

Neighborhood UPDATE



JANUARY 2023

THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

A Letter from Wilson Kimball



Every January I put together a list of resolutions. Many are repeats like lose weight, eat better, and get organized. It's no surprise then that January 14,

is "Organize Your Home Day." Others must also make the resolution that this year they are finally going to de-clutter. Compulsive hoarding is defined as "a persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions because of a perceived need to save them." Owning things can be satisfying but when you begin to feel like the things own you then it's time to literally clean house. Why do I say that? Because too many things in your home can create fire hazards, create trip and fall hazards, and create pest control issues. Too many things in your apartment can even begin to make you feel anxious. So as I take yet another trip to Goodwill, the Salvation Army or any other charity that accepts donations I ask you to think about how you want to clean house this year. Whether it's

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Yonkers Housing Authority Named Best Place to Work by 914Inc. Magazine

Yonkers Housing Authority was recently named as one of the 2022 Best Places to Work in Westchester. The awards program began in 2021 and is promoted by 914INC. in partnership with Best Companies Group.

"We are honored to be among the top places to work in Westchester," said Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of the Yonkers Housing Authority. "Sharing the important mission of providing quality affordable housing motivates us to work as a team to achieve a common goal. We do this with respect for

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throwing away expired food, expired medicines or things that no longer bring you joy (Marie Kondo's KonMari Method) cleaning up and cleaning out can be very liberating. And what better time of year to spend some time going through those closets than the cold month of January?

Wilson Kimball

President & CEO

Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

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one another and with a sense of purpose and humor.”

This regional survey and awards program was designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Westchester, benefiting the region's economy, workforce and businesses. The 2022 Best Places to Work in Westchester list is made up of 18 companies.

Yonkers Housing Authority was recognized and honored in 914INC.'s January/February 2023 issue which hit newsstands on December 30, 2022, and the rankings are also posted on the 914INC. website at <https://westchestermagazine.com/life-style/business/>. So check it out!

Danielle Brown Joins Yonkers Housing Authority as Assistant Leased Housing Director



Yonkers Housing Authority has named Danielle Brown as its new Assistant Leased Housing Director.

Danielle Brown joins MHACY with an extensive background managing real estate. She has over 30 years of experience as a program manager. Brown was most recently an Administrative Housing Development Specialist with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. There she oversaw rental assistance cash awards that coordinates and ensures successful permanent housing placements under HPD/HDC housing programs 421A. Brown was also in charge of monitoring compliance for Housing Choice Voucher (S8), State and City rental subsidies programs including for the City's shelter homeless population.

Brown spent nearly two decades as the Chairman and Clinical Director at "Alice Robinson B Family Trust." Her experience managing financial operations and properties will enhance MHACY. Brown is a Mount Vernon native with a master's in social work and Bachelor of Arts from The City University of New York.

Welcome, Danielle!

Yonkers Housing Authority & Yonkers Arts Unveils Public Art



YHA President and CEO Wilson Kimball with Shanequa Benitez in the artist's studio.

The work of the following artists are now installed at YHA properties:

Shanequa Benitez

Artists in Residence Program

Luisa Baptiste, Evan Bishop, Brian Cannady, Pedro Fernandes

Walsh Road Window Installations

Biagio "Gino" Civale

Walsh Road and Curran Court and Troy Manor

Katori Walker

Kris Kristensen

Satish Joshi

John E. Flynn Manor

Emily Stedman, Lee Romero

Martinelli Manor

Mary Hardiman, Lee Romero

Troy Manor

Nancy Mendez

Curran Court

90 and Robin Alcantara

Calcagno Homes

The Yonkers Housing Authority and YonkersArts announced that a partnership to bring public art to YHA now entering its third year has so far added more than 150 pieces of art to seven authority properties.

The milestone was celebrated with the unveiling of an incredible mural at the gym at Calcagno Homes on Jan. 23 done by Yonkers' artist, Robin Alcantara of the artist collective, BLAZAY.

And in 2023, plans to add even more artwork to YHA properties.

From colorful murals to framed watercolors, oils and pen and ink drawings, artwork has been installed at properties across the housing authority.

The Yonkers Housing Authority manages 1,700 units of housing in addition to administering more than 5,000 vouchers through its Housing Choice Voucher Program, providing affordable housing.

The project is the 'brain-child' President CEO Wilson Kimball who believes in the power of art to inspire.

"Not only does looking at beautiful art make us feel better by raising our serotonin levels, it can also increase blood flow which increases brain function. Art is not only beautiful, but it is also beneficial to our health," said Kimball.

The Mulford Corporation, which raises funds to supplement the housing authority programs, voted to allocate \$100,000 to commission Yonkers Arts to coordinate the project using local artists and artists of color.

Within the year, Yonkers Arts was able to execute art installations at the following properties: Walsh Houses, Calcagno Homes, Charles L. Curran Court, Kris Kristensen Homes, John E. Flynn Manor, Martinelli Manor, and finally, Monsignor Troy Manor.

Each property now features a curated art activation that is beautiful and also serves to improve the daily living experience of residents. For example, Walsh Road Senior housing now has sound panel 'sculptures' that are not only attractive but have the practical benefit of reducing noise.

"Yonkers Arts believes that art is multifaceted and can break down barriers. Through exploring multiple techniques and mediums, this project allowed us to understand the needs of each resident to enhance their living experiences. It also had the benefit of bringing a cohort of diverse and local artists directly to these communities. Something extremely important to the organization."

Biagio Civale Artist, Sculpture Brings His Work to YHA



Artist Biagio Civale with his painting at Greenburgh Town Hall in 1996

Artist, printmaker, painter and sculptor Biagio Civale is well known across the globe for the work he has done for more than 60 years.

From 1950 through today, Civale's work has been featured in 70 one-man exhibitions and over 200 group shows around the world. This past summer he was honored by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano for his contributions.

His work, which is featured in various art galleries, can now be seen at YHA properties as part of the new art installations there. Visit civale.org to learn more.



Sound panel art sculpture and Biagio Civale's artwork on display at Walsh Road