

THE CIVIC SPIRIT



SPRING 2018



**WOMEN'S
CITY CLUB**
OF NEW YORK



WELCOME

2018 has truly been the “Year of the Woman.”

Consider all of the attention that is being paid to issues that WCC has been fighting for over the past century: equality in the workplace, in our schools, and in our lives.

As one of our earliest members, Eleanor Roosevelt, once said, “with a new day comes new strength and new thoughts.” Women’s City Club strongly embraces this approach, which is why we have spent the better part of this year envisioning new ways to improve how we can effectively serve New Yorkers.

Earlier this year, WCC undertook an intensive strategic planning process, trying to more fully understand our history (areas where we have focused and where we have had the greatest impact) and assessing our future (What does NYC need and where can WCC be most helpful?). We have been asking the hard questions: What has worked? What hasn’t? Where can we refine our approach – and improve? How can we build our membership and enlist more diverse members? And, what issues should WCC focus on in the future?



WCC Strategic Vision Timeline

As we move into our second century of service to NYC, we want to be sure that WCC is at the forefront of New Yorkers’ minds — and hearts — as we build new partnerships and plan a stronger future. I encourage you to join us at our annual meeting on Wednesday, June 27.

Our members are leaders who are making news and taking action. In this newsletter, you will learn about one of our newest members, Deborah Martin Owens; WCC members participating in the annual Women’s March on New York City; and some of our recent accomplishments. And we are just getting started!

Let’s make this the “Year of WCC” too!

Sincerely,

Carole J. Wacey
President and CEO

WCC MEMBERS *in Action*



WCC steps up, stands up, and speaks out at the 2018 Women’s March on New York City.



WCC staff at an Equal Pay Day Rally with Public Advocate Letitia James (left), and City Council Member Helen Rosenthal (second from left).



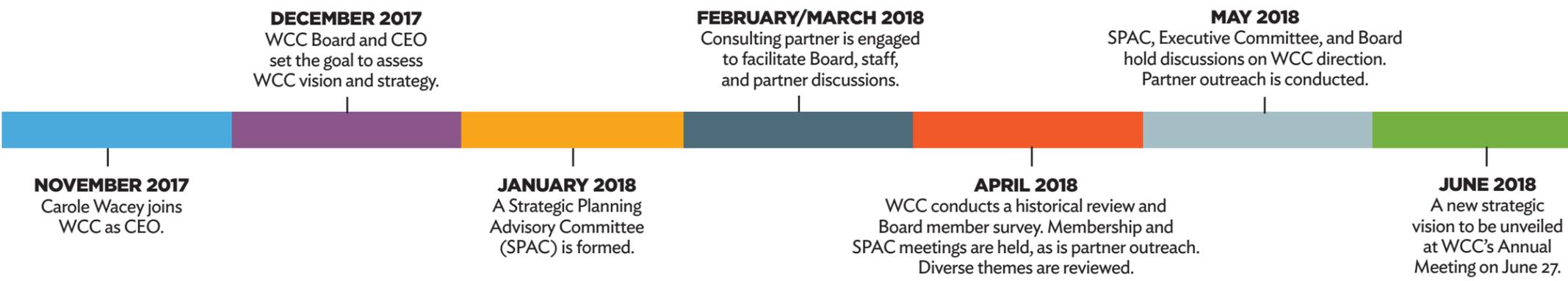
WCC members participate in a strategic planning session, providing valuable input and helping chart the future of the organization in its second century of advocacy and activism.



WCC staff member Padma Seemangal tapes a Good Morning America segment about workplace harassment with veteran journalist Deborah Roberts.



WCC members and staff learn about the history and culture of Chinatown during a walking tour at the Museum of the Chinese in America.



MEMBERS *Making A Difference:* DEBORAH MARTIN OWENS

Recently, the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch, National Association of Women Judges and Metropolitan Black Bar Association presented WCC member Deborah Martin Owens, Esq., with the Shirley Stewart Farmer Women of Excellence Award.

This award was just one of the many achievements for Deborah, an attorney in the New York office of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, an international litigation law firm with more than 20 offices globally, practicing in the areas of regulatory investigations and complex litigation.

Deborah, who grew up in Kew Gardens, Queens, and attended Hillcrest High School, SUNY Albany and Hofstra Law School, is also the CEO of DMO Strategies, LLC, a strategic advisory and conference management consultancy firm for nonprofits, professional organizations, and corporations.

She maintains leadership roles in bar associations and nonprofit organizations and is committed to diversity and advancement of underserved populations. Deborah Co-Chairs the National Bar Association's 2019 Convention, is a member of the Committee on Women in the Law and the House Delegates of the New York State Bar Association, and is the immediate past Chair of the Committee for Bar Leaders of New York for NYSBA.

Among her other accomplishments, Deborah co-founded Friends of Metropolitan Black Bar Association, Inc., which provides scholarships to diverse law students in New York City.



Deborah is one of WCC's most recent Board Members, already having served on our Executive, Strategic Planning, and Development Committees.

"I joined WCC to be around courageous trailblazers in their careers and in their lives, women who forged a path for me," she says. "I also wanted to be part of WCC as it takes a bold step forward to be part of the greater good and create equity, access, and opportunity for all New Yorkers."

Deborah also serves on the board of Friends of Island Academy, a Harlem-based organization devoted to supporting at-risk youth incarcerated on Rikers Island. And, in 2014, Deborah co-created Girls Group, a mentorship program partnering professional women with at-risk girls formerly incarcerated at Rikers Island.

Her vision for WCC is that it continues its legacy of helping New Yorkers, particularly the underserved who seek greater access and opportunity. Says Deborah, "As it has in the last 100 years, my hope in the next 100 hundred years is that WCC continues educating, examining, and engaging New Yorkers for a better society."

"This is the 'Year of the Woman.' There is more focus than ever on our issues. WCC should be a leader on that front."

— DEBORAH MARTIN OWENS

We need your help: **OUR GOAL** is to erase inequalities that deprive New Yorkers of opportunities to thrive.

Advocating.

WCC has been on the forefront of issues affecting New Yorkers this year. We presented testimony to the New York City Council on best practices to combat sexual harassment in the workplace, stood with elected officials on the steps of City Hall to champion equal pay, and presented testimony at the Council Education Budget Committee hearing.



Empowering.

WCC actively engages with New Yorkers, advocates for gender, racial and social equity, and influences policy in the region. WCC events enable people to foster an informed dialogue about issues in our City and State.



WCC was invited to City Hall to stand with Mayor Bill de Blasio, his colleagues, and the NYC Council as the Mayor signed a package of comprehensive and visionary bills to strengthen protections against sexual harassment.

Speak Up...with a smile!

As we near the end of our Fiscal Year, take a simple step to show your support of WCC. Select **Women's City Club of New York** as your preferred nonprofit on Amazon Smile. It just takes a click. Then, when you shop on Amazon, a portion of every purchase supports WCC and it won't cost you a thing!

Visit smile.amazon.com, plug in your name, and select WCC!



Rise Up.

Sign up to receive alerts about important events, legislation that affects you, and networking opportunities. To sign up, send an email to info@wccny.org!



WCC GETS ACTION

A CASE STUDY OF WCC'S POLICY COMMITTEE: RAISING THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Women's City Club Public Policy Committee (PPC) took on the issue of raising the age of criminal responsibility, feeling compelled to stand up against New York's policy of prosecuting 16- and 17-year-olds as adults, which put young people at risk of abuse, assault, and suicide, and did nothing to increase public safety.

According to a report from The Campaign for Youth Justice, youth in adult prisons are at risk of abuse, sexual assault, suicide, and death. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission found that "more than any other group of incarcerated persons, youth incarcerated with adults are probably at the highest risk for sexual abuse."

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Task Force report recommended against transfers of youth from juvenile to adult systems. The report found that transferring youth to the adult criminal system increases violence, causes harm to juveniles, and threatens public safety, because sending youth to the adult criminal justice system increases the likelihood that they will re-offend.

WCC members Susan Heitner and Roschel Holland Stearns presented a position paper, noting that the law needed to be changed so that 16- and 17-year-old youths would be treated as juveniles in an age-appropriate way, which would decrease their recidivism in the criminal justice system and improve public safety.

The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission found that "more than any other group of incarcerated persons, youth incarcerated with adults are probably at the highest risk for sexual abuse."

THE ACTIONS:

The PPC Committee and WCC Board supported this, and took a number of actions:

- WCC joined the Raise the Age New York Coalition, founded by the Correctional Association of New York, the Children's Defense Fund New York, and the Citizens' Committee for Children (CCC).
- The Raise the Age New York Coalition held several lobby days in Albany in 2016 and 2017, where advocates from across the state convened and held individual meetings with many members of the Senate and Assembly.
- WCC hosted a well-attended public program on February 25, 2016, called "Youth and the New York State Criminal Justice System: Why Comprehensive Reform is Needed." The speakers included Venida Browder, mother of formerly incarcerated teen Kalief Browder, who committed suicide after his release.
- WCC encouraged advocacy actions from members, including signing an online petition and calling, emailing, or tweeting at key elected officials in the New York State Senate and Assembly.

RAISING THE AGE

OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY



THE RESULTS:

On April 10, 2017, Governor Cuomo signed "Raise the Age" into law in New York. By October 2019, New York State will no longer automatically prosecute all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults, and implementation of the lengthy law is progressing. The Raise the Age New York Coalition remains intact, and WCC has signed on to two letters to the Governor strongly advocating for adequate funds to properly implement the legislation.

NEXT STEPS:

WCC will continue to monitor the phase-in of the legislation to ensure youth are being treated appropriately, and will continue to advocate for sufficient funding.

The primary WCC members and staff involved with these efforts were Susan Heitner, Roschel Holland Stearns, Executive Director Jacqueline Ebanks, Program & Communications Manager Padma Seemangal, and Public Policy Committee Chair Mary Murphree.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join the WCC community. Become part of a movement. Be a change agent.

WCC WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBERS IN 2018!

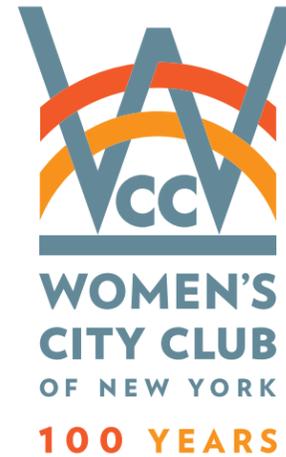
We are delighted to have welcomed 34 new members to WCC in the first months of 2018! Our newest members come from a range of professional fields and offer a variety of perspectives on policy and programming. New members — we would love to hear from you! Reach out at any time to info@wccny.org to let us know what interests and inspires you.

Caitlin Baer
Carolyn Blair
Malika Christopher
Jaimie Cloud
Anngillian Cruz
Patricia Healy DiLieto
Stephen Ditmer
Sarah Doyle
Jessica Facciponti

Haley Falkenberry
Karly Fischer
Monica Gorman
Brooke Greenwald
Sindhu Hari
Elizabeth Jarvis
Nytia Jenkins
Jane Jovanovic
Rebekah Kendall

Giselle Martin-Kneip
Diana Kokoszka
Caitlin Lanningham
Tara Lira
Elyse Marrocco
Julia Mathew
Brianna Moreno
Jillian Panzella
Amber Renaye

Jeanette Reteguis
Jacquelyn Sink
Peter Vincent
Carole Wacey
Ian Walker
Bridgett Williams
Alice Wong



102nd Annual Meeting

Wednesday June 27, 2018
8:30-10:30 am

Scandinavia House | 58 Park Avenue, New York, NY
(between 37th and 38th Streets)

In Memoriam

We honor and remember our current and previous members who passed away since last year.

Constance Blackwell Mamie Johnson Sandra Rose Frederieke Taylor
Jane Creel Agnes Louard Florentine Sokol

"Guiding" New York City

For more than 100 years, WCC has sought to help New Yorkers seeking access and opportunity. This is why we developed our Citywide Guides to Resources and Services featuring hundreds of low- and no-cost resources covering 21 areas of need, from employment programs and education to health care, childcare, and nutrition. The guides cover all boroughs and are in multiple languages.

We need your help!

We've launched a survey where you can review the guides, and then tell us how to make them more accessible, user-friendly, and comprehensive.

TAKE THE SURVEY



It's the Year of the Woman!

WCC members have been taking to the streets and the steps of City Hall this year to champion equality. Now is a chance for us to come together as a stronger, unified voice to advocate for change.



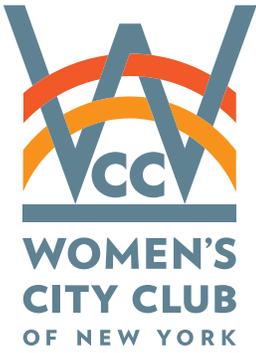
Mark your calendars to celebrate with us at WCC's Annual Meeting!

That morning, we will:

- Unveil WCC's new strategic vision
Honor our milestone members
Install WCC Board members

SEE YOU THERE!





110 W. 40th Street
Suite 1002
New York, NY 10018

Shaping Policy
Improving Lives

wccny.org

Become a Member Today!

Join us and shape public policy through education, issue analysis, advocacy and civic participation.

Help make New York a better place for *everyone*.

Membership Benefits

- Public programs featuring leading public policy experts and access to elected and public officials
- Opportunities to join task forces that research key issues and formulate positions
- Action alert emails on current and emerging policy and legislation and publications
- Networking opportunities with a dynamic group of informed activists

[JOIN WCC](#)

THE CIVIC SPIRIT

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Carole J. Wacey

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