



80 Jamaica Avenue, 3rd Fl | Brooklyn, NY 11207 | t. 718.385.6700



Voted The Most Outstanding Women's Business Center (WBC)!

News Provided by

[The Brooklyn Women's Business Center](#)

April 18, 2023

Media Contact: Shenita Ramos | LDCENY/BWBC shenitar@ldceny.org

BROOKLYN, NY /April 18, 2023/ --The Brooklyn Women's Business Center (BWBC) at the Local Development Corporation of East New York (LDC) has been recognized as **“The Most Outstanding Women's Business Center”** by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). They will be presented the award at an Award Ceremony on May 4, 2023, at the Microsoft Center.

Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the SBA, the BWBC has served thousands of entrepreneurs and small business owners through training, one-on-one counseling, and coaching services since its inaugural launch in 2000. The pride of the Center is the attention to the whole person – the holistic approach to ensuring the total woman succeeds and sustains their livelihood. An example of this is how they provide encouragement to clients who may have experienced domestic violence, or lived in a shelter and was provided with support beyond how to start or grow a business. For over 43 years there have been countless stories of how the BWBC and the LDC have helped clients create ownership, and generational wealth. “At the LDC we have gone beyond the formality of just business counseling by practicing deep listening and understanding the underserved communities where we serve,” says **Camille Newman, Director of the BWBC.**

Under the leadership of Camille Newman, the BWBC navigated their clients through the COVID 19 pandemic with innovative programs, financial resources and matchmaking, wellness support, and timely service thanks to technology and the ingenuity to pivot swiftly. It was not an easy ride for the BWBC as they faced their own financial challenges. However, the commitment and

passion that is demonstrated by the business counselors is a trait that has been consistent characteristic of the Center.

Camille further adds, “Through the BWBC’s programs, it became readily clear that one cannot be successful in business if their bodies and minds are not in alignment. Throughout our history of entrepreneurial development and financial literacy we have worked with clients at the margins and populations that normally would not be considered for opportunities. We have worked with shelters, domestic violence survivors, low-income residents of NYCHA, and successfully provided support and a plan of action for our clients to succeed.” To date, the BWBC has provided one-on-one counseling services to over 5000 clients, organized training events and workshops for close to 19,000 attendees and assisted entrepreneurs in securing \$7.3 M in capital infusions.

The origin of the BWBC cannot go without mention of the support and encouragement from Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez. “For years, the Brooklyn Women's Business Center has helped thousands of New York entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses, especially those from underserved communities. Throughout the pandemic, BWBC provided counseling and expertise to help entrepreneurs navigate a once-in-a-lifetime crisis and come out stronger on the other side,” said **Rep. Nydia Velázquez** (NY-7), Ranking Member of the House Small Business Committee. “I’d like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Camille Newman and the entire team at BWBC on this tremendous honor and thank them for all they do to help build up the vibrant small business community here in Brooklyn.”

“As the host of the BWBC, the Local Development Corporation East New York, celebrates this award of distinction given by the SBA. We applaud Camille Newman's tireless commitment to excellence in her administration of programs, workshops, counseling, and services to the East Brooklyn community,” says **Bill Wilkins, Executive Director of the LDCENY**. The BWBC exemplifies our mission of: Growing Businesses, Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities.

To learn more about the Brooklyn Women’s Business Center and how you can partner with them or provide support for programs visit www.brooklynwomen.org.

###