local businesses, create new jobs and revitalize Fulton Street, a major commercial corridor that offers endless opportunities to boost the local economy and enhance residents' quality of life. Through its Employment and Entrepreneurship Resource Center, job seekers can access support services, referrals and a resource library.

"PACC has remained a relevant force in the community fighting against a multitude of issues such as predatory lending, unfair housing practices, area displacement, skyrocketing rents and environmental injustice," says Melissa Lee, PACC's Commercial Revitalization Program Manager. "In the past 15 years alone, it has provided assistance to over 25,000 individuals, families, emerging entrepreneurs and small businesses."

-Claire Curry