

Leslie Peterson

Leslie Peterson moved to Co-op City 40 years ago. This was at the urging of her aunt who was an original cooperator in Co-op City. She raised her children in this community and spoke so highly of our community that many of her family members and co-workers have since moved to Co-op City also.

Leslie has always been a community-minded person, exhibited when she became an active member of her Building Association. Wanting to see her building thrive, she personally converted Building 13 Association into a Non-Profit (501C-3) organization dedicated to information advocacy and improving the quality of life for Co-op City residents.

Leslie has a degree in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Urban Affairs. Both came in handy when she was the property manager for the largest NYCHA development in the Bronx and has afforded her the opportunity to be knowledgeable of the guidelines from HCR, the agency that regulates Co-op City.

As time went on, she went from being the Secretary, to Treasurer and ultimately the President of her Association at the urging of the building members. She initiated "Women Keeping it Real," a woman's empowerment group, helped fund arts and crafts sessions, health and fitness workshops and participated in the buildings' creative writing workshops for youth and adults. Additionally, she developed a Business/Financial workshop for youth. Wanting to expose youth to new experiences, she organized trips to the Double Dutch Classic Championships at the Apollo and made it available to the community along with trips to the Turkey Hill Ice Cream Factory for families. She was instrumental in bringing Renaissance Music Group to Co-op City, getting the Food Pantry back up and running after an incident occurred and advocated for a pilot program allowing for seniors to downsize with no payment of equity.

Leslie presented the idea of transforming a derelict property in Co-op City to a garden, secured funds and soon after **Rivers Run Community Garden** was born and open to the community. She also summoned her Section presidents and presented an idea that became **Summer Family Fun Day** – A free day of fun, games and refreshments helping to further unify our community's youth and seniors. Both of these activities have been ongoing for the past 13 years. As a result of the success of Summer Fun Day, other Co-op City Sections reached out to do Family Days further unifying the community.

Leslie Peterson is currently the First Vice President of the Riverbay Board of Directors, president of the Co-op City Branch of the NAACP and president of Building 13 Association, Incorporated and additionally is involved with various groups throughout the community.

Leslie is always there to listen and try to assist the shareholders in Co-op City.

Leslie says her biggest reward is being able to be of service to the community she holds dear in her heart and gives hugs to. She says the best part is that they always "hug her back."