

2006 Works on Paper



(Above, right to left) Board members Nancy Locker, Carol Feinberg, Daniel Kronenfeld and Martha Olson.

(Left to right) Judith A. Garson, President, Wolf Kahn, and Heidi Stamas, Chairman.

CCC thanks the 1,170 supporters who joined us for our benefit preview of *Works on Paper* at the Park Avenue Armory on March 1. Featuring over 80 of the finest international exhibitors of watercolors, fine prints, photography, drawings, posters and illustrated books from Old Master to Contemporary, the *Works on Paper* benefit attracted an eclectic group of child advocates, seasoned art collectors and New Yorkers just thinking about starting a collection and, we hope, joining our ranks as well.

Led by Co-Chairs Carol J. Feinberg, Nancy and Alan N. Locker and Katherine and Joseph Mele, Honorary Chairs, Wolf Kahn, world-renowned artist, and Richard S. Fuld, Jr., CEO of Lehman Brothers, *Works on Paper* was once again CCC's single most successful fundraiser. This year's event featured a silent auction, an early admission tour of the exhibitors and a showcase of CCC's *Securing Every Child's Birthright* campaign. The silent auction successfully raised nearly \$20,000 with works donated by Wolf Kahn, Bonnie Landes Beer and Steven Beer, Werner Kramarsky, Laumont Editions & Saul Leiter, the Jerald Melberg Gallery, the Mary Ryan Gallery, Virginia Zabriskie and an anonymous donor.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support CCC's work to *Secure Every Child's Birthright* to be healthy, housed, educated and safe. CCC also extends special thanks to all of our sponsors and Art Historian Cynthia Nachmani for leading the early admission tour, La Grenouille for the flowers and Chatham Imports for providing cocktails for the evening's event.

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**SECURING
EVERY CHILD'S
BIRTHRIGHT**

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Act Now!

Can you imagine a city where every child is guaranteed the opportunity to fulfill his or her birthright for economic, developmental and housing security? We can. Learn more about the proposals that are being advanced at City Hall, in Albany and in Washington and spread the word about how New Yorkers are working to *Secure Every Child's Birthright*.

Visit www.cccnewyork.org and act to *Secure Every Child's Birthright*.

SAVE THE DATES

CCC ANNUAL MEETING:

June 8, 2006 4PM
New York School of Interior Design
170 E. 70th St.

CCC CELEBRATION BREAKFAST:

Oct 24, 2006

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uncertain whether funds will be spent. Among the services contested are appropriations for day care worker recruitment and training, a COLA for preventive service agencies, school based health centers, children's day treatment and family support providers.

In a major setback for children, the Governor and the Legislature failed to negotiate a three-way budget compromise regarding the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) block grant similar to the agreement they achieved last year, in which summer youth employment, child care and supportive housing services were carved out. Assuming negotiations would ensue with the Governor, as they had last year, the Legislature did not authorize an appropriation for the FFFS. The Governor subsequently reappropriated TANF funds from the past three years, authorizing \$1 billion to be spent on the FFFS as he had proposed it. Combining these programs into the general FFFS block grant along with work-related supports, PINS and child welfare services will put children in a position of having to compete with adults for essential services.



NEWS

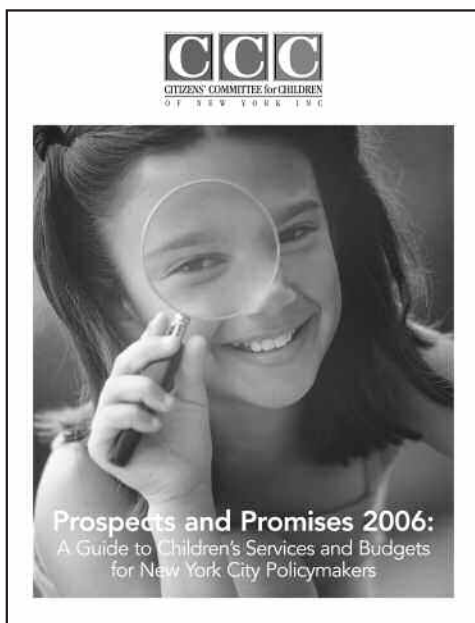
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Prospects and Promises 2006

CCC distributed *Prospects and Promises 2006: A Guide to Children's Services and Budgets for New York City Policymakers* to newly elected officials who came into office in January. The policy paper describes the system of services and supports for children, youth and families. It highlights nine New York City service delivery systems for children, identifies major system reform initiatives underway and outlines work still to be done. *Prospects and Promises* includes recommendations in the areas of government relations, planning, resources, interagency coordination, system reform and operations that seek to:

- Improve service coordination and communication;
- Expedite and streamline access to public benefits and services;
- Increase accountability and public reporting;
- Maximize state and federal funding; and
- Improve access to information and referral assistance.

The report also urges the city to continue to improve the management and operations of services for children, advance new



initiatives that meet emerging needs in New York City neighborhoods and set quality of life benchmarks to measure performance.

Prospects and Promises is available on-line at www.cccnewyork.org.

Impact of New York City's FY07 Executive Budget on Children

The FY07 Executive Budget for New York City includes the addition of over \$140 million to fund new child protection, education and juvenile justice services. It also adds funds for two important public health initiatives: the Newborn Home

Visit Program that will expand to serve 14,000 families in ten neighborhoods; and the Nurse Family Partnership Program that will expand to serve 1,400 families in neighborhoods across the city. After a successful campaign in Albany to secure \$6.5 billion for school construction, the city's five year capital plan adds another \$6.5 billion in capital funds over five years to build new schools with 66,000 more seats, upgrade facilities and add libraries and science labs.

The FY07 Executive Budget also includes over \$100 million in cuts to programs negotiated with the City Council last year. Cuts to child care, child health clinics, after school

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A MESSAGE FROM BOARD LEADERSHIP

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It has been a busy and exciting winter and beginning to spring at CCC, with a string of successful events with record attendance, thanks to our hard working staff and volunteer advocates. The winter began with a reunion of this year's Community Leadership Course students, an especially enthusiastic and able group, many of whom have joined task forces and attended CCC events.

The Issue Updates briefing series is ongoing with our staff providing great continuing education for our new CLC graduates and longtime volunteer advocates alike on all of CCC's critical issues. These sessions are excellent opportunities for volunteer advocates to explore and build upon their knowledge in a particular area related to children. With this knowledge, CCC advocates have been meeting with City Council members to promote our agenda for New York City children as well as introduce our new Securing Every Child's Birthright (SECB) campaign. In addition to advocacy efforts at the city level, CCC volunteer advocates participated in our annual trip to Albany

this March to meet with state legislators. We conducted more meetings than ever before and appreciated the receptivity of lawmakers to our budget and legislative proposals for children. Many thanks to all those who attended and made the day a success.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will read about our Polier Lecture and *Works on Paper* preview benefit that was held earlier this spring. Upcoming events include CCC's Annual Meeting and Founder's Award Presentation on June 8 at the New York School of Interior Design. Recruiting is also underway for the Fall Community Leadership Course (CLC) and anyone interested in taking the course or referring a friend should call 212-673-1800 ext. 32. The Community Development and Family Life session of the CLC will be spent in Chinatown hosted by the Chinese-American Planning Council and CCC Board Member David Chen.

Finally, we have strengthened our communications network to make it easier for you to take action on behalf of New York City children. Please become part of this effort by signing onto www.cccnewyork.org and participating in our e-advocacy efforts to *Secure Every Child's Birthright* to be healthy, housed, educated and safe. It is a simple but effective way for you to advocate for children with just a click on your computer.

Our thanks to all of you who have given your time to CCC. As you know, advocacy and citizen activism is a crucial part of the CCC mission. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to become involved. New York City children benefit from CCC's actions on their behalf, and volunteer involvement is key to our success.

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Early Childhood Initiatives in New York City: The Intersection of Theory and Practice

The 2006 Justine Wise Polier Lecture on *Early Childhood Initiatives in New York City: The Intersection of Theory and Practice* was held on April 4 at the offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP with a record attendance of 200 CCC volunteers and colleagues. After an introduction by CCC Board Member, Trudy Festinger, daughter of Justine Wise Polier and Professor of Research at New York University's Ehrenkranz School of Social Work, the lecture featured two speakers:

Dr. Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Child Development and Education at Columbia University; and Commissioner John B. Mattingly, NYC Administration for Children's Services.

The evening's program began with Dr. Brooks-Gunn's discussion of her research on three major factors (health conditions, absence of parenting behavior and preschool attendance) that contribute to gaps in school readiness among black, white and Latino children in the United States. Measuring school readiness by comparing math, reading and vocabulary test scores of school-aged and pre-school children, Dr. Brooks-Gunn pointed out that while most policymakers have focused on achievement gaps among school-aged children, the reality is that "half of the test score gap between black and white high school students is evident when children start school."¹ Considering various intervention strategies including socio-economic, health, parenting and pre-school programs, Dr. Brooks-Gunn argued that high-quality, early education programs with components that emphasize parent literacy, parenting skills and health training for mothers are likely to be the most effective in reducing gaps in school readiness.

Reinforcing the importance of quality early education programs and child care services to a child's development, Commissioner Mattingly followed with a discussion on the Administration for Children's Services' (ACS) *Integrated Plan for Early Childhood*



(Left to right) Commissioner John B. Mattingly, Dr. Jeanne Brooks-Gunn and Dr. Trudy Festinger.

Development in New York City. The Commissioner identified six goals of his agency to better serve young children and families with high-quality early childhood development services: responding to resource and community needs; transitioning to community-based enrollment; improving quality and accountability; developing a unified information system; establishing a coherent system for facility expansion and management; and creating a seamless system of early care and education integration and coordination. Reporting on the plan's progress, Commissioner Mattingly emphasized that ACS has rolled-out a full enrollment initiative providing intensive help to agencies that reach out to families directly while continuing to work with program contractors to expand child care for young toddlers and infants.

¹ Brooks-Gunn, Jeanne. "Introducing the Issue." *Future of Children*. Vol. 15 No. 1 Spring, 2005.

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programs and infant mortality initiatives, among many others, seem out of place given the city's strong financial position. Citizens' Committee for Children of New York urges city leaders to negotiate a budget that maintains core services and prevents service interruptions; fills service gaps; and meets the needs of New York City children.

YouthAction NYC Members Weigh-in

YouthAction NYC teaches young people from New York City public and private high schools about civic responsibility, fact-based advocacy, the city and state budget processes and the inner workings of government. These young advocates are exposed to a full range of perspectives and realities and are provided with unique opportunities to collaborate, engage in meaningful dialogue and share new experiences with a diverse group of peers. They emerge with a clearer understanding of opportunities to influence policy and make stronger communities and civic responsibility and priorities.

On the heels of an Appellate Court ruling directing the state to provide New York City public schools with a minimum of \$4.7 billion in operating aid and \$9.2 billion in capital assistance by April 1, 2006, the Mayor and state Legislature reached a deal that will provide \$13 billion over five years for building and upgrading schools.

YouthAction NYC members have been working to formulate youth-centered priorities and recommendations regarding the aspects of secondary schooling that require immediate attention with hopes of expediting the arrival of operating funds, influencing how they are allocated and ensuring that youth are afforded a voice in policy and program development. Using CCC's "fact-based advocacy," model, members began their efforts by doing research and collecting data. This phase involved reading and analyzing reports prepared by the Mayor, City Council, Citywide Parents Council, youth collaboratives and others, to better understand the

issues that matter most like class size, school size and teacher quality.

YouthAction NYC members also designed a survey and conducted a focus group to identify areas and issues that are important to New York City high school students. Currently, they are collating and analyzing the responses of 100 high school students to determine priorities and to suggest allocation of additional resources to be used to improve the high school experience and support high school students' interests and goals.

YouthAction NYC members will make recommendations and propose and release a written policy brief. The brief will be disseminated to interested parties, including school leadership teams and student governments, the Mayor, the City Council Speaker, the City Council Education Committee and the Department of Education. Members will also hit the road, delivering brief presentations at their high schools — engaging and involving an even wider range of youth and encouraging their peers to advocate within their own schools for what high school students need and value most.



(Left to right) YouthAction NYC members Asia Ceasar and Natasha Benjamin.

State Budget FY06-07

The FY06-07 State Budget includes some historic victories for children as well as setbacks that resulted when negotiations between the Governor and the Legislature broke down.

Major victories for children include: a \$62 million children's mental health initiative which will provide accessible and comprehensive services to reduce crisis and problems associated with mental illness; \$6.5 billion in aid and financing for construction, renovation and

upgrades of New York City public schools; and \$50 million to serve an additional 15,000 4-year olds throughout the state with a half-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten program.

During deliberations, the Legislature added funding and changed the language of some of the Governor's budget appropriations. The Governor responded by vetoing these changes. In response the Legislature overrode the Governor's vetoes and it is

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