



CITY OF NEW YORK
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD
FOUR**

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

November 16, 2023

Hon. Eric Admas
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall, New York 10007

Hon. Adrienne Adams
Speaker
City Council
City Hall, New York 10007

Hon. Erik Bottcher
City Council
224 West 30th St, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mayor Adams, Speaker Adams, and Council Member Bottcher,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 1, 2023, voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible to vote, for city funding to support Hudson Guild's Employment Support Program and acknowledgement of the broader training and coalition work of the Westside Work Coalition. MCB4 is thankful for the presentation given by Ken Jockers, Executive Director, and Devon Bowne, Workforce Employment Specialist at Hudson Guild to the Arts, Culture, Education & Schools (ACES) Committee on Monday, October 17, 2023.

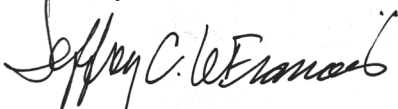
For over a hundred years, Hudson Guild has served individuals in need who live, work, or go to school in Chelsea and the west side community with a range of services including community building, education, and mental health. A third of their programs take place in public housing, another third in public schools, and another third in private spaces where Hudson guild is a program partner or the tenant providing services.

Hudson Guild is now expanding their services to help locals in job readiness and obtaining and maintaining employment. The organization currently has one workforce employment specialist on their staff that provides individualized case assistance to residents of Fulton Houses and Chelsea Elliot Houses seeking jobs. Hudson Guild's Employment Support Program works simultaneously with Councilman Erik Bottcher's Westside Coalition initiative that brings together a network of social service providers, employers, and elected officials to improve employment opportunities on the west side. Part of this work includes understanding the hiring needs of employers so companies can hire locally and more easily.

In the past year, Hudson Guild has helped 21 local individuals secure employment and/or training in fields that include construction, maintenance, security, clerical, and the food and beverage industry. These jobs pay \$34K to \$64K annually with a significant percentage of employers also providing health benefits and opportunities for growth. Many of the individuals seeking work development services have had limited opportunities for employment due to adversity. The program is in such need that there are currently 43 job seekers on Hudson Guild's employment assistance waitlist.

Hudson Guild is requesting city funding to continue this work and to expand their services by hiring more case managers for "on the ground" assistance to job seekers. CB4 supports this request for funding. CB4 also applauds and supports the work of the Westside Work Coalition to create and sustain strong pipelines that connect local job seekers to nearby employment opportunities. We are grateful for the workforce development efforts happening in our district and believe it is an important step forward in improving economic diversity in the city.

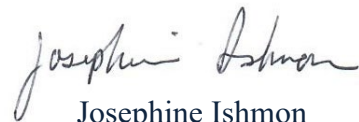
Sincerely,



Jeffery LeFrancois
Chair
Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Josephine Ishmon
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

CC: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough Presidents office