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H I S T O R I C  
*Fort Greene Association*  
N E W S L E T T E R

FEBRUARY, 2005

## FGA Goals in 2005

In 2005, the FGA will continue its work on the many issues affecting Fort Greene. But in conversations among the members of the FGA board, four issues clearly stood out as priorities for the coming year. Three of them may sound familiar to you, but there is still much to be done. And the fourth issue will sound new, unless you are the parent of a young child. They are:

- 1- R6B Zoning for Fort Greene and Clinton Hill
- 2- Extending the Historic District
- 3- Atlantic Yards Development- the process
- 4- Improving our Public Schools

**R6B ZONING**-The goal of this initiative is to make sure that any new building constructed in Fort Greene (or Clinton Hill) fits in with the architectural scale of the area. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of many of you, together with our neighbors in Clinton Hill, a process that took other neighborhoods more than a decade to complete is well on its way here. But, we're not done. The FGA/Clinton Hill Task Force working on R6B Zoning will be calling on all of us to help. Perhaps writing letters of support, testifying at City Council hearings, or doing some of the more mundane – but crucial elements of this kind of work: like stuffing envelopes and collecting signatures.

**EXTENDING THE HISTORIC DISTRICT** and joining it with the BAM Historic District. When the Fort Greene Historic District was established in 1978, the Landmarks Preservation Commission drew the map in a way that left out blocks of historically significant buildings — including the impressive row of cast-iron buildings along Fulton Street. Some roll-up-your-sleeves-research, legwork and lobbying will be required. The FGA must aggressively pursue this goal for future generations. Plus, every study that's been done on the subject has shown that property values actually increase faster inside Historic Districts, than outside of them.

**THE ATLANTIC YARDS ARENA PROPOSAL**- The FGA supports responsible, and responsive, development. Oversight by New York City agencies, its citizens and their elected officials all play a vital part in this. However, the development plan currently proposed for the MTA-owned "Atlantic Yards" area threatens to bypass all those checks and balances. A proposal that will impact several Brooklyn neighborhoods for generations to come may simply scoot through the process without input from those most affected. We must work to get this proposal subjected to the City's ULURP process, and we must force the MTA to do right by its riders. The FGA/BAY (Brooklyn Atlantic Yards) Committee has been working with inspired, grass-roots organizations in Prospect Heights, our tireless City

Council Member Tish James and others to influence one of the biggest potential developments to hit Brooklyn in a generation. They deserve our backing, and when they ask us, our time.

**IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS**-Now, the FGA is simply a group of volunteers interested in doing what we can to make Fort Greene better and better. But improving our schools!!? Well, why not. Inspired by the work of the group "Friends of PS 11", the FGA intends to "adopt" a school in 2005. In fact, we have already connected with a local Public School and hope to announce an "official" arrangement in March. What exactly we will do for the school and the children, and how all of us can help, is now being explored. The FGA will be looking for ideas, funds, and volunteers to help make things happen.

Throughout the year, the FGA will continue its work to address quality-of-life issues for our neighbors, improve Fort Greene Park, fight graffiti, calm traffic, protect our landmarks, and promote this great neighborhood. There's strength in numbers, so please join us and volunteer some of your time for the issues that interest you most. Together, we can build on an already impressive record of accomplishments — and work to do even more in 2005.

Phillip Kellogg- Chair, FGA

To learn more about these and other initiatives, or to volunteer, visit [www.historicfortgreene.org](http://www.historicfortgreene.org).

## From the D.A.'s Office

On January 18th, 2005, Ann Mac Donald, community relations liaison represented the FGA at a breakfast hosted by Kings county district attorney Charles Hynes. The breakfast included a presentation touching on issues such as quality of life, crime reduction and other related matters effecting Brooklyn.

Reporting that homicide is down 70% since 1990, Mr. Hynes declared that there have been significant advances in drug abuse prevention with the creation of agencies that treat substance abuse problems across a variety of age groups. In addition, to combat domestic violence the DA's office has created the Family Justice Center. The program has been so successful that the Mayor has adopted it as a model agency for the other boroughs. Other programs like The Drug Treatment Alternate Program offers former law breakers drug treatment as well as a work/ training component which the DA is hoping will affect a drop in criminal recidivism.

Mr. Hynes attributes much of the improving crime rate to increasing community involvement with the police departments. Brooklyn has 23 police precincts and all now have "community relations" bureaus. These programs promote community involvement in crime prevention as well as reinforcing the

working relationship between community groups and their police departments.

The FGA encourages members of the community to work with our local police and we will be inviting the new head of the 88th Precinct, Captain John Cosgrove, to address the membership at future meetings. To get involved, the 88th Precinct Community Council meets every third Tuesday of the month at 85 South Oxford Street, 7:30 PM.

*Ann Macdonald, a long-time FGA member, recently volunteered to work on the FGA Committee for Community Affairs.*



## Pivotal FGA Meeting February 28th, 2005

The future of Fort Greene and our neighbors, lies in the balance as the community ponders one of its most important challenges yet; the development of the Brooklyn Atlantic Yards [BAY]. To bring light to diverse positions on this issue, the FGA-BAY Committee has organized a panel discussion for the first FGA meeting of the year. At time of press we have confirmed James Stuckey executive vice president of the Forrest City Ratner Companies [FCRC], Councilperson Letita James, Irene Van Slyke representing Senator V. Montgomery, Deborah Howard executive director of the Pratt Area Community Council, Marshal Brown coordinator of the UNITY Plan, Ludlow Beckett president of the Fulton Area Business Association [FAB], urban planner Simon Bertrang, and Gustav Peebles co-author of the Kim/Peebles report which debuts the economics of the FCRC plan. The FGA is on record opposing the development of the BAY Project as proposed by FCRC which features an Arena and 17 hi-rise buildings. While the FGA welcomes the responsible development of the MTA Atlantic Terminal asset, the FGA most ardently objects to the use of City, State and Federal funds for this venture without review from the communities which it will directly affect. To see the full transcript of the FGA statement and other information on the BAY Project visit [www.historicfortgreene.org/arena.html](http://www.historicfortgreene.org/arena.html). Get involved and attend the next general meeting of the FGA, Monday, February 28th, 7:30 P.M., Lafayette Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford Street, Fort Greene.

# JOIN THE FGA- BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER IN OUR COMMUNITY

I am pleased to enclose my membership dues to the Fort Greene Association, Inc.

\_\_\_\$15 Member \_\_\_\$25 Friend \_\_\_\$50 Patron \_\_\_\$100 Corporate \_\_\_\$150 Corporate+ \_\_\_\$200 Angel

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Checks to Fort Greene Association, Inc., Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217-0563

The Fort Greene Association, Inc., operates as a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by contacting the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

## The FGA wants to hear from you.

Over the years, the FGA mailing list has grown to over 800 names. That's good news, and bad. The good news is that the FGA is reaching more and more people with news about Fort Greene and the activities of the Fort Greene Association. The bad news is that it is costing more money in printing and postage to send the FGA newsletter to all these people.

In addition to the expanding mailing list, the FGA has added two community meetings and two newsletters per year. There are so many things happening in and around Fort Greene, things that the FGA is involved in, that it was decided more communication with the FGA membership was the way to go. Another step in that effort was the creation of the new FGA website. The website is filled with information and updates on many of the issues currently being worked on by the FGA. Additionally information is being e-mailed to active members on everything from Alternate-Side Parking regulations to emergency neighborhood meetings.

Now, you can even sign up to receive the FGA newsletter by e-mail. When you do that, you'll save the FGA the cost of printing and postage. Visit [www.historicfortgreene.org](http://www.historicfortgreene.org) to sign up.

In order for you to continue to receive the Fort Greene Association Newsletter, we need to hear from you in one of 2 ways:

**1- SEND A CONTRIBUTION** to the FGA. Your financial support helps make the printing and mailing of this newsletter possible (A special "THANK YOU!" to all of you that have already sent yours in). Your contribution also supports on-going efforts of the FGA to influence landmarks preservation legislation, the arena process, traffic and transit issues, plans for Fort Greene Park, quality-of-life enhancements, educational improvement in our schools and more. **-or-**

**2- CONTACT US.** You can still receive the newsletter even if you choose not to support the FGA with a financial contribution. Just let us know of your continued interest by contacting the FGA either by mail, e-mail or through the website.

- e-mail: [fort.greene@verizon.net](mailto:fort.greene@verizon.net)  
- mail: FGA, Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217  
- web: [www.historicfortgreene.org](http://www.historicfortgreene.org)

## FGA Traffic

The FGA's new traffic and transport subcommittee [FGAT&T] is laying the ground work for improved transportation in Fort Greene. We have established an excellent rapport with DOT, and are beginning work with the MTA.

Based on neighborhood input, FGAT&T is working on the following issues:

- Moving the curb cut at Cumberland and Fulton, where cars are getting towed
- Moving the new bus lane signs at Fowler Square
- Improving traffic and pedestrian flow at Seven Corners
- Opening the South Portland exit of the G-train (below Moe's)

These issues are just the tip of the iceberg. The DOT has already been responsive by fixing the pedestrian lights at Washington Park and Myrtle, and we look forward to further cooperation from them.

If you have a traffic or transit concern in Fort Greene, visit our website [www.historicfortgreene.org/traffic.html](http://www.historicfortgreene.org/traffic.html).

## HISTORIC Fort Greene Association

Box 170563, Brooklyn, NY 11217-0563

On the 28th February Agenda:

The Brooklyn Atlantic Yards, the Arena and much more.

Hear the pros and cons of this development project that will change the landscape of Brooklyn.

## NEXT FGA MEETING February 28th, 2005

7:30PM- Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford Street, Fort Greene



### MEMORY

**GWEN LEWIS:** Trusted and true friend of so many Fort Greene homeowners, former owner of Octagon Hardware in DeKalb Avenue.

**CHRISTINA PORTER:** The only child of Brent and Mary Porter. After a year in coma resulting from a disastrous ski accident.



## FGA Holiday Party

Many thanks to our host John Scheffler and to all those who made this another memorable Fort Greene Association event. See you all next year.

