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# Professional Women in Construction holds annual awards reception on March 15

**NEW YORK, NY** "Future generations will look back and recognize that we are in a 'golden era' of construction," said Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding for the City of New York Daniel Doctoroff, accepting the Design/Construction Leadership Award from Professional Women in Construction (PWC) on behalf of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg at the organization's annual Awards Reception at Club 101 on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor, who had planned to attend PWC's event, was called away by President Bush to head the U.S. Presidential delegation in Jerusalem.

Doctoroff outlined a multitude of public sector projects ranging from major rezonings to West Side development, transportation improvements, waterfront revitalization and the creation of parks throughout Manhattan and the boroughs which are "making New York a better place to live and creating thousands of construction jobs." Pointing out that "the world's leading architects are re-energizing our skyline," he praised the private sector for responding in kind with housing starts "at record levels."

"It is not just *what* but *how* we build," said Doctoroff, stressing the administration's commitment to making construction opportunities open and accessible to women and minorities.

"Our mayor's vision will significantly help our industry and bring new life to the City of New York," said PWC's president Lenore Janis as she presented the award to



**Shown (from front row left) are: Theresa Vigilante, v.p., PWC; Kristy Holt, assistant superintendent, Turner Construction Company; Juliette Lam, sr. principal, HOK; Eve Michel, sr. v.p., NYC EDC; Elizabeth Bifulco, managing member, Total Safety Consulting; Marja Alexander, project manager, Skanska USA Building, Inc.; Michelle Lapin, P.E., sr. v.p., AKRF, Inc.; Iris Weinshall, commissioner, NYC DOT; Lenore Janis, president, PWC. Shown (from back row left) are: Maggie May Yee Kwan, project manager, Tishman Construction Corp.; Patricia Lancaster, commissioner, NYC Dept. of Buildings, Francesca Buccia, principal, BG Studio International, Rachel Loeb, development manager, AvalonBay Communities, Inc. Andrea Strong, operations manager, Turtle & Hughes, Inc.**

Doctoroff, whom she called "*The man to know if you're in construction and related industries.*" The deputy mayor is heading major efforts to bring the Olympics to the Big Apple in 2012 and to rebuild the city following 9/11.

Commissioner of Buildings Patricia Lancaster, AIA, the first woman to hold the position, praised Mayor Bloomberg for boldly "making changes in a way that is unprecedented in our city" — ranging from placing more women in power than ever before to "unleashing the biggest building boom in the history of

the city over the next 10 years."

PWC executive vice president Theresa Vigilante presented the Public/Private Partnership Recognition Award to Avalon Chrystie Place, which, as she noted, is playing a major role "in the renaissance of the lower East Side." A four-block project that represents a highly successful collaboration between the public and private sectors, the residence will rent 75% of its 712 units at market price while reserving 25% as affordable housing. Furthermore, the complex is creating, said Vigilante, "375 construction jobs and will generate 418 new permanent jobs."

The award was accepted by Fred Harris, senior vice president, AvalonBay Communities, Inc., and by Shaun Donovan, commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). Harris called Avalon Chrystie Place, "a wonderful example of how this administration has made extremely difficult projects a reality" by fostering cooperation between the city, the neighborhoods and private interests. Donovan applauded the mayor and his administration for inspiring a spirit that believes that "the impossible can be accomplished."

PWC board member Andrea Phyfer-Strong, of Turtle & Hughes, Inc., presented PWC's Public Project Recognition Award to the

Staten Island Ferry Terminals in honor of their 100<sup>th</sup> year of service and the nearly complete reconstructions that are transforming the St. George Terminal on Staten Island and Whitehall Terminal in lower Manhattan. Said Phyfer-Strong, "The glass-enclosed panoramic views will be astonishing, the retail space will increase significantly, the connections to buses and other modes of transportation will be streamlined, and various green innovations are already in place."

The award was accepted by commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Iris Weinshall and senior vice president of the NYC Economic Development Corp. (EDC) Eve Michel.

Weinshall praised the many af-

filiated with the project saying, "We're only as good as those who work with us." She saluted Michel who "had the vision and determination to get the job done," and said that the terminals "will add to the city's excellence."

Michel spoke of the projects as "truly meaningful undertakings reflecting the hard work of many New Yorkers," and accepted "on behalf of the over 1500 dedicated professionals who made the projects possible."

Event sponsors were: AvalonBay Communities, Inc.; Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum, P.C.; Tishman Realty & Construction Co., Inc.; Turner Construction Company; Wal-Mart Stores Inc.; Spearin, Preston & Burrows, Inc.; and Thornton-Tomasetti Group, Inc.

*Photos by Howard Wechsler*



**Shown (from left) are: Anthony Peterson, project associate, Battery Park City Authority; Fred Harris, sr. vice president development, AvalonBay Communities, Inc.; Eric Zorn, president, Wal-Mart Realty; Deputy Mayor Daniel Doctoroff, City of New York; Lina Gottesman, president, Altus Marble & Metal; Deborah Grzejka, regional marketing manager and Bob Chauvin, vice president northeast operations, SimplexGrinnell.**



**Shown (from left) are: Henry Estrada, sr. vice president, community relations and John Livingston, president, Tishman Construction Corp., CM for award winning Whitehall Ferry Terminal; Patricia Lancaster, Commissioner, NYC Department of Buildings; and Richard Kielar, sr. vice president, Tishman Realty & Construction Co., Inc.**



**Daniel Doctoroff (R), deputy mayor for economic development & rebuilding, City of New York, accepts the Design / Construction Leadership Award on behalf of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg from Lenore Janis (L), president, PWC.**