

# BECKMAN PLACE ASSOCIATION

*Dear Neighbors,*

2023 was an exciting year for the Beekman Place Association, Inc.! We held our first ever gala fundraiser at Ophelia on top of the Beekman Tower Hotel, a member building. It was a beautiful night where 92 of our neighbors, and our local City Council Member Keith Powers, came to mingle and bid on the fabulous silent auction prizes from local businesses and individuals. The fundraiser helped us double our donations year-over-year, allowing us to purchase two new large capacity



smart garbage stations for our neighborhood with the funds we raised. By doing this, we were able to eliminate six trash cans that were over 20 years old rotting away and attracting rodents. The branding and QR codes on the garbage stations help to promote



the Association and drive individuals to our website and social media pages. We are excited about how great the neighborhood looks right now compared to the rest of the city! In addition to cleaning up the garbage on our streets, we are constantly removing graffiti, painting, stickers, and advertisements to make sure

Beekman Place remains beautiful and clean. This improves the quality of life in our East Side oasis.

**Spring 2024**

# NEWS

## Neighborhood Gatherings

Aside from our Gala, we also hosted two events for families and neighbors. In October, we hosted our annual Halloween Party for families in partnership with the 17<sup>th</sup> Precinct of the NYPD. While the weather didn't cooperate, we had over 100 people attend the event, and used our new tent to protect the balloon twisting artists and face painters from the rain! The NYPD showed up (Officer Pee and his partner) with a trunk full of candy, let all the kids sit in the brand new NYPD car, and talk on their radio! We also hosted a holiday sing-along by the Holiday Tree at the end of East 50<sup>th</sup> Street on a chilly evening in December. Even though we had to change the date last minute due to weather, almost 50 people (babies to grandparents) joined us. We believe this new tradition for the Association will grow in popularity in the coming years. Many thanks to our neighbor Barbara Thomas for volunteering to help organize this great evening!



## New Buildings and New Board Members

In 2023, we were proud to welcome three new buildings and two new townhomes to the Beekman Place Association. With that came an opportunity to expand our board of directors, bringing new talented individuals who are committed to keeping our neighborhood safe and beautiful. We welcome Joan Schmidt, Scott Gutterman, Peggy Shelly, Kevin Seery, and Karla Leon to the Board of Directors. We also thank Board Members who rotated off the board in the last year for all of their time and energy they gave to the Association. Thank you to Tom Ruta, Dean Stefanides, and Liza Schneider.

## Your donations keep our neighborhood safe!!!

With additional dues received from the new member buildings, we were able to increase the hours we have our security guard patrol the neighborhood by 25%. In 2024 we hope the remaining buildings and townhomes will join the Association, allowing us to increase security by an additional 25%. While homelessness continues to plague the city, we are working with the NYPD to keep Beekman Place free from homeless encampments.

## A New Destination

The new East Midtown Greenway extension of the East River Esplanade project finally opened in December 2023. It is a beautiful place for our neighborhood to have access to, just a short walk away from the bridge entrance on East 54<sup>th</sup> Street. We hope that all of our neighbors will get down to the water to enjoy this peaceful pathway the city has built for us all.



## Public Advocacy and Collaboration

Beekman Place Association has been involved with our sister neighborhood organizations, advocating for our neighborhood on many issues important to you! From the proposed casino south of the UN, to making our area the envy of the East Side...we work hard for you. With the forthcoming policy, we have also been partnering with local organizations to request an exemption for residents in the congestion pricing zone.

## What you get from Beekman Place Association

Beekman Place Association is funded by the dues paid by neighborhood buildings and townhomes, and by generous donations from individuals like you! This allows our neighborhood to have a security guard patrol nightly on foot, private garbage removal by the Doe Fund, flowers planted annually in the sidewalk tree beds by the Turtle Bay Tree Fund, beautiful hanging flower baskets during summer months, decorations during the holiday season, pristine streets without graffiti, and community events. People want to be in this neighborhood.



## Milberg Law Firm joins the Neighborhood

Along with new businesses like Chez Les Frenchies, Milberg is thrilled to introduce themselves to our neighbors. Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman ("Milberg") offers a broad range of legal services by a team of highly experienced attorneys, just bought and renovated a townhouse on 50<sup>th</sup> Street. They believe in supporting our community and maintaining a relationship of trust and transparency. We welcome businesses who help and support our neighborhood.

## Volunteers

We are thankful to Jon Scarlet, who volunteered his time to photograph our gala in May, and to Barbara Thomas who helped us organize a beautiful evening sing-along by the Holiday Tree. What talents do you have that could help Beekman Place Association? Contact us at [board@beekmanplacenyc.org](mailto:board@beekmanplacenyc.org) to get involved.



## We appreciate you!

Last but not least, thank you to all the individuals who donated in 2023!  
YOU make our neighborhood GREAT!

### *Reach us and volunteer!*

email: [board@beekmanplacenyc.org](mailto:board@beekmanplacenyc.org)  
website: [www.beekmanplacenyc.org](http://www.beekmanplacenyc.org)  
Instagram: @BeekmanPlaceNYC



**DONATE NOW:** Zelle or PayPal – [board@beekmanplacenyc.org](mailto:board@beekmanplacenyc.org)

*Beekman Place Association is a 501c(4) organization and donations are NOT tax deductible.*

**DIRECTORS:** Jennifer Gunsberger (Co-President), Ken Gunsberger (Co-President), Nancy Gillespie De La Selle, Michael Goldfarb, Scott Gutterman, Mary Grace Heine, Kathy Hoffman, Karla Leon, Joan Schmidt, Kevin Seery (Treasurer), Peggy Shelly, Mary Ann Spitznagel, Camila Wojtusiack (Secretary), Neil Coughlin

**MEMBER BUILDINGS:** The Beekman Tower, 1 Beekman Place, 2 Beekman Place, 12 Beekman Place, 25 Beekman Place, 30 Beekman Place, 400 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street, 420 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street, 433 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street, 439 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street, 455 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street, 10 Mitchell Place

**MEMBER TOWNHOUSES & MISSIONS:** 17 Beekman Place, 31 Beekman Place, 33 Beekman Place, 37 Beekman Place, 39 Beekman Place, 405 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street, 408 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street, 415 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street, 418 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street, and Anonymous