



REBNY and Coro New York Leadership Center celebrate the graduating class of 2023 REBNY Fellows Leadership Program

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Manhattan, NY The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY), the City's leading real estate trade association, and the Coro New York Leadership Center, the City's premier civic leadership training program, announced the newest graduating class of the REBNY Fellows Leadership Program. REBNY hosted the graduation ceremony at Nuveen's 22nd Floor Terrace at 730 Third Ave.

The first of its kind for mid-career professionals of diverse backgrounds in New York City real estate, the REBNY Fellows Program is a high-impact curriculum of leadership training, networking exposure and other events that help rising stars shape the future of the industry. Over the last six months, Fellows were called upon to solve complex challenges, assess multiple perspectives and collaborate effectively while becoming part of a lifelong professional network that will support their continued success.

The 24 talented professionals graduating from the 2023 Fellows class come from a wide range of disciplines, including residential and commercial brokerage, development and capital markets. Notably, the 2023 REBNY Fellows program served twice as many participants as in 2022, and early interest in the 2024 cohort has already surpassed early applications in prior years.

"Our Fellows program is continuing to gain momentum, supporting a more inclusive and diverse real estate industry," said Yvonne Riley-Tepie, REBNY's senior vice president of Social Impact. "As graduates are seen advancing their careers thanks to new skills and greater industry exposure gained through this program and with the support of their employers, our waiting list for the next cohort is growing and more sponsors have reached out than at any point in the last three years."

Once accepted into the program, Fellows' employers sponsor their participation costs, demonstrating the commitment of these businesses to a diverse workforce. This year's program featured thought leaders in the real estate industry, including Bill Rudin – Rudin Management, Michelle Adams – Tishman Speyer, Kirk Goodrich–Monadnock Development, Frank Giuliano--the Durst Organization, Sujohn Sarkar–Trinity Wall Street, Tanya Diaz Goldsmith–Related and Baba Halm–Enterprise Communities, among others.

"Congratulations to the REBNY Fellows Class of 2023," said Garrett Lucien, Coro's vice president of Programs & Training. "Coro empowers diverse leaders and helps to create a more equitable,

inclusive and innovative society. Working closely with REBNY and this group of Fellows over the last six months, we're confident each of them are armed with the tools to make sure New York City's real estate industry is more reflective of the city it serves."

In just three years since the launch of the first REBNY Fellows, 58 real estate professionals have graduated from the program. Many of the candidates from the prior cohorts have already gained promotions or greater responsibilities at their firms and continue to have an impact on the industry at large.

The REBNY Fellows Leadership Program was designed and launched based on an overarching commitment by REBNY's Diversity Committee to create new professional opportunities and take additional steps to increase diversity and inclusion throughout the real estate industry. REBNY is dedicated to advancing efforts that help attract, retain, and advance women, people of color, and others from diverse backgrounds in the real estate industry.

Beyond the Fellows Program, REBNY is partnering with the City's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and Ladders for Leaders to help diverse college students earn employment and internships this summer. In addition, REBNY has created a series of lunch and learn webinars to engage student participants and cover topics such as Developing Soft Skills, Using LinkedIn to Create Your Personal Brand, as well as a virtual job fair and an in-person end of summer event. The webinars will be utilized by other organizations and sectors including the NYPD Foundation, The Governors Island/Navy Yard Fellowship Program, LaGuardia Research Foundation, Financial Institutions and 32BJ. REBNY also partners with Building Skills NY to connect underemployed New Yorkers with jobs and training to create new career pathways into the construction industry.

A full list of this year's REBNY Fellows graduates are below:

Jay Ackerman, director of Special Initiatives, Real Estate Board of New York
Alana Bassen, vice president, CBRE
Athenes Bauza, director, Business Development, FirstService Residential New York
Matthew Berman, senior general manager, The Durst Organization
Daniel Cobar, director, AvalonBay Communities
Christine Gouwens, assistant property manager, Empire State Realty Trust
Lisa Hunt, director of Operations, Webb & Brooker Inc.
Hironori Imaizumi, senior analyst, CBRE
Leleah James, executive director, Related Affordable Foundation
Rhett James, senior associate, Tishman Speyer
Alexander Melendez, assistant project manager, Fairstead LLC
Sally Nogueira, portfolio manager, Rose Associates
Rosemary Pagan, community manager, Gotham Organization
Lauren Pepin, associate real estate broker, Compass
Christopher Perugini, associate, Investments & Capital Markets, Rudin Management
Waldemar Robles, real estate salesperson, Platinum Properties

Nekesha Sawh, senior portfolio programs manager, Hines
Kelly Sposato, MEP project manager, Suffolk Construction
Ron Stevens, assistant property manager, The Durst Organization
Carolina Tejada, vice president, Operations, Silverstein Properties
Caaminee Vecchio, senior development manager, vice president, Lendlease
Cher Yao, senior associate, Hines
Nicole Zaccack, development manager, Jonathan Rose Companies
Lizzy Zevallos, assistant vice president of Development, MAG Partners

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