

Short bio – Lee Ilan

Lee Ilan has spent most of her career promoting brownfield cleanup & redevelopment and community empowerment in land use in New York City. She has used interdisciplinary, organizational, and relationship-building skills in leading advocacy efforts for the creation of the Hudson River Park and in creating & advancing the City's brownfield programs.

Lee is presently the Chief of Planning at the New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation, which operates the largest city-run environmental cleanup program in the nation. She oversaw the development of the SPEED environmental mapping portal (www.nyc.gov/SPEED). Her focus is on community engagement, environmental justice, intergovernmental issues, and communications. Lee has worked on brownfields for the City for two decades, overseeing participation in state and federal grant programs, supporting community groups, and advancing the City's goals locally and nationally. She is an active steering committee member of the National Brownfields Coalition and serves on the advisory boards of the New York City Brownfield Partnership and the Center for Creative Land Recycling. Previously, Lee worked as a commercial recycling consultant and a parks advocate in New York City. She holds a BA in Political Science from Columbia College, Columbia University.

Ms. Lee Ilan

Experience:

City of New York, Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation – June 2008 to present

Chief of Planning

Conduct brownfields planning, develop and execute initiatives, oversee projects, identify resources; and communicate with government agencies, community organizations, the business community, and the public.

- Prepare materials and deliver presentations on the City's brownfields initiatives and OER's programs to local, regional, and national organizations. Guide community organizations and faith-based groups through grant procedures, program requirements, and planning opportunities.
- Coordinate and negotiate the City's support of NY State Brownfield Opportunity Area grants with community groups, City agencies, and NYS Department of State; coordinate involvement of multiple agencies and Deputy Mayor's office for NYS Restore New York grant program applications.
- Supervised development of SPEED 2.0, a GIS-based mapping portal allowing detailed searches, analysis, and update of environmental data, vacant properties, and historic information. Identified and assigned tasks to colleagues and contractor, coordinate workload, manage involvement of other city agencies, approved work products; negotiated task orders and budget changes.
- Serve as intergovernmental liaison, coordinating OER's participation in multi-agency projects and advising other agencies on brownfields issues. Represent City interests in brownfield cleanup and planning to Federal and state agencies and to national land revitalization organizations, e.g. Center for Creative Land Recycling and National Brownfields Coalition.
- Serve as communications director, managing social media, press inquiries, and announcements to mailing list of over 3,000 contacts; produce content and collaborate on design for office website.
- Develop and produce OER brownfield events for various audiences. Support regional sustainable planning and revitalization conferences, coordinating with industry, non-profit, academic, and agency partners.
- Plan, design, and promote brownfield worker green job initiative; determine goals, develop and oversee program, identify and secure funding to encourage employment of workers; identify roles and coordinate responsibilities among colleagues, training providers, potential employers, trainees, and other city agencies.
- Advance legislation and outreach campaigns to promote New York City's brownfield interests.
- Recruit, interview, hire, supervise, and coordinate allocation of technical and IT interns.

City of New York, Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination – January 1999 to May 2008

Senior Environmental Planner

- Developed and coordinated brownfields policy and activities
- Managed EPA Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund grants. Responsible for grant writing, budgets, reporting, managing funds, and facilitating City agency participation
- Prepared, delivered, and moderated panel presentations on the City's brownfields initiatives & priorities
- Oversaw City's participation in and compliance with requirements of NY State brownfields programs
- Developed all brownfields content for office's website
- Managed use of geographic information system (GIS) in brownfields planning
- Advised City agencies on environmental review issues, regulations, and procedures
- Drafted environmental review documents for legislation on behalf of the Office of the Mayor
- Represented the Office of the Mayor at public meetings/hearings on environmental issues and projects
- Coordinated intergovernmental efforts on environmental review projects, public announcements, proposed legislation, and other environmental issues

Environmental Consultant/Independent Contractor – 1996 to 1998

- **Cornell Cooperative Extension** – Conducted research on brownfields and on environmental project opportunities; summarized findings; reviewed grant proposals; researched and identified new funding sources.
- **The Fox Group** – Planned/implemented public outreach regarding siting of water filtration plant. Conducted research; wrote testimony, newsletters, flyers, and letters. Gave presentations on transportation and waterfront issues. Refined business concept; created marketing materials, wrote proposals, light bookkeeping.
- **Ecosav Corporate Conservation** – Managed waste removal accounts; developed promotional strategy; created NYC Trade Waste Commission document library; marketed company's services.
- **Hammer Environmental Consulting** – Reviewed and edited request for bids for waste removal contracts.

Great Forest Inc. – 1991 to 1996

Vice President

Designed/installed/managed commercial recycling programs. Helped raise annual revenue from under \$100K to over \$1 million by bringing in key clients and establishing firm's services in New York City. Conducted waste audits, evaluated waste management practices, recommended recycling systems to clients, trained personnel in recycling procedures, negotiated with waste carters. Spoke to business groups and council members regarding commercial recycling. Researched recycling of new materials. Trained staff in waste assessment techniques, presentation of data, report writing, and recycling education.

The Parks Council – 1989 to 1990

Director, Citizens for a Hudson River Esplanade

Directed coalition of 140 civic groups, officials, and individuals advocating a park along the Hudson River. Developed/implemented strategies to advance vision of waterfront park; served as liaison to city/state panel and government/media/public; testified at hearings; addressed civic and community groups; developed fundraising plans; wrote/designed publications.

City of New York, Department of Parks & Recreation – 1987 to 1989

Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner for Management

Liaison to eight departments; wrote/produced monthly report to Mayor; tracked correspondence; designed/edited/produced weekly newsletter; coordinated blood drive and other special projects.

Education:

Columbia College, Columbia University, A.B. Political Science/Anthropological Linguistics

Awards:

Outstanding Individual Achievement Award; Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast, 2018

Professional & Civic Associations:

National Brownfields Coalition, Steering Committee, 2010 - present
New York City Brownfield Partnership, Advisory Board member, 2017 - present
Center for Creative Land Recycling, Advisory Board member, 2017 - present
National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP), Board Member, 2010 - 2017
Manhattan Citizens Solid Waste Advisory Board, Member, 1996 - 1999

Publications:

Contributor to *The GIS Guide for Elected Officials*, edited by Cory Fleming, ESRI Press ©2014. Case study: "The need for SPEED: New York City's real estate and environmental GIS search engine promotes brownfield redevelopment."

Volunteer Activities:

Columbia College Women, board member and volunteer
Read Ahead, mentor to elementary school student
Sadhana Coalition of Progressive Hindus, NY Chapter co-chair
New York Center for Kripalu Yoga & Health, Director, 1993 - 2011