



Pratt Area Community Council

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Fulton Street Property Owners Roll-Up Their Gates for the 2009 Central Fulton Street “Storefront Stroll” – Local Artists Enliven Fulton Vacancies

On Thursday, June 11th, prospective business owners will tour available storefronts on Fulton Street in Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and Bedford Stuyvesant as part of the “Rolling Up the Gates Storefront Stroll,” a storefront open house organized by the Pratt Area Community Council (PACC)’s Economic Development Department. The goal of this event is to simplify entrepreneurs’ search for retail space while providing property owners with a means of collectively advertising their available storefronts. Local artists will also participate by displaying their artwork in several vacant storefronts.

Just as finding an apartment in New York City can be tricky, so too is locating the perfect retail space. PACC’s Director of Economic Development Dale Charles says, “We hope this event will help attract businesses to Central Fulton Street that compliment our already diverse retail mix. It is also an exciting opportunity to combine our efforts in assisting local entrepreneurs with showcasing one of our neighborhood’s primary commercial corridors.” In the current financial climate, the Storefront Stroll will remind neighborhood residents how important it is to support local businesses and “Shop Brooklyn.”

Local artists will also enliven several vacant storefronts during the event by converting the vacant spaces into 1-day art galleries and performance spaces for passers-by to enjoy. Art performances will be coordinated by the Julia Kito Kirtley Art Collective. “By activating vacant storefronts on Fulton through art,” Charles adds, “we hope to show prospective commercial tenants the strong creative potential that exists in our area.” Art locations and performance schedules will be available starting June 8th at www.prattarea.org.

This free event is a one-day self-guided tour from 12 to 7:30pm, during which time available commercial properties will be open for viewing and landlords will be available to answer perspective tenants' questions. The event will begin with a welcome reception from 12 to 1 at Autour du Monde Bar & Restaurant, located at 860 Fulton Street, which will feature presentations on market conditions, financing options, and networking between potential businesses and property owners. Storefronts will be open for viewing after the reception, from 1 to 7:30pm. Tour maps with a list of available properties and information on the advantages of owning a local business will be available for pickup throughout the day at 860 Fulton Street, 896-900 Fulton Street (PACC's Offices), and at store locations along the Central Fulton Street corridor, which runs from the Flatbush Avenue Extension to Bedford Avenue. For more information, please contact (347) 823-5700 x11 or visit www.prattarea.org.

Founded in 1964, Pratt Area Community Council is a non-profit community development corporation committed to improving the quality of life for all residents of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. The 2009 Storefront Stroll is funded in part by the NYC Department of Small Business Services' Avenue NYC Program.