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### **New Opportunities for Minority and Women-owned Businesses**

Entrepreneurial women and minorities in NYC got a double boost this year starting with the Mayor's launch of the Corporate Alliance Program, an initiative that connects certified Minority and Women-owned Businesses to contracting opportunities in the private sector. The second boost is a series of new initiatives that will enhance and expand the current Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Program with respect to City contracts.

The M/WBE Program, which is administered by Small Business Services, promotes, certifies, and fosters the growth of the City's minority and women-owned businesses by providing access to information about contracting opportunities, providing technical assistance to better compete for those opportunities, and including them in the City's Online Directory of Certified Firms. Since the City's M/

WBEs program was founded in 2006, more than 30,000 contracts have been awarded to city-certified firms, valued at over \$2.1 billion.

The newly formed Corporate Alliance Program will connect city-certified M/WBEs to opportunities in the private sector with the help of some of NYC's major corporations. The 12 partners of the Alliance are Accenture, American Express, AXA/Equitable, BNY Mellon, Colgate-Palmolive, Citigroup, Columbia University, Con Edison, Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, IBM, and National Grid. Additional companies will have the opportunity to join at a later date. The Department of Small Business Services is also establishing initiatives which include corporate skills training programs, recruitment services, and mentorship programs to help prepare and connect M/WBEs to the private sector.

In addition to the founding of the Corporate Alliance Program, the new initiatives for the current M/WBE Program fall into three categories:

- Additional programs and services to help M/WBEs face market challenges;
- Streamlining the purchase processes to make it easier for M/WBEs to do business with the city; and
- Improving the procurement process.

If you are interested in learning more about these initiatives or if you want to find out if your business is eligible for this program, visit the [Department of Small Business Services](#) or email [corporatealliance@sbs.nyc.gov](mailto:corporatealliance@sbs.nyc.gov).

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### **Launch of BeFitNYC Website for Free and Low-Cost Fitness Activities**

Are you looking for a way to get healthy but can't make it to the gym regularly or don't want to pay for a membership? Well look no further. This summer let New York City be your gym! This City has so many opportunities to exercise for little or no cost. For example, walking or riding your bike to work and using the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator are great ways to add extra physical activity into your day.

Additionally, Mayor Bloomberg recently launched the new and improved BeFitNYC website which helps New Yorkers find fitness activities across the City. For the first time, New Yorkers will also be able to create their own fitness events and invite other people to join through BeFitNYC and [Facebook](#).

If you are interested in getting active with other women and families in the City, visit [BeFitNYC](#) and create or join an activity today!

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### **Updates to PlaNYC Include Numerous Programs to Assure a Greener City**

There was much for women and families in NYC to celebrate during this year's

Earth Week when the Mayor presented an update to "PlaNYC: A Greener Greater New York." Four years ago, Mayor Bloomberg unveiled New York City's ambitious sustainability program. This year, he provided the first update to the program which includes 132 new initiatives and over 400 milestones that the city hopes to achieve by December 2013. Among these are the Clean Heat Campaign and the launch of the "Change By Us" social media tool.

The Clean Heat Campaign will phase out the use of dirty heating fuels in NYC buildings by 2030. The soot pollution from these dirty heating fuels accounts for more soot pollution than is produced by all the cars and trucks in NYC combined. To combat this threat, NYC Service and the Environmental Defense Fund will partner to educate building owners and tenants about the public health impacts of dirty heating fuels.

The new "Change by Us" tool will allow the City to pose questions to residents and communities about making our city greener and residents will be able to respond via text message, the web, and mobile sites. A preview of the site was launched in April for select community-based organizations and will be opened to the general public at a later date.

To read about all the new updates to PlaNYC and how you can get involved, visit [PlaNYC](#).

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### **In Other News:**

#### **[Donate Professional Attire for Veterans](#)**

From July 5th to July 22nd donation bins will be available around the City at Deutsche Bank, Citi, and Credit Suisse buildings, as well as the lobby of a number of City agencies, including City Hall, to collect new and gently used business attire.

#### **[NYC Parks and Beaches are Smoke Free](#)**

Learn more about new smoking regulations in public areas.

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### **About the NYC Commission on Women's Issues**

The New York City Commission on Women's Issues (formerly the Commission on the Status of Women) was established by Mayoral Executive Order in 1975 as an advisory body to the Mayor on matters impacting the lives of New York City women. Currently, the Commission serves as an important vehicle through which women and families can connect with City services that support and address their needs.

We hope this newsletter will be an extension of this work. Not only will we share the newest initiatives and programs coming out of the City, but we will also help

you understand how these efforts affect you as a woman.

For more information on our key programs such as the NYC Women's Resource Network, the Mentor it Forward, and the NYC Ladders for Leaders program, please visit [www.nyc.gov/women](http://www.nyc.gov/women) to find out how you could benefit and/or participate today!

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