

ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Morris Park Business Improvement District



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO OUR MEMBERS	3	
Strategic Highlights		3
Financial Highlights		4
Operating Highlights		4
Supplementary Sanitation		5
Beautification		5
<u>Safety</u>		5
District Marketing		6
Looking Ahead at FY23		9
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	11	
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	12	
MPBID EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS FY22	13	

Board of Directors 2021-2022

Class A (Property Owners)

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Class B (Commercial tenants)

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Class C (Residential tenants) Elaine Yolanda Schillaci

Class D (Elected officials)

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson

NYC Mayor Eric Adams, through the NYC Department of Small Business Services, Commissioner Kevin Kim NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

NYC Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez

Class E (non-voting)

Morris Park Community Association; Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance

Staff: Executive Director Dr. Camelia Tepelus; "Avenue NYC" Program Manager Iman Almarwani

Morris Park BID thanks all elected officials, local organizations, businesses and residents that support our mission. We highly appreciate the support received from the NYC Department of Small Business Services, from Bronx Community Board 11 District Manager Jeremy Warneke, from NYPD 49th Precinct and all City agencies providing services to the Morris Park commercial corridor.

Thank you to Morris Park residents Mary Papa, Theresa Hefter and former Program Manager Selam Yemeru for their support for the MPBID events.

TO OUR MEMBERS

This report covers the activity of the Morris Park Business Improvement District (MPBID) in fiscal year 2022 (FY22), from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

The Morris Park Business Improvement District (legally the Morris Park District Management Association) was established by NYC Council local law passed in 2018, and is the 75th BID in New York City and the 10th BID in the Bronx. The MPBID mission aims to support a thriving and vibrant Morris Park Avenue commercial corridor. The MPBID provides to the commercial corridor additional services supplementing those of the City of New York, in four functional areas:

- Supplementary sanitation;
- Beautification;
- Safety, and
- District marketing.

These supplementary services are provided in addition, not as a substitute to the services provided by the City of New York. The BID services and operations are funded through a tax assessment on property owners, collected by the NYC Department of Finance and disbursed twice a year to the BID budget. The MPBID is a non-profit organization (501c3 status approved by the IRS on December 5, 2019).





Several Morris Park BID businesses were featured by News12 The Bronx sharing advice on managing supply chain challenges during the winter 2021 season. Photo: William Pedone (MPBID Board Chair), Van Nest Hardware Store.

Strategic Highlights

The year between July 2021 to June 2022 has been a year continued re-opening and recovery following the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that affected the country since 2020. Despite some significant regulatory and public health limitations on small businesses that still lingered until spring 2022, including vaccination mandates for small business employees and mask mandates, the businesses within the BID operated on a sustained and clear growth pattern.

The BID produced or substantively participated in over 16 successful community events and full services were delivered to the corridor. An important area of work continued to be provision of support and information to businesses on financial assistance measures from the City, state and federal level, designed to accelerate recovery and alleviate the pandemic impact on small businesses.

The MPBID core sanitation services to the corridor continued, while marketing and public events were amplified in comparison to the previous year, along with the relaxation of public health restrictions including the wide availability of tests and introduction of vaccines.

MPBID continued the positive implementation of Year 2 (of 3) in the SBS Avenue NYC grant project, overseen by the NYC Department of Small Business Services.

SBS-funded Avenue NYC FY22 Project Deliverables:



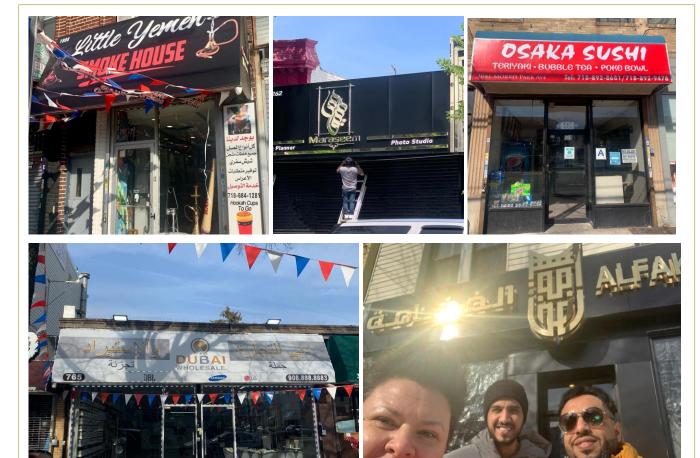
SBS-funded Avenue NYC FY22:

During FY22 MPBID finalized data collection, and released several project deliverables:

- Morris Park & Van Nest Commercial District Needs Assessment;
- Morris Park Business and Visitors Guide;
- MPBID Brochure in English and Arabic.

These materials will be used for expanding our advocacy with elected officials for the needs of the district, and to expand our marketing efforts in the community and at borough-level.

Morris Park Avenue businesses continued recovering in FY22, with 5 new businesses opening. To support new businesses and to inform the community, MPBID is posting "Welcome to Morris Park" notifications and photos in the Bronx Times, along with posts on all our social media platforms.



New businesses: Osaka Sushi (February 2022); Maraseem event organizers and photo studio (June 2022); Dubai Wholesale (January 2022); Little Yemen Smoke House (January 2022); Alfani fragrance and accessories retail (January 2022).

Financial Highlights

The MPBID assessment income is of \$390,000/year is based on a tax levied on commercial property owners on Morris Park Avenue between Amethyst Street/Unionport Road and Williamsbridge Road (see map back cover). During FY22, additional funds were received by the BID from NY State and NYC sources, as follows:

- funds corresponding to Year 2 (of 3) of the NYCDSBS "Avenue NYC" grant: \$100,000 (federally funded);
- NY State legislative allocation provided by the NY State Assembly Member Michael Benedetto, and managed through the Office of Children and Families Services: \$30,000;
- NYC Council discretionary funding allocation provided by former Councilman Mark Gjonaj and managed through the NYC Department of Youth and Community Services: \$20,000;
- NY City Council allocation managed through SBS: \$511.

The BID finances are managed from a checking account at Ridgewood Bank. A second reserve and emergency account is also held at Ridgewood Bank in CDs. All banking transactions require four Board signatories, and all BID-issued checks require two Board signatories. The FY22 audit was finalized in November 2022 and was conducted by the auditor selected by the MPBID Audit Committee, John Davis CPA.

During FY22, the MPBID Board and its Committees continued working diligently and transparently, at the highest standards of governance, overseeing with integrity the BID financial and operational processes. The MPBID continued its evolution into a strong, self-reliant and accountable organization, with our work being recognized externally by multiple media outlets.

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

In FY22 MPBID continued to be a resource for the businesses in our corridor and for the community, providing thousands of free PPE (masks), sanitizer and COVID19 test kits. MPBID was a NYC H+H partner in distributing test kits to the community in multiple public events and directly to businesses.



RESPONSE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC: Support to businesses and the community Photos: lines in front of the MPBID office for free distribution of tests before winter holidays in December 2022. Indoor mask mandate for businesses was lifted by the NYC Governor in February 2022.

Supplementary sanitation

The MPBID services most visible to the Morris Park small businesses and community residents are the supplementary sanitation and graffiti removal operations. The BID received overwhelmingly positive feedback from store owners on Morris Park Avenue regarding the sanitation program. Following expiration of the previous contract, we conducted a Request for Proposals and renewed the MPBID contract with our vendor, Streetplus LLC. The graffiti removal operation is performed once a month, also carried out by Streetplus.

More public education and community outreach may be necessary especially in relation to responsible pet ownership along the sidewalks of Morris Park Avenue, and to prevent illegal residential dumping on the sidewalks.















CORE OPERATIONS: SUPPLEMENTARY SANITATION

7 days/week, 7 hrs/day supplementary sanitation, street furniture painting, graffiti removal funded by MPBID, with our partners at Streetplus (contract renewed for 3 years in FY22).

Safety

Safety remains at the top of concerns for the Morris Park Avenue commercial corridor. Multiple instances of break ins took place at several businesses in the corridor. We provided advice and assistance to business affected regarding the window gates applicable regulations on installation and design. Double parking continues to remain a chronic site along Morris Park Avenue. In recent months multiple reports on social media showed of running cars left unattended being burglarized or stolen. MPBID is appreciative for the work of the NYPD 49th Precinct in maintaining a safe Morris Park Avenue, for small businesses and residents alike.







CORE OPERATIONS: SAFETY

Working with NYPD 49th Precinct to secure commercial corridor safety, and enhance law enforcement presence in the community. In FY22 MPBID also sponsored installation of a custom-designed banned at the Precinct entrance, in memory of 9/11

Beautification

Following the positive experience in FY21, MPBID extended in FY22 our beautification and horticulture contract with The Horticulture Society of New York for 2 years. The contract includes clean-up and planting twice a year 49 guarded tree pits, and cleaning and mulching of 126 unguarded tree pits. We also made 311 referrals to NYC Parks for 3 missing or dead trees.







CORE OPERATIONS: BEAUTIFICATION AND HORTICULTURE

In FY22 MPBID signed a 2 year horticulture contract with the NY Horticultural Society, covering planting and maintenance of the treepits along the Morris Park Avenue commercial corridor. The contract is the largest beautification program amongst Bronx BIDs, including bi-annual planting of 49 guarded tree pits, and cleanup and mulching of an addition 77 unguarded tree pits, for a total of 126 tree pits under our care and management.

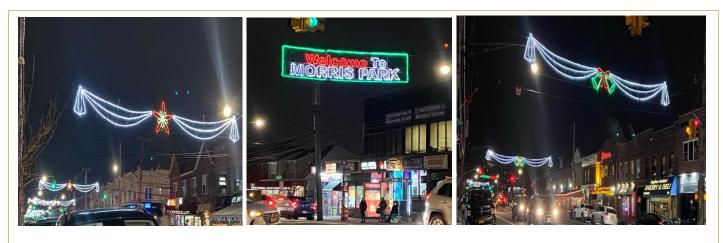
District marketing

Despite a real estate stock that is in need of significant upgrades especially on the west side of the corridor in Van Nest, Morris Park Avenue has a devoted base of faithful customers largely community residents. Shoppers, locals and visitors alike have sometimes decades-long family ties with anchor Morris Park businesses including Patricia's, Conti's, Van Nest Hardware, Scaglione Bakery, Van Nest Auto Parts, etc.

The western part of Morris Park Avenue is hosting a significant number of middle eastern businesses catering primarily to a Yemeni base of customers. This area, part of Van Nest section of the Bronx appears on Google Maps as 'Little Yemen' and is very vibrant with activity. The eastern part of Morris Park Avenue is a mix of eateries, restaurants, delis, general services and residential properties. The entire commercial corridor has the feeling of a small village in the heart of the Bronx, and the community is close knit and closely monitoring commercial developments.

Over the course of this report period, MPBID was featured on Bronx News12 as a successful example of Bronx commercial corridor 12 times. The BID also posted information of high relevance to the corridor in the Bronx Times on a weekly basis, as well as Facebook advertising for special accomplishments.

The BID produced or had a co-producer role more than 16 public events, all free for the community.



CORE OPERATIONS: DISTRICT MARKETING and HOLIDAY LIGHTS
In FY22 MPBID upgraded our holiday lighting program by securing custom-designed LED lights.



MPBID Summer programs at Loreto Park in partnership with NYC Parks: July 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2022 children drawing workshops; and September 11, 2022 Movie Under the Stars.



CORE OPERATIONS: DISTRICT MARKETING Yemeni American Parade on Rhinelander Avenue in Morris Park's "Little Yemen" June 26, 2022; Food Distribution at Loreto Park with the office of Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, March 18, 2022



CORE OPERATIONS: DISTRICT MARKETING May 7, 2022: National Small Business Celebration in Morris Park Little Yemen co-hosted by MPBID and attended by the NYC Mayor Eric Adams, NYCDSBS Commissioner Kevin Kim, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, NYC Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez, Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez.



CORE OPERATIONS: DISTRICT MARKETING

MPBID creating holiday events to celebrate with the community: December 9, 2022, Tree lighting ceremony at Loreto Park; December 11, 2022: the 3rd edition of our "Morris Park Joyful Trolley".



CORE OPERATIONS: DISTRICT MARKETING October 24, 2022: Morris Park Community Garden Clean-Up and Daffodil Planting with NYPD 49th Precinct Explorers. June 2022: starting community workshops with local artist Ruth Marshall (photo corner right), for the "Hanging Garden" art installation at 1000 Sackett Avenue.



November 13, 2022: Matthew Muliner Playground Clean-Up and Daffodil Planting with NYPD 49th Precinct Explorers.

Advocacy and Infrastructure developments

One of the most significant functions of BIDs is to conduct public advocacy. During FY22 we engaged with many public and private entities to advocate for qualitative improvements of the Morris Park Avenue corridor infrastructure, and for its better integration with the rest of the Bronx and NYC.

Loreto Park renovation

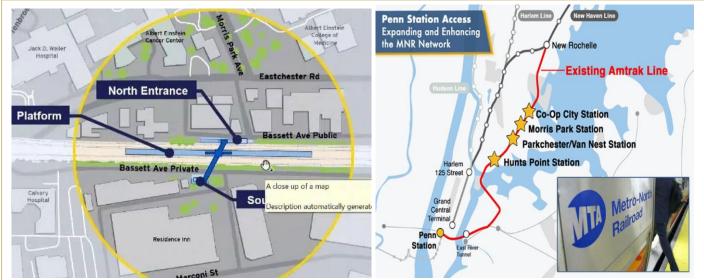
In fall 2019 the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation initiated an extensive renovation process for Loreto Park, that transformed a former hockey field into a sports multi-purpose area for soccer and baseball. This development much welcomed by the community was completed in fall 2022.



Loreto Park Multi-Purpose play area renovation has been finalized and opened to the community in fall 2022.

➤ Metro North Penn Station Access – forthcoming Morris Park Station

The MPBID continued monitoring and participated in events presenting city agencies' work around providing Metro North access to Penn Station at the east end of Morris Park Avenue, using an existing Amtrak line. This project will include a "Morris Park Avenue" station to be located on Bassett Street, at the very eastern end on Morris Park Avenue. The estimated timeframe for the Morris Park Avenue station work is between 2025-2027.



Metro North Penn Station Access Project: will link Morris Park to midtown Manhattan at Penn Station, and with Westchester and Connecticut, through an existing Amtrak Line.

> Light poles and wiring infrastructure upgrades on the east side of Morris Park Avenue

In December 2022 DOT contacted all BIDs with regards to improvements of compliance for holiday lights. The communications pointed out to unsuitability of wooden poles for holding street infrastructure. MPBID proceeded to map our entire corridor's street and electric assets and work with our contractors to address compliance.

It became apparent that the east side of the corridor has a very visually cluttered aspect, due to light fixtures being installed on wooden ConEd poles, and not on metallic DOT poles. Wiring in the east section is above the ground, both transversally and longitudinally. By comparison, the west section of Morris Park Avenue appears much cleaner, having modern, historic style M-poles and wiring fully underground. MPBID initiated conversations with local elected representatives including at NY Council level, NY State level and also federal level – in order to learn more about the inter-agency processes and capital resource allocation that would be involved in a project of this extensive range.



March 3, 2022: Corridor walk-through with DOT to assess compliance conditions for the holiday lighting program. Also pictured: DOT work to restore and upgrade curbs along Morris Park Avenue for ADA accessibility and compliance.







ADVOCATING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

MPBID calls for the replacement of outdated wooden poles sustaining over the ground equipment and wiring (both transversal and along Morris Park Avenue), on the east side of Morris Park Avenue (east of Matthews Avenue).

Modern, metallic, historic "M-style" DOT poles as found on the west side of the corridor need to be expanded on the east section as well, in order to improve the cluttered aspect of the streetscape and create a cleaner, enhanced commercial esthetic, as well as better compliance with DOT regulations on street banners and holiday lighting.

MORRIS PARK BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT











Communications and Social Media Presence

The BID initiated in October 2019 an electronic newsletter, *Morris Park Avenue News*, shared generally on a bi-weekly basis. The newsletter is currently in its 3rd year.

We continued to actively use social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter where we currently have a dedicated and growing base of followers. Our cumulative social media footprint in FY22 was 854,806 people (total view, likes and clicks) across all three social media platforms

The MPBID continued its presence in the structure of the NYC BIDs Association, selectively supporting a wide range of policy proposals.



Community events (highlights)

The MPBID takes great pride in having a very active community outreach program, considering the highly residential profile of the Morris Park Avenue corridor. All events the BID produces are open to the community and offered at no cost for all residents. In FY22, the MPBID produced the following community events, or had a presence at events organized by other local organizations:

- 1. *Drawing Workshops* co-organized with NYC Parks in Loreto Park on July 21, 2021 Parks: July 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2022 children drawing workshops;
- 2. Movie under the Stars at Loreto Park "Upwards", on September 11, 2022.
- 3. I Am Taino documentary screening organized with NYPL at Burger Time, on October 7, 2021
- 4. *Morris Park Halloween Celebration*, on October 29, 2021, organized in front of the MPBID office at 966 Morris Park Avenue;
- 5. *Halloween Candy Buy Back* organized in partnership with Morris Park Dental on November 1, 2021
- 6. Clean Up and Daffodil Bulb planting at the Morris Park Community Garden, October 24, 2021
- 7. Clean Up and Daffodil Bulb planting at Matthew Muliner Playground, November 13, 2021
- 8. **Bronx Columbus Day Parade**, organized by the Morris Park Community Association on October 10, 2021;
- 9. Holiday Lights on Morris Park Avenue, between November 30, 2020 January 8, 2021
- 10. Morris Park Joyful Holiday Trolley, organized by the MPBID on December 10, 2021.
- 11. Covid Self-Test Community Distribution, December 28, 2021 and January 3, 2022
- 12. Merchant Workshop Series with YAMA/SBS, on February 25, 2022
- 13. Small Business Townhall organized by the office of AM Fernandez on March 3, 2022
- 14. Shop Your City resource fair with SBS in Morris Park Little Yemen co-hosting the national small business week celebration, May 6, 2022
- 15. Conti's Pastry Shoppe Street Co-naming ceremony celebrating 100 years in the community, April 24, 2022
- 16. Hanging Garden art workshops at the Morris Park Community Garden, every Saturday in May and June 2022

Additionally, the MPBID participates in the NYPD Build the Block meetings for Morris Park and Van Nest, and regularly visits corridor businesses, connecting them with resources and providing information on relevant developments from city agencies.





February 16, 2022: PPE and COVID testing supplies distribution by MPBID at the Morris Park Community Association; April 22, 2022, Community Iftar Dinner at the Bronx Muslim Center; April 24, 2022, Street co-naming ceremony for Conti's Pastry Shoppe.









Empire State Business Award to Van Nest Auto Parts from Senator Gustavo Rivera; October 10, 2022 Italian Heritage Celebration on Columbus Day; May 7, 2022: Ann Clair's Salumeria 50th Anniversary; Conti's Pastry Shoppe street co-naming ceremony.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FY 2022

MPBID STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FY22				
ASSETS	FY 2021	FY22		
Cash and accounts receivable	\$174,869	\$207,294		
Prepaid expense	\$353	\$0.00		
Fixed and other assets	\$19,749	\$10,525		
Security deposits	\$2,400	\$2,400		
TOTAL	\$197,371	\$220,219		
LIABILITIES/NET ASSETS				
Liabilities: accounts payable	\$17,361	\$10,888		
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$180,010	\$209,331		
TOTAL	\$197,371	\$220,219		

Summary of Financial Statements for FY22, based on draft audit report. The FY22 audit was completed by John Davis, CPA, and is pending Board approval. A copy of the FY22 final submitted audited financial statements will be available online at www.morrisparkbid.org.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES				
SUPPORT AND REVENUES	FY 2021	FY 2022		
Assessment revenue	\$390,000	\$390,000		
Grants and Contributions	\$80,000	\$150,511		
In-Kind Goods & Services	-	-		
Interest and Other Income	\$4,203	\$1,440		
TOTAL	\$474,203	\$541,951		
EXPENSES				
Sanitation	\$191,834	\$206,168		
Marketing and Promotions	\$105,217	\$111,966		
Public Safety	\$400			
Beautification	\$110,005	\$138,830		
Management and General	\$63,776	\$55,666		
Total expenses and losses	\$471,232	\$512,630		
Change in net assets	\$2,971	\$29,321		
Net assets at the end of the year	\$180,010	\$209,331		

Fiscal Year 2023 Board Approved Budget	FY 2023
Revenues	
BID Assessment	\$390,000
Grants & Contributions	\$125,000
TOTAL	\$515,000
Expenses	
A)Program and Services (total)	\$247,000
Marketing (including holiday lights)	\$55,000
Streetscape/beautification	\$50,000
Supplementary sanitation	\$140,000
Public Safety	\$2,000
B)General & Administrative (total)	\$168,000
Personnel	\$99,718
Insurances	\$29,000
Professional fees and services (audit, rent, bookkeeping)	\$15,390
Office infrastructure and supplies	\$7,500
Legal	\$250
Miscellaneous	\$21,684
Total Expenses	\$415,000
Expenses anticipated on the SBS grant	\$100,000

2021 – 2022 Board of Directors

Property Owners (Class A)

William Pedone, Chairman

Ben Celaj, Vice-Chairman

Safet Paljevic, Treasurer

Peter Spoto, Secretary

Frank Pestone

Mario Zallo

Miguel Garcia

Commercial Tenants (Class B)

Sal Alghati

Residential Tenants (Class C)

Elaine Schillaci

Government Officials (Class D)

Hon. Eric Adams, NYC Mayor, represented by the NYC Department of Small Business Services Commissioner Kevin Kim (Perian Carson)

NYC Comptroller Brad Lander (Greer Mayhew)

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson (Tom Lucania) New York City Council District 13 Councilwoman Marjorie Velazquez

Other, non-voting (Class E)

Morris Park Community Association

Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance

Staff: Dr. Camelia Tepelus, Executive Director;

Iman Almarwani, Program Manager "Avenue NYC"

Thank you to our FY2022 funders!

MPBID commercial property owners; Individual merchants supporting our events: Patsy's of Morris Park, Conti's Pastry Shoppe, Van Nest Hardware Store, Big Deal, Emilio's of Morris Park.

NYC Department of Small Business Services "Avenue NYC" Commercial revitalization grant of \$280,000 over 3 years.

NYC Council through DYCD; NY State Assembly though OCFS

Special thanks to the Bronx Community Board 11 District Manager Jeremy Warneke for this support in liaising with NYC agencies and services, to the NYC Department of Small Business Services team, and to the NYPD 49th Precinct for keeping the Morris Park Avenue corridor safe for all businesses and residents in Morris Park and Van Nest.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

During FY22, the total expenditures presented in the statement of activities is \$512,630, and the total revenue was \$541,951. The MPBID has a single credit card account from Chase Bank, issued to the Executive Director and used according to the Financial Policy approved by the Board at its meeting on May 21st, 2019. The MPBID does not have debt. Credit card balances are paid in full on a monthly basis.

Organizational Membership

As of the date of this report, the corporation includes 188 properties as specified in the District Plan prepared pursuant to section 25-204(a) of Chapter 5 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, 155 being partially, or wholly commercial. The current vacancy rate of the District is around 8.2%, considered 'healthy'.

Looking Ahead at FY23

The BID started FY23 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) on a strong financial footing on an increased budget equal to FY22 at \$415,000, based on assessment funds and our projections for grant funding, both contracted already and foreseen.

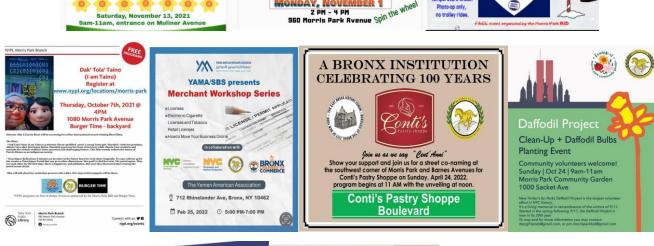
FY23 will be the final/3rd year of the NYCDSBS Avenue NYC 3-year grant that was received since FY21 (total \$280,000 over 3 years).

Within the NYC Mayor Eric Adams economic development agenda launched in March 2022 with the title "Rebuild. Renew. Reinvent: A Blueprint for NYC Economic Recovery", additional funding is being recommended for BIDs with assessments under \$500,000. NYC DSBS issued a grant proposal within this scope and MPBID submitted a proposal for supplementary funding of \$100,000 for FY23 – proposal currently pending answer from the agency.

MPBID HIGHLIGHTS IN FY22









THANK YOU

To the following city agencies and community organizations for partnering with MPBID in FY22, to fulfil our mission, deliver services for the Morris Park Avenue commercial corridor and enhancing quality of life for the Morris Park community!

















































If you own commercial or residential property (Class A membership); or

If you are a commercial tenant/business (Class B membership); or

If you are a residential tenant (Class C membership)

of any of the properties highlighted on the map below

CONGRATULATIONS!

You are a member of the Morris Park Business Improvement District

MORRIS PARK BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



We provide services and conduct public advocacy to maintain a clean, green, beautiful, vibrant and safe

Morris Park Avenue
for our close-knit village in the heart of the Bronx.















THANK YOU!



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