



**LESLIE BOGHOSIAN MURPHY**  
Chair

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CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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April 17, 2026

Ken Zimmerman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Fountain House  
425 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10036

**Re: Fountain House**

Dear Mr. Zimmerman,

On March 5, 2026, Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) Housing, Health and Human Services (HHHS) Committee members received a presentation from Fountain House leadership. Fountain House presented on their services and requested MCB4 support for their programming and funding.

On March 31, 2026, during the MCB4 Full Board meeting, MCB4 members voted 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to (1) support Fountain House and thank them for the services offered in our community and (2) request that they return this year to the HHHS Committee to provide more detailed information on program funding requests.

**Background**

Fountain House, located at 425 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street, is a non-profit organization that serves people who struggle with chronic serious mental health conditions to address social isolation and provide various other services.

Fountain House was founded in 1948 by a small group of patients who would regularly meet in 1944 at Rockland State Hospital in Orangeburg, New York and found that community was essential. After their discharge, the group continued to meet and eventually moved to the West 47<sup>th</sup> Street location in 1948 with the help of Elizabeth Schermerhorn, who also volunteered with the patients at Rockland State Hospital.

Fountain House has a Clubhouse model, a community-based location designed to support the recovery of people living with serious mental illness (SMI). The Clubhouse model is structured by the idea that "community is therapy." Participants are not called clients, but rather members, to denote their ownership of the space. Fountain House members and staff work together to carry out the daily operations of the Clubhouse, and are offered various activities and services that members have the choice to participate in. Some offerings include culinary activities, garden activities, and other programming which target relationship building, employment, creativity, education, housing and provide daily meals and mental health services. People at Fountain House

are members for life. If members discontinue attending, they may return at any time. No insurance is required and there is no financial barrier to joining.

Currently, Fountain House has four Clubhouse locations: 425 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Harlem, the Bronx and Los Angeles, California.

### **Services Offered at Fountain House**

Fountain House has supportive housing and congregate residences in Midtown West, the Upper West Side, Brooklyn, Queens, and the South Bronx. Their housing includes onsite services similar to those offered at Clubhouse locations, focused on limiting loneliness, improving quality of life, and helping members return to work.

Additionally, Fountain House provides policy and advocacy for legislation that supports their members as well as those who have mental illness but are not yet part of their community.

Further, Fountain House has a social enterprise component which is a group of five companies that employ and train Fountain House members. In Manhattan Community District 4 (MCD4), the *Fountain House + Body* boutique at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue between West 48-49<sup>th</sup> Streets sells environmentally sustainable, low-waste household products, has a full café component, and provides work opportunities to people living with mental illness.

Finally, Fountain House has connections with various other organizations including but not limited to the Supportive Housing Network of NY, Breaking Ground, Midtown Community Court, Sun River Health, Ryan Health, the Fortune Society and the Times Square Alliance.

### **Conclusion**

MCB4 thanks Fountain House for presenting its history and services offered to the HHHS Committee. The Committee is supportive of the Fountain House's Clubhouse on 425 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street and its various services and opportunities offered in MCD4. MCB4 requests that Fountain House return to a future HHHS Committee meeting to make specific City budget requests for their programs and services.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian-Murphy  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Joe Restuccia  
Co-Chair  
Housing, Health,  
and Human Services  
Committee



Maria Ortiz  
Co-Chair  
Housing, Health,  
and Human Services  
Committee