



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Bronx Has Arrived in Albany

Hundreds Expected at Bronx Day in Albany at the Albany Capital Center, Hosted by Bronx Chamber of Commerce and New York State Senate and Assembly Bronx Delegations

ALBANY, NY — After nearly a decade, **Bronx Day in Albany** has returned to the Capital Region. Hosted by the Bronx Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the New York State Senate and Assembly Bronx delegations, the full-day event features panel discussions, workshops, and exhibitions showcasing the Bronx's businesses, culture, cuisine and creativity. Entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and cultural institutions will gather to advance opportunity, advocacy and economic growth. New York **Governor Kathy Hochul** is scheduled to attend, underscoring the statewide significance of the Bronx's economic contributions.

"Bronx Day in Albany is about making sure the voice of the Bronx is heard where critical decisions are made," said **Lisa Sorin**, president of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce. "Our borough is home to extraordinary entrepreneurs, cultural leaders and community organizations that are driving economic growth and opportunity. Bringing them directly to Albany allows policymakers to see firsthand the innovation and resilience that define the Bronx."

The day begins with a **Leadership Luncheon** featuring two panels examining the Bronx's real estate development and housing needs, as well as the rising cost of doing business in New York. The discussions are designed to connect Albany decision-makers directly with those navigating development, preservation, financing and regulatory challenges on the ground.

The first panel, "**Building the Bronx: Real Estate & Housing Solutions in a High-Cost Environment**," will explore development feasibility, housing preservation and the financial pressures facing rent-stabilized properties. The discussion will be moderated by **Kathryn Brenzel**, senior reporter at The Real Deal.

Panelists include **Jamaal Bailey**, first elected to the State Senate in 2016 and current chair of the Senate Insurance Committee; **Chantel Jackson**, LMSW, elected to the Assembly in 2020 and a member of the Assembly Committees on Banks and Housing; **Matt Engel**, president of Langsam Property Services Corp., a Bronx-based firm focused on rent-stabilized housing; and **Jessica Yoon**, managing director at L+M Development Partners, one of New York's largest affordable housing developers. Together, the panelists will examine the capital conditions needed to unlock development while preserving existing housing.

The second panel, “**Doing Business in New York: Costs, Constraints, and Competitiveness**,” will address labor costs, regulatory compliance, insurance, financing and other pressures shaping business decision-making statewide. The panel will be moderated by **Paul Zuber**, executive vice president of the Business Council of New York State.

Participants include **Nathalia Fernandez**, elected to the State Senate in 2022 after previously serving in the Assembly; **Landon Dais**, elected in 2022 and currently serving on the Assembly Economic Development Committee and Committee on Small Business; **Ashley Ranslow**, New York state director for the National Federation of Independent Business; and **Paul Ramirez**, owner of Bronx Beer Hall and Mainland Media. The discussion will focus on how current cost structures affect employers, small businesses and long-term economic competitiveness.

Bronx Day in Albany also features **State Agency Workshops and AI for Business Training**, highlighting state resources available to businesses. Sessions will cover access to capital and grants, procurement and contracting opportunities, minority- and veteran-owned business certifications, HR and compliance training and clean energy programs available to businesses. The workshops are free to attend.

The day culminates with the **Business & Cultural Showcase**, bringing the energy and flavor of the Bronx to Albany. Attendees can explore exhibits from Bronx businesses, nonprofits, artists and artisans; enjoy tastings from standout Bronx restaurants and food and beverage vendors; experience live music; and celebrate the inaugural Change Maker Awards, honoring borough leaders driving meaningful impact across the Bronx.

The 2026 **Change Maker Award recipients** and the elected officials who nominated them are as follows:

- **Bravo Supermarket** (Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia)
- **Bridge Builders Community Partnership Inc.** (Sen. Luis R. Sepúlveda)
- **Bronx Children’s Museum** (Sen. Jose M. Serrano)
- **Cestra’s Bakery** (Assembly Member Michael Benedetto)
- **Conti’s Pastry Shoppe** (Assembly Member John Zaccaro)
- **DJ MadOut** (Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie)
- **Fix It With Piggy** (Assembly Member Landon Dais)
- **Johnson’s BBQ** (Assembly Member Chantel Jackson)
- **Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corp.** (Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz)
- **Kingsbridge Social Club** (Sen. Robert Jackson)
- **Maravillas Bar & Grill** (Assembly Member Emerita Torres)
- **Taqueria Tlaxcalli** (Assembly Member Karines Reyes)
- **The Bronx Beer Hall** (Sen. Gustavo Rivera)
- **The Hoodspitality Group** (Assembly Member Amanda Septimo)
- **Travel with Chaz** (Sen. Nathalia Fernandez)
- **United Bodegas of America** (Assembly Member George Alvarez)
- **Williamsbridge NAACP CEC** (Sen. Jamaal Bailey)

"Our support for Bronx Day in Albany is a reflection of our support for the Bronx, where we have more than 30 branches that serve more than half a million consumer customers and 30,000 small businesses," said **Robert Rodriguez**, Northeast Business Banking Divisional Director and Chair of the New York City Market Leadership Team at **JPMorganChase**, **presenting sponsor** of Bronx Day in Albany. "But the Bronx is more than a place where we do business. We're committed to helping make the borough a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

Additional sponsors include Montefiore Einstein, New York Yankees, New York Botanical Garden, Public Policy Institute of New York State, REBNY, Bally's, DJ Ambulette, New York Apartment Association, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, Con Edison, Amazon, DoorDash, HILB Group/Rampart Insurance Services, Simone Development, The Woodlawn Cemetery, PhRMA, Wildlife Conservation Society and Molina Healthcare of New York, Inc. Media partners include Politico NY, News12, Schneps Media, BronxNet and In The Room Media.

"Bronx Day in Albany showcases the borough's economic opportunity, vibrant communities and cultural significance. It's a chance to highlight the work that makes the Bronx thrive and to remind our colleagues of the profound impact our Borough has on the state. I'm proud to bring this celebration back to the Capitol and look forward to continuing its legacy for years to come."

– **Senator Nathalia Fernandez**

"Bronx Day in Albany is a reminder that the Bronx is not defined by old narratives, but by the power of its people to build, create and lead. Our businesses, institutions and cultural voices are engines of economic opportunity and innovation, strengthening not only our borough but the future of New York State. When the Bronx rises, New York rises with it." – **Senator Robert Jackson**

"Bronx Day in Albany is an opportunity to celebrate and showcase one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in our state. Built by generations of African Americans and immigrant communities from all over the world, the Bronx stands as a powerful example of resilience, culture and opportunity for so many. As the proud representative of the 32nd Senatorial District in the Bronx, I am honored to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of this extraordinary borough." – **Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda**

"Bronx Day in Albany confirms what I've been saying all my life: the Bronx is the best borough and the best place to live. The chance to showcase and honor the essential businesses, restaurants and institutions that fuel us every day is amazing. The Bronx is a vibrant community built on diversity and perseverance, and everyone participating in Bronx Day represents that spirit." – **Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz**

"The Bronx has always been a place where small businesses and entrepreneurs build opportunity for our communities. Bronx Day in Albany gives us the chance to highlight their work and connect them directly with state leaders and agencies. When we support Bronx businesses, we strengthen our neighborhoods and help more families put food on the table." – **Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia**

"Bronx Day in Albany is a powerful opportunity to uplift our borough on the state stage and ensure our voices, talent and contributions are fully recognized. Showcasing Bronx businesses, institutions and culture highlights the innovation, resilience and diversity that drive our communities forward. When the Bronx is represented in Albany, our stories help shape policies and investments that reflect who we are and where we're going." – **Assemblymember Emerita Torres**

"After ten years, we are excited for the return of Bronx Day in Albany and to once again showcase the strength, innovation and leadership that define our borough. As a former state legislator, I understand the importance of the Bronx maintaining a strong presence in Albany and ensuring our communities are represented in critical decisions. By bringing together businesses, community leaders, and the next generation of changemakers directly to the State Capitol, we are highlighting the incredible work happening across our borough while strengthening partnerships that help secure the investments the Bronx deserves." – **Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson**

Additional event programming information is available at www.bronxdayinalbany.com.

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EVENT ASSETS: <https://bit.ly/BxDIA2026MediaKit>

About Bronx Day in Albany 2026

Bronx Day in Albany 2026 is an event presented by the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Bronx businesses, nonprofits, and community partners. The one-day event showcases the Bronx's dynamic business community, cultural institutions, culinary talent, and creative entrepreneurs, connecting them with representatives from state agencies, statewide business leaders, and entities doing business across the state. Through a Leadership Luncheon, State Agency Workshops, and a Business Showcase & Tradeshow, Bronx Day in Albany advances opportunity and investment for the Bronx across New York State. For more information, visit www.bronxdayinalbany.com.

About The Bronx Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1894, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to advocating for local businesses and promoting economic development in the Bronx through various initiatives and partnerships. As one of the most influential business organizations in New York City, the Bronx Chamber is a leader in economic and workforce development and an influential advocate for public policies that impact businesses. The Chamber offers a wide range of services, programs, and events to its membership, which includes Fortune 500 corporations, renowned cultural institutions, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, hospitals and medical centers, and small to mid-sized businesses. For more information, visit www.bronxchamber.org.

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