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CAMBA

# C NNECTION

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## February 2023 News & Happenings

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Dear Friends,

With 2023 underway, CAMBA is continuing to provide critical services to its communities, from healthy meals through our food pantry and housing stability through our eviction prevention programs, to enhanced learning through our after-school programs and basic necessities through our refugees services.

On behalf of the Board and all CAMBA staff I would like to acknowledge Katherine O'Neill, who has provided leadership to CAMBA as Board Chair since 1995. Katherine has decided to step down as Chair, but will remain on the Board. She has been an extraordinary supporter and champion of all CAMBA's programs and her dedicated service has helped CAMBA improve lives and communities. Thank you for everything, Katherine!

I'm very pleased to announce that Richard Roberts has assumed the position of Board Chair. Richard has been on the CAMBA Board since 2018 and has played an instrumental role on the Staff Benefit and Audit Committees as well as our Annual *CAMBA Night Out* Gala.

Richard is Principal and Chief Business Development Officer for Red Stone Equity Partners, LLC, which focuses on the origination and management of developer

relationships throughout the country. He is active on a number of civic, philanthropic, and industry organizations and we are proud to announce his new leadership role.



Now in our 46th year of service, it is because of your continued support that we are able to help those in need build a foundation of economic stability, educational fulfillment, strong families, and healthy lives — and we thank you for being an integral part of our mission.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Joanne M. Oplustil  
President/CEO  
CAMBA/CHV/CLS

## **CAMBA Awarded More Than \$3.5 Million for Church Avenue Building and Career, Job Placement, and Youth Services**

### ***Funding Included in Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Spending Bill***

The fiscal year 2023 omnibus spending bill recently signed into law by President Joe Biden includes more than \$3.5 million for CAMBA, Inc. With public and private support, CAMBA's mission is to build an inclusive New York

City where all people can attain — and maintain — economic stability, educational fulfillment, and healthy lives to realize their full potential. The funding was secured through the leadership of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), and Representative Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.).

“We’re grateful to Senator Schumer and Representatives Jeffries and Clarke for their steadfast support,” said CAMBA and CAMBA Housing Ventures President and CEO Joanne M. Oplustil. “This funding will help CAMBA continue to build a foundation for economic stability, educational fulfillment, and strong families.”

CAMBA was awarded \$3 million for capital improvements to its Church Avenue headquarters and \$590,000 for its career navigation, job placement, and youth supportive service programs.

“From improving access to affordable housing, to supporting youth development, and preventing violence through education and outreach, CAMBA is one of the most impactful organizations working on the ground in New York and I’m so proud to support their efforts,” said U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. “With this funding, CAMBA will continue its vital work helping vulnerable New Yorkers develop workforce skills, navigate finding a job, and supporting youth through educational opportunities. I won’t stop fighting for the federal funding to help New York’s great organizations like CAMBA enhance the wellbeing of all New Yorkers.”

“I was proud to work with Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Representative Clarke to help secure over \$3.5 million in community project funding for CAMBA, Inc.,” said Congressman and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries. “The money I requested for this transformational organization will bring a suite of career navigation opportunities to East New York. We will continue to work hard to make life better for everyday New Yorkers back home in Brooklyn.”

“We are all aware that, for decades, CAMBA has persisted as a benevolent force for good within Flatbush and our larger Brooklyn family. Fighting for this project funding was both my priority and privilege, and I am beyond eager to see what untold heights this critical organization can reach while supported by the resources they need to succeed. Knowing the committed, passionate individuals comprising CAMBA, I am certain exceptional work is on their horizons,” said Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke.

View a copy of this press release by clicking [here](#).

## CAMBA's Drew Gabriel Named to '2022 Power Players Rising'

Congratulations to CAMBA's Vice President of Intergovernmental Affairs, Drew Gabriel, for being named to am New York / Metro / Politics NY's '2022 Power Players Rising' list last month.

# POWER PLAYERS RISING



***Drew Gabriel, Vice President of Intergovernmental Affairs, CAMBA***

*Throughout his career, spanning nearly a decade, Drew has worked in federal, state and city legislative affairs to identify and mitigate the everyday challenges faced by New Yorkers. As a result, he has helped connect local stakeholders to critical programs and services that spur growth, ensuring every community has the necessary resources to thrive.*

*Currently, Drew is the Vice President of Intergovernmental Affairs for CAMBA. Drew has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Manhattan College and Master of Arts in Urban Policy and Administration from Brooklyn College.*

***What is your biggest accomplishment in 2022?***

*For me, the small wins are my biggest accomplishments. The ones that no one hears about, but it has impacted so many lives. The ability to help individuals and families through rough times this year has been my biggest accomplishment.*

***Do you have any advice for those just starting out their careers?***

*Never lose the passion to help others and stay solution oriented. Be open to listening so that you can fully understand how to help better.*

***Was there something or someone who inspired you to start your journey on your current career path?***

*My family and experiences have inspired me to start my career. My grandfather taught the value of standing up for what is right and doing what we believe is just. No matter the circumstances that follow.*

***Where do you see yourself in 5 years?***

*That's a great question, but I see myself taking on greater challenges to impact the world.*

The full list of '2022 Power Players Rising' can be viewed [here](#).

# to be Honored by PASE

On Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at Cipriani's 42nd St. in New York City, the Partnership for After School Education (PASE) will host its 30th Anniversary PASEsetter Awards Benefit, celebrating excellence in afterschool education and three decades of PASE.

PASE is expecting over 400 guests – representatives from the corporate, media, academic, government, and philanthropic sectors, as well as PASE network practitioners and the PASE Board of Directors – to join in this special celebration and honor five of the city's most innovative and effective afterschool educators.



We are thrilled to share that Earl Whitfield, Program Director of CAMBA's East New York Beacon 166 Community Center at The Van Sicten Community Middle School in East New York, is one of this year's honorees.

In his current role at CAMBA, Earl oversees all of the programming provided free of charge at Beacon 166, every day from 3-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, to students from the 1st grade through adult age.

As Earl explains, "In addition to the after school programming we provide to younger, school-age children, we also partner with outside groups to bring in additional programming for adults, so we can provide things like GED courses and tax preparation courses — anything to help be a resource to the community, and it's all free of charge."

Earl began his CAMBA tenure as a group leader, serving as a performing arts instructor, and has moved up to his current role of Program Director, which he's served in for the last five years.

Earl was nominated for the PASEsetter Award by a peer in the field — Carrie Shockley, Ed.D., Director of the John F. Kennedy, Jr. Institute for Worker Education at the CUNY School of Professional Studies.

"Carrie's worked with me for many years, long before I was a director, and has known me for a long time as a voice instructor, but has also become familiar with my work at CAMBA and wanted to recognize it."

"One of the first tasks I took on before I became Director was to partner with the school and build a state-of-the-art recording studio right in this building, and over the years our students have performed at events and we've even put out a couple of records. Our chorus has performed multiple times at the CAMBA tree lighting ceremony."

"We tell all of our kids to 'Be U' with a capital U, not Y-O-U... to 'Be Unique' in

anything you do. 'Be Unified', don't be afraid to be on a team, or to lift up your brother or your sister. 'Be Undeclared', victory and success are up to you — they can only be measured and defined by the person who's going after it."

"I was fortunate enough as a kid to be able to join different extra curricular activities and have certain people put in my path, so it's definitely not by accident that I was blessed to have those opportunities that a lot of other kids do not have, so I try to create as many spaces as I can for other kids. I made it to this point very intentionally by folks pointing me in the right direction and giving me what I needed, so I try to do the same thing for other kids."

Congratulations, Earl!

## CAMBA Named 2022 Community Honoree by Enterprise New York

Many thanks to Enterprise Community Partners for selecting CAMBA as one of its Community Honorees at their 2022 Enterprise New York Gala late last year, and congratulations to them on their 35th Anniversary in New York!

During its annual gala, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. celebrated its national 40th Anniversary as it highlighted the past, present, and future of Enterprise in New York and recognized its network of partners.



*CAMBA President & CEO Joanne M. Oplustil, pictured here with Christopher Herrmann, Enterprise's Chief Investment Officer and Fund Manager, Real Estate Equity*

"CAMBA and CHV are proud to be among the Community Honorees at this year's Enterprise New York Gala," said Joanne M. Oplustil, President and CEO

of CAMBA and CHV. "We have long worked side-by-side to ensure that we can provide permanent and supportive housing for New Yorkers who need it most."

"We are thrilled to be recognized as a trusted partner by Enterprise, an organization that is mission-aligned with CHV in the construction and preservation of sustainable, supportive and affordable housing throughout New York City," said David A. Rowe, Chief Administrative Officer of CHV. "Enterprise and CHV have collaborated on many aspects of housing development throughout our more than 17 years, including technical assistance, predevelopment lending, LIHTC syndication, design-focused grants, and challenging work-out deals."

Thank you, Enterprise!

## Join us April 2nd at NYCRUNS Prospect Park Half-Marathon & 5K Benefiting CAMBA



The NYCRUNS Prospect Park Half Marathon & 5K Benefiting CAMBA is back again on Sunday, April 2, 2023! Every Spring CAMBA partners with NYCRUNS for one of Brooklyn's largest races, held in the beautiful Prospect Park.

- You can [register](#) to run in the race directly with CAMBA and support CAMBA's Programs.
- You can also set register for the race with [NYCRUNS](#).
- After you register, you can set up your own fundraiser for CAMBA and reach out to your friends and family to support your run for a cause!

There are different levels of [sponsorship](#) for businesses that desire exposure while supporting the 65,000 people whose lives CAMBA touches each year.

By joining us for this race, you will be supporting essential programs like our Beyond Hunger Food Pantry which has seen a significant increase in the number of meals provided monthly. Your fundraising helps make it possible for CAMBA to keep families facing homelessness from being evicted, brings literacy classes and job training programs for immigrants and low-income adults, and supports college prep programs to ensure our youth are on track for a successful future. [Join us](#) this spring in racing for CAMBA. Together we will build a stronger and more inclusive NYC!

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**Make a Gift to CAMBA  
Today**

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CAMBA, Inc.  
[camba.org](http://camba.org)

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