

SKY LINES

#46

**VOLUME FOURTEEN
FALL 2023**

**CELEBRATING
SUCCESS & IMPACT**

A heartfelt appreciation to all those who contributed to the resounding success of the 15th Annual Charitable Golf Classic • p14

**BUILD SAFE | LIVE SAFE
CONFERENCE 2023**

One of the main presentations, Sidewalk Shed Requirements & Pedestrian Protection Updates by Gus Sirakis, P.E., M.ASCE • p4

**LEGISLATION MAKES
WAGE THEFT LARCENY**

It allows prosecutors to seek stronger criminal penalties against employers who steal wages from workers. p12

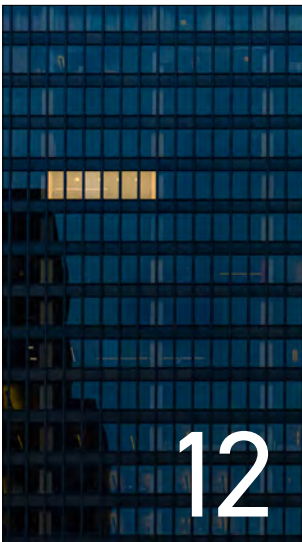


PRESERVING NEW YORK'S HERITAGE, ONE TILE AT A TIME

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PHOTO: CANY





BLUE ROOFS AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
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PHOTO: NYC.GOV

Dear Readers,

In this issue, we provide you with a glimpse of the key presentations at the **Build Safe | Live Safe Conference 2023**, aiming to make New York City safer, more vibrant, and prosperous.

"Get Sheds Down": NYC Mayor Adams presents his bold plan to remove the unsightly structures that have cluttered nearly 400 miles of New York City sidewalks.

Amy DeLuca, Senior Project Manager and Studio Lead at CANY, brings a touch of history by sharing her insights into the meticulous restoration of the historic clay tile roofing at **110 E 42nd Street**.

In a significant stride towards workers' rights, New York governor Hochul announces legislative changes that empower prosecutors to seek stronger criminal penalties against employers who commit **wage theft**.

Shana McCormick, Executive Director of The Skyline Charitable Foundation, emphasizes the significance of providing **site safety training for asylum seekers**.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who contributed to the resounding success of the **15th Annual Golf Classic** benefiting The Skyline Charitable Foundation. Your support has made a tangible impact on the lives of those in need, reflecting the power of our community coming together to make a difference.

Stay tuned for more coverage and insights in the upcoming issues of SKYLINES.

Warm regards,



Eva Hatzaki
Editor

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SCAN



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BUILD SAFE | LIVE SAFE CONFERENCE 2023

The all-day event was held on August 24, at the 225 Liberty Street location of Convene in Lower Manhattan. Key presentations are summarized here.



One of the main Conference presentations, 2022 NYC Construction Code Sidewalk Shed Requirements & Pedestrian Protection Updates by Constadino (Gus) Sirakis, P.E., M.ASCE, highlighted many of the points explored in the ["Get Sheds Down"](#) article on page 6.

As of September 1, 2023, the Department of Buildings no longer waives the Work Without a Permit civil penalty for [installed permitted sidewalk sheds with an expired permit](#). Sidewalk shed permits must be properly renewed prior to their expiration date. Also sidewalk sheds, construction fences, and supported scaffolds installed on or after September 1, 2023, must display [DCLA approved artwork](#) when they have been installed for at least 90 days, unless the owner opts out of the requirement on the PW1. ■

PARKING STRUCTURES: THE PARALLELS OF CODE & INSPECTION

Presenter: DOB Assistant Commissioner for Engineering Services Jill Hrubecky, P.E.

The parking structures seminar drew an overflowing crowd that needed to be relocated to the main auditorium to accommodate the large number of registrants. Peter Oxenham, a longtime senior estimator with Skyline Restoration and a conference attendee, noted the topic's pertinence to the industry saying, "Structural stability of existing parking structures has been of keen interest to the construction and restoration professional communities for many years in metropolitan New York, but only

recently has the NYC DOB taken this work under its jurisdiction and addressed building code language for this sector." Garages came under the DOB's governance due to increased awareness of the need to regulate parking structures to ensure public safety. Hrubecky noted that the DOB has devoted significant time and resources to analyze and collect critical data on the spaces. She said, "Class attendance today reflects the engineering and construction professional community's interest and commitment in becoming a part of the solution for aging parking structures." Close to 4000 parking structures

are located throughout the five boroughs, with 1410 in Manhattan alone. The breakdown of categories totals: 61% residential; 11% independent garage; 7% office; 4% store and 17% other including religious, cultural, and public assembly facilities and government buildings. Since late 2021, DOB regulations governing NYC parking structures have come under the heading of Local Law 126 requiring owners of parking structures to hire a New York State licensed and registered P.E., designated as a Qualified Parking Structure Inspector (QPSI), to inspect garages at least once every six years. In

addition, an annual observation must be performed by a non-professional chosen by the owner such as a garage attendant or building superintendent. Certain structures that house vehicles, including autobody or repair shops, showrooms, outdoor lots, private one to two-family garages – are exempted from the mandate.

The report of the QPSI inspection must be submitted to the DOB designating the site as Safe, Safe with Repair Monitoring (SREM), or Unsafe. Inspections must be competent, thorough, timely and include status reports and recommendations. The QPSI needs to create an Annual Observation checklist for subsequent yearly evaluations. While the annual observations need not be filed, the DOB and the owner must be notified immediately of any unsafe condition through the DOB website ([DOB NOW](#)) or by a 311 call. The owner needs to correct the condition within 90 days or request an extension.

PLEASE NOTE:

The responsibility to repair always falls upon the owner, not the garage operator. Cycles for QPSI inspections have 2-year sub cycles to file

compliance reports grouped by community districts. Manhattan's boroughs 1-7 fall under Cycle 1A which began January 1, 2022, and will conclude at the end of 2023. The window for Brooklyn and the remaining Manhattan districts is in Cycle 1B, which will run from the start of 2024 and finish by December 31, 2025. Districts in Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island are in Cycle 1C which runs from January 1, 2026, through the end of 2027.

Inspections can be challenging if a parking structure is in a detached or rarely seen location, a basement of an office or residential building, a poorly lit space, or a rooftop. To ensure structural stability, any inspection needs to consider any degradation of materials such as concrete, steel, and wood. Exposure to deicers, motor oil, and vehicular traffic and the elements can contribute to deterioration and, subsequently, destabilization. Early observation is key to the successful implementation of LL 126. Hrubceky noted in conclusion that the DOB seeks to expand its pool of inspectors. She hoped to encourage engineering professionals in attendance to apply for certification as a QPSI. ■

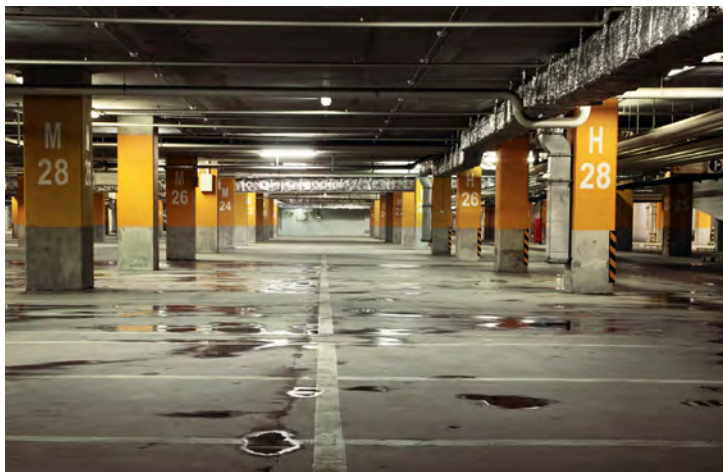


PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

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OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY – FACTS, FUNCTIONS AND RESOURCES

Presenters: Alan Price, P.E., director of the DOB Office of Technical Certification and Research and Steven Hong, R.A. administrative architect, DOB

The new Office of Alternative Energy (OAE) was formed because of Local Law 97 of 2019, a byproduct of the Climate Mobilization Act to increase sustainability of buildings, the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. The OAE is tasked with helping to develop renewable energy sources, streamlining the installation of Alternative Energy Projects (AEP), solving sustainable power generation issues, and improving energy storage systems (ESS) in NYC. An Alternative Energy Project is key to sustainability as it generates power from a qualified renewable energy source such as biomass, geothermal, sunlight, water, or wind. The OAE assists in the review and approval of AEPs, sets guidelines, conducts research, and makes recommendations. The department encourages an open dialogue with stakeholders through “after hours” meetings to create a forum for new ideas to find solutions to sustainability in an urban setting.

One new OAE initiative has been aptly named “Get Stuff Built” to facilitate the removal of regulatory barriers that can stall projects and delay progress. There is an urgent need for New York City to dramatically increase the rate of energy storage system installations at the building and grid infrastructure scale. Upcoming policies are geared to speed the work of a centralized Energy Storage System plan examination

team. In addition, the team will coordinate with the FDNY to eliminate duplicate paperwork. Streamlining ESS development and implementation requires eliminating regulatory barriers, aligning code requirements with national standards along with permitting requirements for battery storage systems. Using ESS will further the City's goal to reduce the aggregate greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 and achieve a citywide reduction of 80% by 2050.

Qualifications

To have an Alternative Energy Project qualify as one that can benefit from city, state and federal incentives to utilize new technologies, a series of rules and regulations under LL 97 will be enforced in the construction of new buildings and the modification of existing structures, wherever feasible. AEPs in the pipeline for development include:

- Renewable natural gas
- Carbon capturing technologies
- Reversible heat pumps
- Hydrogen technologies
- Solar panels
- Cogeneration systems
- Charging stations
- Innovative technologies for appliances which comes under the City's mandate for electrification, part of the December 2021 NYC Council legislation phasing out fossil fuels from new construction in 2024 with new buildings planned to be electrically powered. ■

All conference presentations can be found at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/buildings/safety/construction-safety-presentations.page>

"GET SHEDS DOWN"

MAYOR ADAMS' PLAN TO REMOVE THE UNSIGHTLY STRUCTURES SPANNING CLOSE TO 400 MILES OF SIDEWALK SPACE THROUGHOUT NEW YORK CITY

In late July, NYC Mayor Eric Adams and DOB Commissioner Jimmy Oddo [announced](#) the City's new "Get Sheds Down" plan to remove the sidewalk sheds, also known as sidewalk bridges, from City streets throughout the boroughs and to redesign those that need to temporarily remain in place.

The plan, roundly applauded at a press conference well-attended by City officials, aims to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers by shortening the lifespan of the pipe and plywood structures and replace them with more visually appealing, less intrusive alternatives. Not only are the sheds eyesores, but they can shield illegal activity, impede small business commerce, obscure streetlights, and create pedestrian congestion.

Approximately 9000 active, permitted construction sheds – estimated to be 4000 in Manhattan alone – with an average age of nearly 500 days, span more than 2 million linear feet, or nearly 400 miles, and occupy about 3 percent of the City's sidewalk space. "Get Sheds Down" intends to incentivize property owners to expedite façade repairs.

The media has followed this story over the years as previous mayors, including Adams' predecessor Bill DeBlasio, also pledged that sheds will come down though with few results. WNBC-TV noted in March of this year that the [oldest NYC shed](#) dates back 17 years to 2006. This overhaul, however, has teeth to it: steep financial penalties. Said Adams, "This is how we reimagine our city, revitalize our business districts, and build a



PHOTO: NYC.GOV

In late July, NYC Mayor Eric Adams and DOB Commissioner Jimmy Oddo announced the City's new "Get Sheds Down" plan to remove the sidewalk sheds, also known as sidewalk bridges, from City streets throughout the boroughs and to redesign those that need to temporarily remain in place.

safer, more welcoming city for all."

Oddo stressed that in no way would pedestrian safety be compromised. "Sidewalk sheds are an important public safety tool to protect New Yorkers from hazardous conditions, but they are no substitute for proper building maintenance. This comprehensive plan will compel building owners to make needed repairs so sheds can be removed more quickly – improving public safety while also transforming how we think about pedestrian protection in our city." "The reforms the mayor is pursuing are an exciting step towards ensuring that sheds are up only as long as they need to be to keep New Yorkers safe," said Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, a major proponent of the plan.

"Sidewalk sheds protect the public from hazards that can occur on aging buildings, but building code changes are needed to ensure much-needed façade restoration work is completed in a timely fashion so sheds can be removed," said Veronika Sikorski, president, New York City Special Riggers Association. "Get Sheds Down" includes nine concrete strategies to improve public space and safety:

INCREASED USE OF SAFETY

NETTING – On July 25, the DOB Building News Update outlined rules governing use of safety containment netting in detail. Furthermore, the Adams administration will lead by example. The DCAS (Department of Citywide Administrative Services) will pilot the use of netting to partially replace a

preexisting shed in front of Queens County Supreme Court in Jamaica, NY. A City agency that owns a building or is sponsoring a construction project requiring pedestrian protection will be required to assess whether netting can be used. Only if netting is ruled out as a viable option will the agency be able to proceed with the implementation of a traditional shed.

REIMAGINING SIDEWALK SHEDS

– The DOB Building News Update noted above put out an RFP to architecture and engineering firms seeking new designs and alternative means of pedestrian protection. The agency will select up to six new, alternative shed, netting, and carbon fiber wrap designs that are more attractive, still affordable, and protective. The deadline to submit was

October 5, 2023. Designs selected are slated to be incorporated into the City's Construction Codes by the end of 2024.

REDESIGNING EXISTING SHEDS

- Immediate, interim changes include increasing lighting, allowing art to be installed on shed panels, and unlocking color choices beyond the currently uniform, Construction Code mandated, hunter green.

PAYING A PRICE - PENALIZING SHEDS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

- The Adams' administration will partner with Levine for legislation to impose new financial penalties on sidewalk sheds in the public right of way that aren't directly related to new construction or demolition projects. The timespan for sheds erected for these purposes has also been significantly decreased from a year to 90 days or about three months thereby requiring renewals four times a year. Penalties will be assessed to account for phased compliance and allow for reduced monthly penalties as repair work progresses and sheds are partially removed. Penalties would be capped at \$6,000 per month, and waived if property owners take action to remove the shed within an allotted time. One- and two-family homes, and buildings employing safety netting would be exempt.

DOUBLING DOWN ON PENALTIES FOR SHEDS IN CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS

- One central business district in each of four boroughs will be the initial target of enforcement (there are very few sheds in Staten Island): Midtown Manhattan, Downtown Brooklyn, Long Island City in Queens, and the Grand Concourse in the Bronx.

The oldest NYC shed, located at 409 Edgecomb Avenue, dates back to 2006

STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT ON SHED PERMITS

- The September 15 DOB Building News Update noted that the DOB will no longer waive Work Without a Permit civil penalties for expired permits – they must be properly renewed. In addition, all sheds, construction fences and related scaffolding installed from September 1 on must display DCLA approved artwork once installed for at least 90 days unless the owner opts out of the requirement on the PW1.

TARGETING LONGSTANDING SIDEWALK SHEDS

- The DOB will expand its Long Standing Shed program that scrutinizes sheds that have been up longer than five years to include sheds in place over three years, adding over 500 sheds to the universe and more than doubling the number of targeted properties. Sheds in this program receive all from regular site visits to enforcement inspectors to potential criminal court actions or litigation if repairs aren't made in a timely manner.

EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE REPAIRS QUICKLY

- The Adams administration will partner with Borough President Levine to explore the creation of a low-interest loan program to provide financial support for property owners who lack the resources to complete necessary façade repair work. This strategic approach spares smaller property owners from additional financial burdens and should speed façade work for owners with greater resources.

RE-EVALUATING LL11

INSPECTIONS - The majority of sidewalk sheds were erected to comply with the DOB's Façade Inspection and Safety Program (FISP). Under Local Law 11 of 1998, owners of properties higher than six stories —**approximately 16,000 citywide**— must have exterior walls inspected every five years and file a report designating buildings "safe," "safe with a repair and maintenance program," or "unsafe." If a building is unsafe, the owner must immediately install pedestrian protection. Building owners can indefinitely delay needed building repairs and keep sheds up without penalties. Smaller buildings can renew shed permits indefinitely. Taller buildings subject to Local Law 11 can file for repeated extensions and avoid penalties. The result has been sidewalk sheds languishing for years. Under "Get Sheds Down," property owners could be assessed a \$10,000 penalty when a shed is in place due to an unsafe façade and the property owner fails to meet any of three deadlines:

- Filing a repair application within three months,
- Obtaining required work permits within six months,
- Fully completing repairs within 24 months.

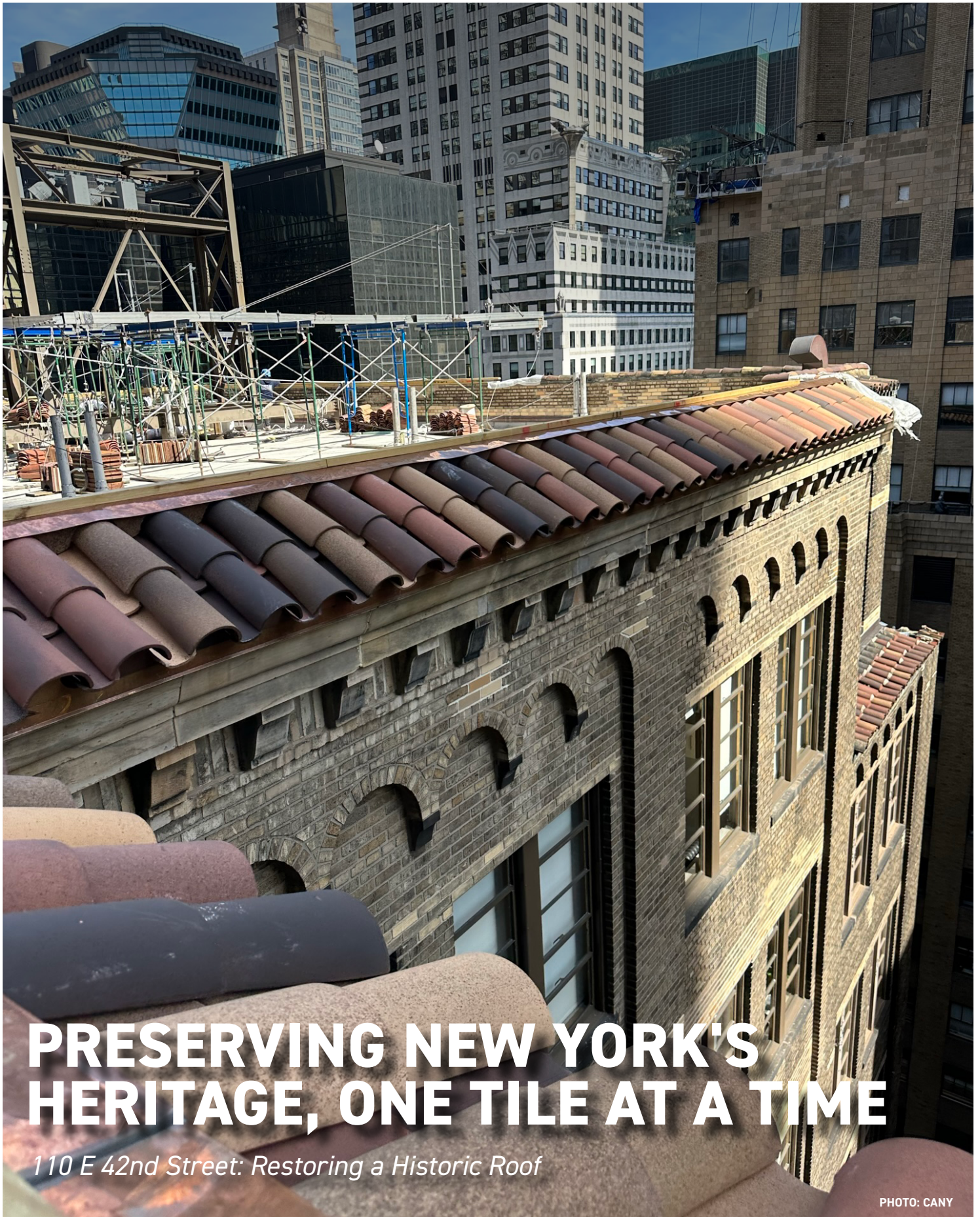
These would supplement existing monthly penalties issued by the DOB when owners fail to make progress on FISP requirements for façade repairs.

The DOB will conduct a study to determine whether New York City can employ less frequent and/or less onerous inspections without jeopardizing pedestrian safety. The vision behind all is the creation of a more beautiful, welcoming, and inviting cityscape for residents and visitors to enjoy. ■

GUIDELINES

At the August 24, [DOB Build Safe|Live Safe Conference](#), DOB First Deputy Commissioner Constadino 'Gus' Sirakis, P.E., discussed Mayor Adams' "Get Sheds Down" plan and added key construction details on the changes needed in his presentation: "2022 NYC Construction Code Sidewalk Shed Requirements and Pedestrian Protection Updates":

- The new designs will be re-engineered to improve street level access and give all stakeholders a more "open" experience. Spacing of vertical supports or columns will be 10 ft. in lieu of the originally mandated 8 ft. This allows for structural changes altering the need for continuous horizontal cross bracing and even eliminating it in some cases.
 - Cantilevered platforms are being used on certain projects allowing for unencumbered sidewalk usage while construction continues on façades above.
 - Structural netting can be applied and secured to façades and architectural appurtenances to restrain any material defect or failure from falling. This method is seen as more temporary than the above two measures.
 - Steel wire mesh can be substituted for plywood panels. This addresses the concerns with wind-related uplift and reduces, possibly eliminates, the 'sail' effect that solid parapet designs encounter during strong winds. Installing 'outrigger' parapet extensions are no longer permitted.
- The DOB has mandated that an accurate count be made of all sidewalk sheds and that all contractors collecting rents or performing installing contracts complete a survey of their equipment. The results should be a serious mitigation effort creating a more effective approach to balance pedestrian safety and building façade maintenance. ■



PRESERVING NEW YORK'S HERITAGE, ONE TILE AT A TIME

110 E 42nd Street: Restoring a Historic Roof

PHOTO: CANY

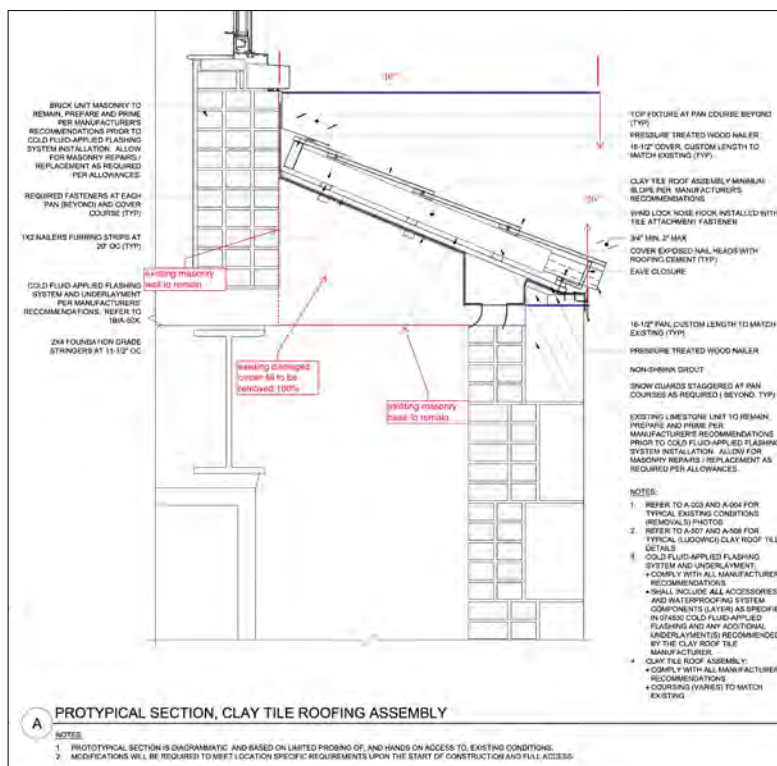
By Amy DeLuca*
Senior Project Manager/
Studio Lead
CANY

The first time that I stepped foot onto a scaffold, brand new to the restoration world, I climbed across an 18-story pipe scaffold spread across the expansive sandstone façade of 110 E 42nd Street as it rose over 42nd Street.

That project in 2010 was a full restoration, including masonry repairs, cleaning, re-painting, and steam cleaning of the facades. [Skyline Restoration](#) worked with [CANY](#) on the exterior repairs, while [CetraRuddy Architects](#) and [Higgins & Quasbarth](#) were additional consultants. Working closely with the [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#), the building was respectfully polished up and given new life.

As anyone in the restoration world can tell you, however, that new life requires constant upkeep. Buildings are in a constant battle with the often-harsh winter conditions of New York City. As a part of the city's Façade Inspection and Safety Program, CANY has continued to inspect and oversee the repairs on 110 E 42nd Street over the years. In 2019 it became apparent that the clay tile roof would need a more serious intervention, and the focus of the current repair campaign began to form.

The historic clay tile roof has not been fully replaced since its installation in the 1920s. Spot repairs over the years have replaced broken tiles or attempted to cover leakage areas with surface applied waterproofing. CANY performed several probes to understand the full assembly from tile down to structural deck. The tiles were mortared and wired together and set on a wire-lath-reinforced bed of mortar. Below the mortar bed, copper sheeting

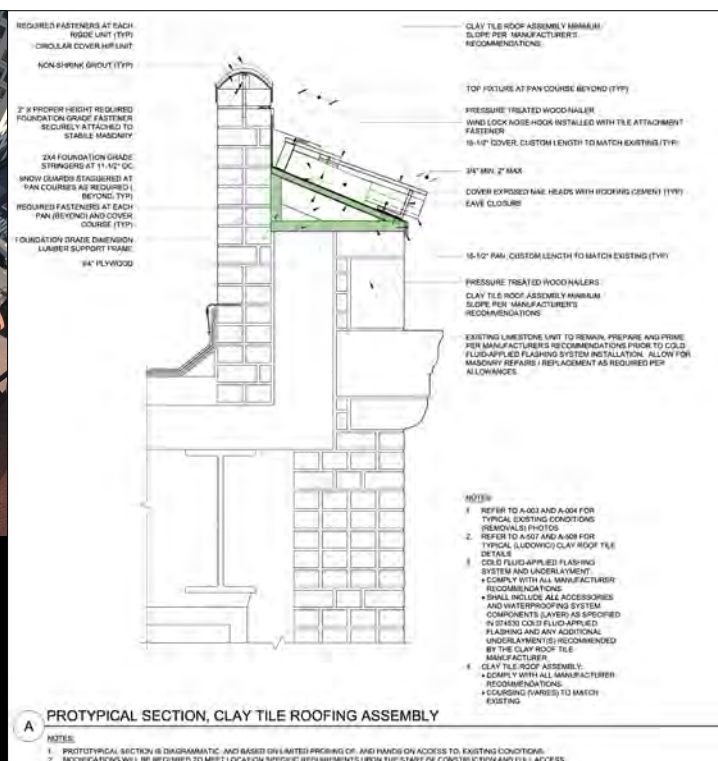


Probes at the 18th floor deck showed unreinforced concrete topping slabs over loose cinder fill that had previously provided slope. Due to its complete instability, this whole portion had to be removed.

PHOTOS/DRAWINGS: CANY



Several rounds of shop drawings worked out the wood structures required to provide adequate slope and anchorage.



extended continuously from the parapet or rising walls to the roof edges. The copper acted as the waterproofing membrane over a concrete substrate. Over the years, the mortar between the tiles had cracked and disengaged. Any damages to the copper

below allowed water to enter the building. As the repair campaign started, CANY and Skyline encountered several challenges, including color selection, demolition surprises, and shop drawing finalization.

CANY and Skyline encountered a few demolition surprises.



PHOTO: CANY

Work ongoing via suspended scaffolds at the north and east elevations.

Demolition surprises

During demolition of the existing roofing assembly, CANY and Skyline encountered a few demolition surprises. At the 18th Floor Setback Roof, what was considered the underlying concrete deck was found to be cracked and broken typically across the entire length. In cutting deeper, loose cinder fill poured from the probes. Instead of being able to anchor to this deck as was possible at the upper roof sections, the entire assembly had to be removed. Demolition here took far longer than anticipated with such an excess of material to remove- up to a foot of loose cinder fill in places. With the absence of any reinforcing, this area appeared to be only for creating slope at the larger tile roof area.

Shop drawing creation and review became a process as the design for a new structure to create slope at this level had to be re-introduced. A lighter

weight wood structure was chosen for ease of installation as well as improved access for waterproofing and tile attachment detailing. Pull testing at the substrate below the original concrete confirmed that the new structure could be safely installed.

Despite the challenges inherent in replacing such an involved historic component of the building, the result allows for modern waterproofing and structural attachments while maintaining the look of the original tile installation. Here's to hoping for another 100 years! ■



THE COLOR VARIATION ON THE FINAL TILE INSTALLATION MIMICS THE HISTORIC

CANY selected the Ludowici "Cubana" tile based on the dimensions and specific curvature of the tile. The challenge of evenly mixing in six colors fell to Skyline Restoration.

Ludowici Tile supplied several tile samples for color and shape consideration. With many spot replacements over the years, various colors and tile shapes were present in the assembly. Previous replacements had utilized a more common modern tile shape that did not match the historic 1920s tile.

CANY selected the Ludowici "Cubana" tile based on the dimensions and specific curvature of the tile as it most closely matched the original. The existing installation contained variegated shades from dark to light. Modern fabrication allowed for three ranges within one color: light, medium, and dark.

CANY chose two colors, resulting in a combination of six shades total. LPC reviewed and approved this approach. As part of the ongoing project, the challenge of evenly mixing in these six colors has fallen to Skyline. From the first mock-up, the installation has artfully mixed the tile shades. The color variation on the final installation mimics the historic closely and has been very successful. ■



Top: Existing tile removed for measurements.

Middle: Ludowici tile color variations. **Bottom:** Ludowici tile profile variations.

PHOTOS: CANY

***Amy DeLuca is a Senior Project Manager and Studio Lead at CANY Architecture and Engineering.** She studied architecture in Washington D.C. at The Catholic University of America and graduated with both a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Master of Architecture. With an interest in historic preservation, she moved to New York and began working in the building envelope field with CANY in 2010. Since then, Amy has had the opportunity to work on a wide variety of historic structures. Decorative terra cotta buildings are her favorite restoration challenge. She is certified for scaffold inspections and is a Level 2 Rope Access Technician with SPRAT. ■

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LEGISLATION MAKES WAGE THEFT LARCENY

It allows prosecutors to seek stronger criminal penalties against employers who steal wages from workers



"My administration is committed to making our state the most worker-friendly state in the nation", says New York Governor Kathy Hochul, upon signing legislation, at the NYC Central Labor Council 2023 Labor Day Parade breakfast reception.

On September 6, New York Governor Kathy Hochul [signed](#) a package of legislation that includes legislation (S2832-A/A154-A) which makes wage theft a form of larceny and allows prosecutors to seek stronger criminal penalties against employers who steal wages from workers.

The Governor also signed legislation (S1161-A/

A2034-A) which increases the minimum benefits for workers' compensation for injured workers who cannot work, and legislation (S4982/A6604) which prohibits employers from disciplining employees that opt not to participate in meetings about the employer's political or religious views.

"This legislation will help to ensure that all New Yorkers

receive the benefits and protections that allow them to work with dignity," Governor Hochul said. "My administration is committed to making our state the most worker-friendly state in the nation, and I thank the bill sponsors for their partnership in our mission to establish the strongest and most robust protections right here in New York." ■

CONVERTING VACANT OFFICES INTO RESIDENTIAL SPACES PROPOSED

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) Director Dan Garodnick are taking steps towards building new housing across the city, including by laying out a plan to convert vacant offices into housing as part of Mayor Adams' "City of Yes" plan. The Adams administration is also launching an Office Conversion Accelerator to expedite complex office-to-housing conversion projects — speeding up the process of creating new housing using millions of square feet of empty offices. At the same time, the Adams administration kicked off the "Midtown South Neighborhood Plan," a community planning process that will update zoning rules that currently allow only manufacturing and office space. ■



IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

MORE GUARD AID FOR ASYLUM SEEKER CRISIS SUPPORT

On September 25, 2023, New York Governor Kathy Hochul [announced](#) the deployment of an additional 150 members of the New York National Guard to support the ongoing response to the asylum seeker and migrant crisis.

Because of this new deployment, the state will be able to assign

250 National Guard personnel the full-time responsibilities of case management professionals. This, along with the \$50million state investment thus far, will help asylum seekers and migrants file the appropriate paperwork to attain legal work status and exit taxpayer-funded shelters. ■

SITE SAFETY TRAINING FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

"We're waiting for additional support to turn out another round," says Shana McCormick, executive director of The Skyline Charitable Foundation



PHOTOS: THE SKYLINE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

From April 24 to May 3, The Skyline Charitable Foundation's Asylum Seeker Relief Program (ASRP) trained 32 migrants; from May 22 to May 31, another 37 – this time women comprised approximately 20% of the total.

"I've never met people who want to work so much – who are so determined to become self-sufficient," says Shana McCormick, executive director of [The Skyline Charitable Foundation \(TSCF\)](#), describing the migrant community served by the Asylum Seeker Relief Program (ASRP) the Foundation created last year.

McCormick found herself in constant contact with a mass influx of migrants from South America – primarily Venezuela and Ecuador – and some from West Africa in the summer of 2022 through TSCF's RAP4Bronx food relief program. Men, women, and children bused and flown from Southern states were arriving en masse at the Port Authority and area airports. "Often they hadn't eaten for days and were living in very poor conditions," says McCormick, noting that RAP4Bronx partners and collaborates with Rethink Food, Hungry Monk, Fundavenyc and other nonprofits and grass

roots organizations that provide food, shelter and services to individuals and families in need. She began to organize talks with City agencies to find ways to make relief efforts more sustainable and "make the dollars stretch." McCormick soon discovered that many migrants had experience in construction, often as laborers, sometimes as architects or engineers.

"Though the type of construction they'd performed was different from local work, it required similar skills," she says. It didn't take long to put the components together: As TSCF has access to a state-of-the-art, fully equipped training facility with a crew of bilingual instructors at the Andromeda building in Long Island City, she decided it was time to act. "We had resources that could change people's lives. It's our duty as human beings to activate," she says. McCormick took "a leap of faith" and organized three rounds of

training in August and September 2022, two weeks each for 40 individuals at a time. A total of 120 men and women (15% of the trainees) received 62 hours of hands-on instruction to meet OSHA and NYC DOB requirements for Site Safety Certification.

"The program lifted the spirits of everyone who walked through the doors of the facility. There were super stressful days, but it worked out," says McCormick. Several Skyline Restoration employees, some of whom were Asylum Seekers themselves at one time, took the podium to share motivational stories of experiences they endured and overcame as they worked their way up.

"Many in the industry are immigrants themselves – by helping out they were paying homage to all those who are seeking a better life," she says. The need for work authorization was a hurdle, yet proper training was essential for the safety of the trainees, other workers, and all

New Yorkers.

When McCormick tried to get funding to launch another round in the fall, she found her pleas fell on deaf ears until, just days before Christmas, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs called to ask if more migrants could be trained if the City contributed \$25,000.

"Yes!" was her immediate response. Though the amount wasn't sufficient, an anonymous donor filled in the gap for two more rounds. From April 24 to May 3, ASRP trained 32 migrants; from May 22 to May 31, another 37 – this time women comprised approximately 20% of the total. The majority of those who completed the training have found employment and either filed or are close to filing work authorization. The program is currently on hold.

"We're waiting for additional support to turn out another round. There's an extensive wait list," says McCormick. "I'll do it ten times over if I can!" ■



PHOTOS: NAS KARAS STUDIOS

Tireless volunteers Brittany Burgos, Emma Cook, Evelyn Valentin, and Georgia Dimakopoulos welcomed the attendees of the 15th Annual Golf Classic benefiting The Skyline Charitable Foundation, on June 26, 2023, at the Old Westbury Golf and Country Club.

A heartfelt appreciation to all those who contributed to the resounding success of the 15th Annual Golf Classic benefiting The Skyline Charitable Foundation

[Skyline Restoration](#) and [The Skyline Charitable Foundation](#) are delighted to extend their heartfelt appreciation to all those who contributed to the resounding success of the 15th Annual Golf Classic, a remarkable event that took place on June 26, 2023, at the prestigious Old Westbury Golf and Country Club.

This year's Golf Classic was nothing short of extraordinary, thanks to the overwhelming support from individuals and organizations that share our commitment to making a positive impact in our community. We were deeply moved by the unwavering dedication of our supporters, whose generosity not only ensured the event's success but also profoundly touched the lives of those in need within our community.

A Beacon of Hope

The heart of this event lies not just in its numbers but in the real, tangible difference it



The winning foursome of this year's Golf Classic: Matt Welsh, Mike Goldfarb, Steve Materetsky, and Rick Chou (not shown).

makes in people's lives. Through the collective efforts of our generous supporters, we raised an astounding \$342,970.00 in funds. These funds will be channeled into a range of ongoing initiatives that reflect the core mission of The Skyline Charitable Foundation.

Supporting Education, Fighting Hunger, and Empowering Lives

The impact of the Golf Classic reaches far beyond monetary

figures. Each dollar raised directly empowers individuals and families to overcome obstacles and forge brighter futures for themselves. The funds will be allocated to several vital initiatives, including:

Educational Scholarships:

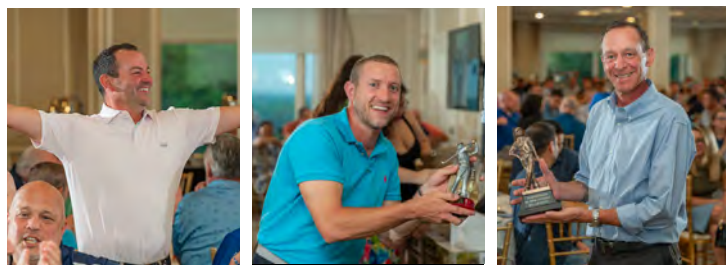
Providing educational scholarships for underprivileged students, enabling them to access quality education and build a better future.



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 1819 have been presenting the Flag at The Skyline Charitable Foundation's golf classics for over a decade.



Jasen Geraghty, Vice President, Skyline Restoration presented plaques to tournament sponsors: Douglas Fenniman, Gallagher Construction Practice Group; Roy Vollmer, M&T Bank; Lorant Varga, Will Laffey, Spring Scaffolding.



Closest to the Pin winners: Hugo Ramirez, John Dimares, and Dan Morogiello (not shown). Longest Put winner: Bryan Prekopa.

Support for Local Food Banks and Shelters: Assisting local food banks and shelters to ensure that no one in our community goes to bed hungry or without shelter.

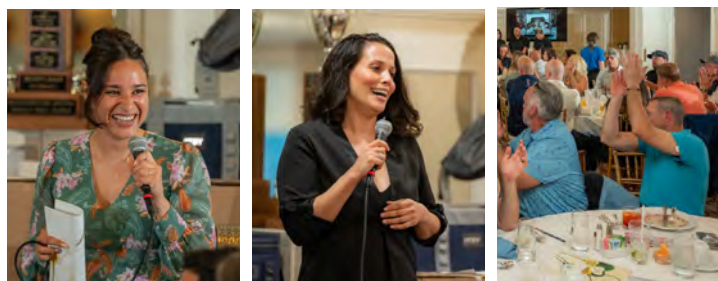
Resources for Individuals with Disabilities: Offering crucial resources to individuals with disabilities, enhancing their quality of life and promoting inclusivity.

These initiatives exemplify our

unwavering commitment to creating lasting change in the lives of those facing various challenges and adversities in our community.

A Testament to Compassion and Kindness

The Golf Classic embodies the spirit of compassion and kindness that lies at the very core of The Skyline Charitable Foundation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude



Shana McCormick, executive director, The Skyline Charitable Foundation, and Karina Van Brunt, LMSW, bilingual therapist at the [New York Center for Children](#), thanked all those who contributed to the resounding success of the 15th Annual Golf Classic.



The "Most Honest" Foursome: Abunasar Azad, Mike Kelson, Lawrence Eichorn, and Mo Rahi.

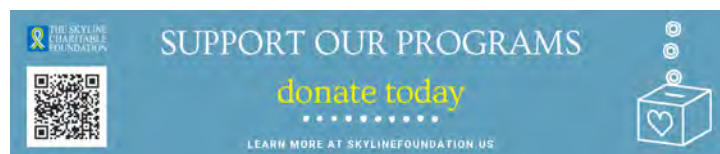
to every supporter whose dedication and belief in our mission have made this event a tremendous success. We would also like to take a moment to celebrate the winning foursome of this year's Golf Classic: Matt Welsh, Mike Goldfarb, Steve Materetsky, and Rick Chou. Your exceptional performance on the golf course mirrors your commitment to making a difference in our community.

A Bright Future Ahead

As we reflect on the resounding success of the 15th Annual Golf

Classic, we are filled with hope for the future. The echoes of this event continue to resonate, and The Skyline Charitable Foundation looks forward to a future illuminated by unity, compassion, and transformative change. Once again, we express our deepest gratitude for your support. Your contributions are instrumental in bringing hope, happiness, and positive change to those in need. Together, we are making our community a better place for everyone. Thank you for being a part of our mission. ■

MORE PHOTOS AT [SKYLINEFOUNDATION.US/MOMENTS-2023](https://skylinefoundation.us/moments-2023)





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MAS seeks to create a dialogue with issues of contemporary art practices to encourage, support and expand creativity and self-expression. To create an environment in which the arts flourish and enrich the quality of life. — www.mosaicartspace.com

PHOTOS: MOSAIC ART SPACE



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