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Executive of the Month: Zamechansky, owner and president of KZA dedicated to making the Bronx a better place

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Kathy Zamechansky, owner and president of KZA Realty Group, Inc. (KZA), and president of Kathy Zamechansky & Associates Inc., has dedicated her entire career to making the Bronx a better place to live and work.

Early on, she held leadership positions in the administrations of a U.S. congressman, New York city councilman, and Bronx borough presidents, and led the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. and then the Bronx Chamber of Commerce before establishing her own firm in the late 80s. Her integrated, in-depth experience, and the relationships she has cultivated in government, business, and grassroots community organizations, give her unique insight into the needs of the Bronx business and residential communities, and have positioned her to be a true force for change.

Today, Zamechansky leads her Bronx-based commercial real estate brokerage and development consulting firm with over 35-years of experience in the real estate industry in the public and private sectors. KZA Realty Group, Inc., and Kathy Zamechansky & Associates provide their clients with a vast array of comprehensive services ranging from brokerage, pre-development consulting, project management, and community and government relations services that have helped clients successfully navigate New York's intricate land use system. Her practice also includes extensive site acquisition and site assemblage for both developers and users.

Zamechansky has shepherded many high-profile projects from the initial planning phase to grand opening. At each step, KZA provides strategies for constructive and cost-effective community involvement that educates, involves, promotes, and builds the support necessary to successfully traverse New York's daunting maze of formal and informal approval processes. Additionally, KZA creates and implements job training and minority participation programs that provide local employment through the construction phase and for permanent and part-time jobs upon a project's completion.

In addition to working with many national retailers, like Applebees, Dunkin Donuts, Dickey's BBQ, Amalgamated Bank, VIM Stores and Walgreens, Zamechansky has helped many regional companies establish a presence in the Bronx. For Bright Side Academy, a day care organization from Pittsburgh, she assisted in their expansion into the New York City market, siting 10 centers in the Bronx and Brooklyn in a period of five years, and is currently working with them on three new locations. The Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, a supportive housing organization, has been a client for more than 5 years. Throughout that time, Zamechansky has helped them develop six locations for housing in the Bronx.

Additionally, Zamechansky is working as a project manager for D & J Ambulette on the acquisition of a city owned site where they were designated the successful bidder, and KZA is providing consulting services to Triangle Equities on a mixed-use development project on 149th St. and Bergen Ave.

Understanding that the availability of affordable housing is critical, Zamechansky is proud to have played a role in the development of Intervale Senior Residences and the Morris Court mixed-use developments, as a consultant and broker for Guido Subotovsky, president of Azimuth Development.

As part of her commitment to a building a better Bronx, Zamechansky participates in many community and business organizations. This includes serving on the board of directors of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp, as the president-elect of the Bronx-Manhattan Association of Realtors, on the board of directors of the New Bronx Chamber of Commerce, and as president of the board for The Fund for the Future Women Leaders of the Bronx. She is also a member of the New York State Association for Affordable Housing, the International Council of Shopping Centers, and the Morris Park Association, an organization that has dedicated more than 30 years of service to preserving the integrity and safety of the Morris Park Community.

Recent recognition for her contributions and accomplishments include a Bronx Leadership Award from Mercy College and a CoStar Group Power Broker Award for Top Leasing Retail Broker in the Westchester/Southern Connecticut market. In 2011, Zamechansky was honored by Bronx borough president Ruben Diaz Jr., The Belmont Business Improvement District and the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York. In 2009, she was named one of the 25 Most Influential Women by The Bronx Times Reporter and was awarded the Realtor of the Year by the Manhattan North Association of Realtors (BMAR).

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