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For Immediate Release

**QUEENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARDED FROM NYC DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES**

*Grants Will Enhance Commercial Corridors and Neighborhoods in All Five Boroughs*

*New Grants Build on $27 Million in Historic Investments in Developing City’s Commercial Corridors*

**(QUEENS, NY)** August 8, 2024 - New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) Acting Commissioner Dynishal Gross announced that the city is awarding **$4.4 million** in grants to 25 organizations, including the Queens Chamber of Commerce, to support projects designed to revitalize commercial corridors and enliven the public realm, including neighborhood food tours, street fairs, public murals, and marketing for local small businesses. Multi-year grants will be disbursed to community-based organizations (CBDOs) and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) across the five boroughs. The new round of grants builds on the administration’s historic investment of more than $27 million in neighborhood development since 2022.

“We’re thrilled to receive this grant; it’s a real boost for our commercial corridors and the neighborhoods that make Queens special,” said **Tom Grech, President & CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.** “With the continued support of NYC Department of Small Business Services, we can deliver the services that the small businesses of Queens need.”

“Since day one of our administration, we have centered our economic recovery on bringing back the vibrancy of our commercial corridors and the livability of our neighborhoods,” said **Deputy Mayor for Housing, Economic Development, and Workforce Maria Torres-Springer**. “This round of grants expands on our historic investments in neighborhood development with the inclusion of our first-ever Public Realm Grants, which will bring innovative and creative improvements to corridors that will enhance public safety and improve the street-level experience in neighborhoods across the city.”

“I am so proud to announce SBS’s next round of neighborhood development grants, including the first-ever NDD Public Realm Grants,” said **SBS Acting Commissioner Dynishal Gross**. “Our city’s commercial corridors aren’t just places people shop, but places where people from all walks of life meet, mix, work, visit, and live. By investing in our city’s diverse and vibrant neighborhoods, we are investing in everyone who calls our city home.”

“Our public realm partners do so much to help the city, and it is so important that the city also helps them continue to do the critical work of creating lively and vibrant communities,” said **Chief Public Realm Officer Ya-Ting Liu**. “I applaud SBS for providing millions of dollars in necessary grants to our city partners. I cannot wait to see the projects that will come to life from these grants providing much needed support to our community-based organizations and Business Improvement Districts.”

“From public art and street fairs to small business promotion and professional development, these grants from SBS will enable our trusted community partners to do what they do best and further invigorate their neighborhoods,” said **“New” New York Executive Director B. J. Jones.** “Commercial corridors throughout the city are being revitalized thanks to their efforts and the Adams Administration’s continued historic investments to activate, program, and improve public space.”

 The AvenueNYC grant program includes:

* Completing a Commercial District Needs Assessment in the College Point neighborhood
* Implementing projects aimed at commercial revitalization, economic development, and enrichment of small business owners
* Using the results of the Commercial District Needs Assessment to create projects and programs spur economic development and provide support to small businesses in future years.

**About the Queens Chamber of Commerce**

The Queens Chamber of Commerce is the oldest and largest business association in Queens, representing more than 1,400 businesses and more than 150,000 Queens-based employees. Its mission is to foster connections, educate for success, develop/implement programs and advocate for members’ interests. [www.queenschamber.org](http://www.queenschamber.org/)

**About Avenue NYC**
SBS’s Avenue NYC program is a competitive grant program that funds and builds the capacity of CBDOs, including BIDs, local development corporations, merchants associations, and other locally serving nonprofits operating in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods, to execute commercial revitalization projects. Avenue NYC is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. More information on Avenue NYC can be found at [nyc.gov/avenuenyc](https://nyc.gov/avenuenyc).

**About Neighborhood 360°**
SBS’s Neighborhood 360° program identifies, develops, and launches commercial revitalization projects in partnership with local stakeholders. Through proactive planning and targeted investments, Neighborhood 360° supports projects that strengthen and revitalize the streets, small businesses, and community-based organizations that anchor New York City neighborhoods. For more information on Neighborhood 360°, please visit [nyc.gov/neighborhood360](https://nyc.gov/neighborhood360).

**About the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS)**
SBS helps unlock economic potential and create economic security for all New Yorkers by connecting New Yorkers to good jobs, creating stronger businesses, and building vibrant neighborhoods across the five boroughs. For more information on all SBS services, go to [nyc.gov/sbs](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/index.page), call 888-SBS-4NYC, and follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NYCBusiness/), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/nyc_sbs?lang=en), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/nycsmallbiz/), and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nycsmallbiz).

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