

Buildozers

In our early years we blocked the City's plans to demolish the area from East 14th Street to Delancey Street. We went up against New York's power broker Robert Moses and saved hundreds of buildings.

We Created a Community Plan for Cooper Square

In 1970, New York City officially adopted our Alternative Cooper Square Plan that called for staged development, limited relocation and no displacement of current residents.

Develop Affordable Housing

We've helped create housing that our community can be proud of. In 1984 we developed 146 apartments of low income housing on Stanton Street. In 1985 we fought for 150 units of senior housing on the Bowery and East 5th Street. We made sure that 49% of the apartments were set aside for local residents.

In 1988, we sponsored the first co-op for formerly homeless families in the United States, a 22-unit co-op known as the Cube Building. In 2008 we developed 54 units of supportive housing at 29 East 2nd Street.

Mobilize Community Leadership

We created the Bowery Residents Committee, started the Good Food Co-op, the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union and several block associations.

We formed the Cooper Square Mutual Housing Association (CSMHA) in 1991. CSMHA now manages nearly 400 low income apartments in 23 formerly city-owned buildings, mainly on East 3rd and 4th Streets between Second Avenue and the Bowery. We continue to work closely with CSMHA by providing services to its tenants.

Affordable Housing and Recreational Resources to our Community

Our participation in the Cooper Square Task Force meant that what might otherwise have been blocks of luxury housing instead includes 764 units of mixed income housing, 231 of them low income units. It also brought to the neighborhood a 42,000 sq. ft. community center with a gymnasium and swimming pool on Houston Street, jointly run by the YMCA and University Settlement, which opened its doors in April, 2006.

We Inspect Buildings and Organize Tenant Associations

We help tenants get what they need. We have inspected hundreds of area buildings and organized tenants in dozens of buildings to help them negotiate with their landlords for repairs, fight rent overcharges, prevent evictions and get Housing Preservation and Development and the Department of Buildings to do inspections and record code violations.

We Work to Keep the Arts Alive in Our Neighborhood

We were a catalyst for the formation of Fourth Arts Block (FAB) a cultural association on East 4th Street that succeeded in buying 6 buildings from HPD for cultural use in 2005. The Cooper Square Committee is working closely with FAB to implement a Streetscape Design for East 4th Street to enhance the cultural and historic identity of the block.

What We Do

9 East 2nd Street developed jointly by Cooper Square Committee and Community Access



47 East 3rd Street, 2008



East 3rd Street tenants strike against landlord



Executive Director Steve Herrick speaking at a press conference regarding a vacate order at 128 Hester Street on August 18, 2009

Our Programs and Services

Tenant Organizing and Counseling

Our Housing Staff advises tenants on questions they bring to us on how to fight evictions, harassment, rent overcharges and preferential rents. We teach people how to sublet legally, get repairs, lease renewals, and much more.

We organize tenants to fight evictions based on landlord's false claims that they plan to live in the building themselves or demolish it. Our staff can inspect your building cellar to roof.

Social Services

We assist income-eligible residents in applying for income support, health care and housing entitlements so a diverse population can remain in the community.

Greening and Development

We partner with non-profits to develop and preserve affordable housing and cultural spaces. In our work with the Mutual Housing Association we are greening multifamily housing. In our facade and streetscape improvements projects, we are working with the Fourth Arts Block to improve East 4th Street.