



Phillips Lytle LLP



LLSC NY

Black Developers Forum

Turning Vision into Value:

Small Developer Success Stories & Funding That Works

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET

Phillips Lytle LLP | 125 Main Street, Buffalo NY

The Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) presents an engaging afternoon of keynote presentations, panel discussions, and networking. Attendees will gain valuable insights from local developers and explore the programs shaping the future of equitable development in New York State.

2:45 PM Doors Open

3:00 PM Welcome

- **Adam Walters**, *Partner*, Phillips Lytle

3:05 PM Introduction

- **Andrew D'Agostino**, *SVP, Regional Director of Central & Western NY*, CPC
- **Lisa Hicks**, *AVP, Mortgage Officer*, CPC

3:10 PM City of Buffalo: Legacy Cities Program & Vacant Land Purchase Program

- **Nadine Marrero**, *Executive Director*, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning

3:25 PM The Community Preservation Corporation: Importance and Impact of Diversity in Development – The CPC ACCESS Model

- **Lawrence Hammond**, *SVP, Director of CPC ACCESS*, CPC
- **Wilhelmena Norman**, *VP, Manager of Community Impact - ACCESS*, CPC

3:40 PM Small Developer Project Profiles

- **Darold Fountain** – Legacy City Buffalo
- **Jocelyn Gordon** – Adam’s Street
- **Amun Ra** – Riley Street & Florida Street

4:00 PM Panel Discussion: “Capital, Capacity, and Community: Unlocking Small-Scale Development”

This panel brings together funders and small-scale developers to explore how capital, technical assistance, and partnerships can drive equitable neighborhood growth. Through real-world examples and candid discussion on various programs like Affordable Home Ownership Program & New York State Participation Loan Program, panelists will share strategies to overcome barriers, layer funding sources, and expand opportunities for emerging developers of color.

- Moderator: **Tyra Johnson-Hux** – WNY Operations Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) New York
- Panelists:
 - **Michael Alexander**, AVP, Mortgage Officer, CPC
 - **Darold Fountain**, President & CEO, Aurora Window Systems and Contracting
 - **Jocelyn Gordon**, Executive Director, Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation
 - **Amun Ra**, CEO, AHR Development
 - **Leonard Skril**, Assistant Commissioner and Upstate Director of Development West, New York State, Homes & Community Renewal
 - **Hope Young-Watkins**, Senior Director of Programs, Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency

4:30 PM Final Remarks & Networking