

Serving the Community

A Message from the BMDC Board of Directors

On Saturday June 6, 2020 more than 4,000 Jersey City residents joined a rally to end police brutality. It was organized and led by student members of the Black Diaspora Club of McNair Academic High School.

After delivering speeches on the steps of City Hall, these young people led the crowd along Montgomery Street, making a circle to eventually return to City Hall. In the middle of this circle sits our building at 83 Wayne Street, where it's been since 1837. The protest made us proud to be part of Jersey City. It also made us reflect on what we can do to help our community.

Since the 1980's, the Barrow Mansion has operated as a community center by and for the people of Jersey City. The Barrow Mansion sponsors community-based events and hosts "open house" events: free and open to the public. We provided critical operations following Hurricane Sandy and provide space for the largest number of 12-step recovery meetings in Hudson County.

Our main offering has always been to serve as a community meeting space. Due to our desire to keep our staff and volunteers safe during the pandemic, we have been closed since March and remain so for the immediate future.

Our mission is to be a focal point for inclusive, empowering community service and to preserve and enhance the historic Barrow Mansion. All people are welcome. But we can do better and not just say 'all people are welcome' but follow it with intentional actions.

1) Board Diversity

The BMDC Board of Directors, which governs the Barrow Mansion, is an all-volunteer group. We are currently looking for new board members that reflect Jersey City's diversity. All are welcome to apply. We will update our outreach efforts to ensure a diverse mix of applicants is reached.

2) Board Development

The Barrow Mansion stands in solidarity with everyone protesting against racism and injustices. The Barrow Mansion will reflect and do more to ensure that we are not just non-racist and inclusive, but anti-racist.

3) Programming, Events and Support

As we develop programming for the Barrow Mansion, we will actively use our venue to be more inclusive not just now, but ongoing.

This will be an ongoing process and we welcome you to join us.

BMDC Directors:

Paul Ellis, *President*

Joyce Davison

Yolanda Foley

Melissa Graves

Chris Heydt

Oona Jackson Moore

Nathan Tweti

See **LINKS** on second page:

1) **BMDC Board of Directors.** For more information and to apply to be on the Board of the Barrow Mansion, [click HERE](#).

2) **Event Requests and Sponsorship Requests.** If you or anyone you know needs space for a community event, [click here](#). At this time, we can only consider requests for small outdoor gatherings within current COVID rules. **Note that the Barrow Mansion is able to provide sponsorship opportunities for nonpartisan, community-based events.**

3) Learn more about the **12-Step Meetings at the Barrow Mansion:**
<http://www.barrowmansion.org/12-step--meetings.html>

4) Learn more about the **Black Diaspora Club of McNair Academic High School**
Instagram: Black Diaspora Club of McNair Academic High School.
Article about the June 6 protest from In the Know (ITK.):
<https://www.intheknow.com/2020/06/10/new-jersey-mcnair-high-school-black-lives-matter-protest/>

5) Recommendations from BMDC Board Members:

Books:

Kids Books About Racism (that are also relevant for adults):

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/parenting/kids-books-racism-protest.html>

How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram Kendi:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/20/books/review/how-to-be-an-antiracist-ibram-x-kendi.html>

Organizations:

Campaign Zero <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/#vision>

Color of Change www.Colorofchange.org

The **Barrow Mansion** is a Greek Revival-style building (1837) located in the Van Vorst Historic District of Jersey City, New Jersey. Initially, a private residence, the building has been in public use since 1890. It was purchased by St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1897. The Barrow Mansion is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and hosts a variety of events each week.

The **Barrow Mansion Development Corporation** was incorporated in 1984 as steward with the purpose of restoration, preservation, and operations and promoting the Mansion use as a community center. The BMDC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Website: barrowmansion.org

Facebook: [Facebook Page for the Barrow Mansion](#)

Instagram: [Barrow Mansion on Instagram](#)

Twitter: [Barrow Mansion Twitter](#)



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