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Introductions from your NYC Fiscal Crisis Dais

Hello Delegates!

My name is Maya Dunayer, and I am so excited to be the chair of the NYC Fiscal Crisis committee for miniMUNC 2021! As I am a senior at Stuyvesant, this will be my last miniMUNC, so I'm very excited to make this committee the best that it can possibly be. Though I've been involved in StuyMUN since freshman year, this will be my sixth year of Model UN. Through MUN, I've learned the power of leadership and diplomacy, how to speak in front of a crowd with confidence, and stay informed and engaged with the world around me. Since my very first conference in the seventh grade, I've fallen in love with Model UN, and I'm so excited to be able to give you all an incredible MUN experience!

Being heavily involved in the economics field and planning to be an economics major when I go off to college next year, I hope to make this committee as close to a real-life NYC fiscal fiasco as possible. This committee is a specialized one, but as a "crisis delegate", I hope to incorporate as many crisis elements into the committee as possible to give you all a true specialized committee experience. If this is your first MUN committee, don't worry! The biggest advice I can give you is to be bold and to be creative. Think outside of the box, and make your crisis arcs and notes as specific and detailed as possible in order to make the most of the committee. Danielle, this committee's director, and I are here to answer any questions if you have them.

One last piece of advice: since this is a futuristic committee, there's no historical precedent or outside information other than what is provided by this background guide. This gives you a lot of freedom to be creative and mold the situation to best fit your personal goals. I can't wait to see what you all come up with, and I'll see you at miniMUNC 2021!

Best,

Maya Dunayer

mdunayer20@stuy.edu

Greetings Delegates,

My name is Danielle Que, and I am honored to be the director of the NYC Fiscal Crisis committee for miniMUNC 2021! I am a junior at Stuyvesant HS and this is my third year participating in Model UN. A little bit about myself outside of MUN, I enjoy walking around the city, playing lacrosse, or sailing, but you're more likely to find me obsessing over one of four things: New Zealand, Formula One, or SailGP & the America's Cup.

It's been over one year since this pandemic first started, and it is quite clear that the city is still in the process of recovering. With another wave of the virus hitting the city, it only makes sense to wonder when or even IF New York City can fully recover, especially financially. This particular committee will explore a timeline where NYC doesn't fully recover and has fallen into a major crisis. As with all committees that take place in the future, research will feel hard. That's why Maya and I put so much effort into making this background guide as detailed as possible. We want to help all of you immerse yourself into the world of NYC in 2050.

Of course, I can't write a letter without giving a few tips to make the most of the committee. First, read this background guide with attention and thoroughness. A lot of what the committee will be based on can be found in the guide, from past history to the present day of the committee. Second, look for articles on the internet that are predicting a worse future for the city. We linked the sources we used in creating this committee at the end of this guide, so it never hurts to see the trends and what official researchers are predicting. Finally, if you are ever confused about anything related to the committee and background guide, our emails (mdunayer20@stuy.edu and dque30@stuy.edu) are always open. We're here to help you all learn the intricacies of Model UN, as well as make this committee so enjoyable.

In the (hopefully) very unlikely scenario that this committee becomes reality, it could be you deciding the fate of the city. So if it is your very first or second or even tenth MUN committee, we hope that you are ready and excited to deal with this crisis. Now, please go research!

Best,

Danielle Que

dque30@stuy.edu

Committee Information

This committee is set in 2050, meaning that all events up to the present day (2021) have still occurred, but new events in between 2021-2050 have been created to create a new timeline. This background guide attempts to give a summary of what occurred in between that period, but if there are any questions about the timeline, feel free to ask the dais.

As a specialized committee, the NYC Fiscal Crisis committee will feature individual crisis actors. This means that each delegate will be representing an individual, unlike other specialized or GA committees where a delegate may represent a country. However, as this is a specialized committee, we will not be following the traditional crisis structure in terms of directives. For those who are not familiar with crisis procedure, a directive is a bulleted list of unilateral actions that the committee wishes to take. In this committee, delegates will work together to pass “bills”, or resolutions, to address aspects of the crisis. These resolutions will be formatted like traditional GA resolutions.

In terms of portfolio powers, or individual powers that delegates have, these can be found in the position descriptions at the end of the guide. There is a certain amount of leeway that

comes with these positions. For example, a Congressman would not have the power to start a military campaign, but he might have certain financial backers that he can utilize. As always, all questions about portfolio powers should be directed to the dais.

Roll Call: At the beginning of each committee session, the chairs will take attendance. Delegates must respond with either, “Present” or, “Present and voting.” If the delegation wishes to respond, “Present,” they are able to abstain from voting for that committee session. If the delegate responds with, “Present and voting,” the delegation must vote at every turn, whether that is a motion or passing of a resolution. This delegate would be unable to abstain from any vote. If a delegation arrives late, the delegate must send a note up to the dais to inform them of their presence.

Motions: Motions are used for opening and closing debate, proposing a speaker’s list, moderated, or unmoderated caucus, and deciding to move to voting procedure. To propose a motion, lift your placard.

Speaker’s List: The list of delegates which are often used to start committees. The speaker’s list is usually used to outline a country’s agenda on the topic and jumpstart the networking

process. If at any point during committee there are no new motions, the chair will revert back to the speaker's list.

Moderated Caucus: a form of debate used to allow delegations to explain and debate their country's positions on a specific topic in front of the entire committee. For a moderated caucus to be considered, the motion must include the overall speaking time, time per speaker, and the topic which will be discussed. Subsequently, the chairs will call on countries wishing to speak until the allotted time for the moderated caucus is over.

Unmoderated Caucus: an informal style of debate used for delegates to have time to form blocs and work on draft resolutions. Formal debate rules are suspended, and delegates are allowed to leave their seats. In order to move into an unmoderated caucus, the motion must only outline the overall caucus time.

Additionally, as per miniMUNC regulations, this committee **does not require position papers from delegates** but rather **highly recommends** them. Position papers can not only help you form a clear and detailed stance on what your opinions will be in committee, but can also give the dais an idea of what to expect from you, and can help give you a leg up. If you wish to submit a position paper, please send them to mdunayer20@stuy.edu. In order to receive feedback on your paper, please submit the paper **no later than** one week before the conference date.

If delegates have any questions and/or want to share their position papers for feedback, they may contact the dais by sending an email to mdunayer20@stuy.edu or dque30@stuy.edu.

Committee Background

COVID-19 Pandemic

On March 7, 2020, former NY State Governor Andrew Cuomo declared a state of emergency in New York due to the rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus. On March 16, schools were closed. 4 days later, on March 20, all non-essential businesses were closed. What happened next is history.



All students learned virtually. Most people that could work from home did so. If you needed to go out to work, you were cautious and probably stayed separate from members of your family at home. Vacations were canceled. Masks became part of the normal outfit to go outside. Facetimes were the way to see people.

Amid all of this, the city suffered. Not only from the lack of life to be seen outside but also from the enormous economic and financial losses it

experienced. “New York City is dead,” people claimed, and for a while, it seemed that the city really was. Though vaccination efforts in 2020 and 2021 were admirable, new variants of the COVID-19 virus, including the Delta and Omega variants, caused various shutdowns and spikes in infection rates.

New York turned to its new mayor, Eric Adams, for help. Adams attempted to build more vaccination centers, both in schools and in as many places as possible across the country, but the efforts proved futile. Much like the influenza virus, which mutates often and requires a new vaccine for each mutation, new variants of the COVID-19 virus were resistant to the vaccines that so many of the population had received. This sparked another major outbreak during February of 2022, in which Mayor Adams and the NYS governor, Kathy Hochul, were both taken gravely ill by the virus. Luckily, both survived but were bedridden for many weeks. This plunged NY into even more fear, and the next few years were marked by constant lockdowns and reopenings.

Nuclear Threats

In 2035, while the world was still reeling from the effects of the pandemic, the Russian government declared that the United States was hiding new vaccine technology from the rest of the world, and accused them of being selfish. The United States had in fact not developed any new technology at the time, and told the Russian government so. The FSB claimed that they had found classified documents that indicated that the CDC had discovered a universal vaccine that would protect individuals from all strains of COVID-19. However, the FSB operative who uncovered the document had actually mistranslated; the CDC document actually discussed that there was **no** possible vaccine that would accomplish this goal.

Unfortunately, the Russian government did not uncover this mistake until much too late, and they decided to threaten the US in the way they thought was best -- by posting a nuclear bomb directly at New York City, the heart of the United States.

NYC immediately went into lockdown, this time not from the COVID-19 pandemic. A nuclear bomb never hit the city, luckily, but the constant lockdowns meant that many businesses closed down, as citizens were too afraid to leave their homes to go to nonessential stores. This nuclear crisis only exacerbated the effects of COVID-19 in the city.

Effect on the NYC and New York State Economies

Simply put, New York City suffered and continues to suffer from the COVID-19 pandemic. One doesn't need to see data about how the city was impacted. The proof is everywhere, from streets lined with closed shops, to the emptiness of the subway compared to February 2020.

But in terms of numeric proof, the data says it all. According to the New York Times, more than half a million jobs that were lost at the beginning of the pandemic have yet to be refilled. In fact, the percentage of jobs lost in the city was still nearly three times higher than the national average at 11.8% by April 2021

Post-Pandemic Years

In the years after the pandemic, New York was still recovering, and

trying to reach its levels from the years before 2020.

Most levels were still well below pre-pandemic, such as tourism and public transportation ridership. In fact, by 2030, tourism was still less than half the level of tourism in 2019. Public transportation was also still lower, but was only 10% less than in 2019.

In 2035, New York experienced another calamity. Hurricane Eva hit New York City as a Category 4 hurricane. Two weeks earlier, it was first predicted to hit the middle of Long Island as a tropical storm. However, 6 days before the storm made landfall, meteorologists spotted the storm turning a bit to the west, with a trajectory for New York City. The next day, a state of emergency was declared, with the mayor ordering residents to gather supplies with plans on sheltering in place. Four days until the storm, it became clear that the storm would hit at least as a Category 3, if not a 4 or even a 5. At 5 AM the next day, the mayor of NYC ordered all residents to evacuate to New Jersey, where all hotels were accepting evacuees. The evacuation was led by FEMA, and was orderly for the most part. There was a small group of citizens who did shelter in place, criticizing the city government for “overreacting” and “unnecessarily wasting the already-low city budget”.

Hurricane Eva was estimated to have done around \$5 trillion dollars in damages in the city alone, just over three-fourths of the total city’s annual budget. Across the state, it was

estimated to have done more than \$15 trillion dollars in damages. The city and state were forced to make a choice: spend the money immediately, and decrease funding on all other civil projects, or put off the repairs for 6 months until the next year, when more funds would be available. The city opted to repair the damages immediately, but was unable to gather the money to pay it off, and spiralled into more than \$40 trillion dollars in debt (which had been accumulating since 2005). The state took the opposite choice, but also garnered around \$50 trillion in debt, along with widespread criticism for leaving residents homeless or in very damaged and unstable houses.

In 2036, while the world was still reeling from the effects of the pandemic, the Russian government declared that the United States was hiding new vaccine technology from the rest of the world, and accused them of being selfish. The United States had in fact not developed any new technology at the time, and told the Russian government so. The FSB claimed that they had found classified documents that indicated that the CDC had discovered a universal vaccine that would protect individuals from all strains of COVID-19. However, the FSB operative who uncovered the document had actually mistranslated; the CDC document actually discussed that there was **no** possible vaccine that would accomplish this goal.

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COVID-19 pandemic. A nuclear bomb never hit the city, luckily, but the constant lockdowns meant that many businesses closed down, as citizens were too afraid to leave their homes to go to nonessential stores. This nuclear crisis only exacerbated the effects of COVID-19 in the city.

Questions to Consider

During the committee, remember to consider these issues and how you as a character can answer them:

- 1) How will my position be relevant to the Fiscal Crisis?
- 2) How has the financial crisis affected your constituents? If you're not a representative, think about how your job affects the people of New York.
- 3) How did other issues lead to the degree of severity of the fiscal crisis?
- 4) What solutions could prevent another crisis like this from occurring?

Position Descriptions

Federal Representatives

Jessica Schumer - Senior US Senator from New York

Jessica Schumer was destined for Capitol Hill the moment she was born as the daughter of longtime US Senator Chuck Schumer. Educated at some of the most prestigious schools in the country, Stuyvesant High School, Harvard University, and Yale Law School, Jessica lived right through another past crisis, the 9/11 attacks, where she was attending Stuyvesant HS that day. She was immediately hired upon finishing her law degree by the White House, where she worked as the deputy chief of staff for the National Economic Council. In 2022, she ran for a seat in the New York Senate, and in 2034, she was elected to the US Senate seat. Schumer is close allies with Hochul, as both women bring a diverse wealth of economic and commerce knowledge to the table.

Caitlin Hochul - Junior US Senator from New York

Caitlin Hochul had largely never been in the public eye until 2021, when her mother, former NY Governor Kathy Hochul, took over the position of New York State Governor following former NY Governor Andrew Cuomo's resignation. Hochul was educated at the University of Mary Washington and the University of Maryland, where she graduated with her bachelor's in international affairs and master's in business administration, respectively. While she first interned with a US Representative, she entered the private sector, working with Concepts as a communications professional focused on government projects. However, she eventually switched back into politics in 2022, earning a seat in the New York State Assembly and on the Committees for Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce, and Industry & Labor. In 2040, she won the second US Senate seat, which she continues to hold to this day.

***X González - House
Representative,
7th Congressional District***

Please note, X is a real person and uses they/them pronouns. Please make sure you are respectful of their pronouns when referring to them in committee.

X is a survivor of the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida. After the shooting, X rose to fame after speaking at the March for Our Lives event organized in protest of gun violence. X's speech, titled "We Call B.S", served as a powerful message that resonated across the country, and they quickly became one of the most prominent teen activists. X currently serves as a House Representative for NYC's 7th congressional district, encompassing the Queens neighborhoods of Maspeth, Ridgewood, and Woodhaven; the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Bushwick, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Dumbo, East New York, East Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Gowanus, Red Hook, Sunset Park, and Williamsburg; and parts of Manhattan's Lower East Side and East Village.

***Jordan Coleman - House
Representative, 8th
Congressional District***

Jordan Coleman's path to politics was a long and unconventional one. The son of former NYC mayor Eric Adams, Coleman was initially an actor, most well-known for his voicing of *The Backyardigans'* Tyrone in seasons 2 & 3. After producing and directing a few other movies, Jordan decided to return to school and pursued an education in political science, graduating from NYU in 2027. He immediately garnered support in a run for the New York City Council and was elected to the seat. In 2036, he ran for the recently vacated US House of Representatives seat of the 8th District. Coleman has dutifully served since then, with his main focus on labor and employment.

***Sasha Obama - House
Representative, 10th
Congressional District***

Having spent eight years of her childhood in the White House when her father, Barack Obama, was president, Sasha is very familiar with the inner workings of the political world. After her father left the White House in 2016, Obama followed in her mother's footsteps and became a political activist. After attending Harvard Law School (like her father), Obama entered the political field. She currently serves as the House Representative for NYC's 10th congressional district, which encompasses the southern portion of Morningside Heights, the Upper West Side of Manhattan, the west side of Midtown Manhattan, the west side of Lower Manhattan, including Greenwich Village, Tribeca, and the Financial District, and parts of Brooklyn.

***Barron Trump - House
Representative, 12th
Congressional District***

The son of the infamous President Trump, the only president to this day to have been impeached twice, Barron Trump has been in the public eye since 2016, when President Trump was first elected. In 2020, a TikTok movement dubbed "#FreeBarron" surfaced, with participants claiming that Barron did not agree with his father's politics and is suffering in the White House. Participants, who were members of the Gen Z generation, claimed that they needed to band together to liberate Barron from his family. Though this movement never freed Barron, it could be said that he has largely managed to "save" himself from his father's legacy. As soon as he turned 18, Barron severed ties with his father, keeping in touch with his mother Melania. Rather than turning to business and reality TV first, as his father did, Barron attended law school and became a politician. He currently serves as a House Representative for NYC's 12th Congressional District. Though Barron does not have contact with his father, he has the rest of the Trump family behind him, and a variety of Upper East Side contacts that he can use to his advantage.

***Michaela Kennedy-Cuomo - House
Representative, 20th
Congressional District***

The youngest of former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's children, Michaela grew up in the public eye as the next generation of the influential Cuomo family. In 2020, Michaela graduated from Brown University with a degree in Education and Human Development with a concentration in Social Inequality. It's at this time that she began her path into political activism as she became an on-campus leader for the It's On Us campaign. In 2021, Michaela came out as part of the LGBTQ+ community as a demisexual and has used her platform to educate about her orientation. After her father's resignation and sexual harassment scandal in August 2021, Michaela took time mostly out of the spotlight until 2030, when she won a seat on the Albany County Legislature. She has since worked her way up to her current position of House Representative for the 20th Congressional District. While many still hold her father's reputation against her, she has close government allies in her sisters and Caitlin Hochul.

State Representatives

Cara Kennedy-Cuomo - Temporary President & Majority Leader of the New York State Senate

Twin to sister Mariah, Cara Kennedy-Cuomo has always been considered the heir to the Cuomo political dynasty. She graduated from Harvard University in 2017 with a concentration in Government. She has since traveled the world on humanitarian missions, working with the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights nonprofit until 2030, when she began her political career. She started in the New York State Assembly as the representative for the 102nd New York State District. In 2040, she switched to the New York State Senate as the representative for the 44th District. In 2050, she was elected to the position of Temporary President and Majority Leader of the New York State Senate.

Isabella Damon - Director of Emergency Management

Isabella Damon, the daughter of actor Matt Damon, showed from an early age that she had inherited her father's smarts and wit. She graduated from Harvard University with a bachelor's in business and continued to get her master's degree in emergency management. Her first job was with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where she worked as an emergency management specialist based in the New York Office. In 2035, during the Category 4 Hurricane Eva, Damon made headlines for organizing the complete evacuation of NYC within 72 hours. This garnered her high praise from Senator Jessica Schumer, while also attacks from current Queens Borough President John Edward Thomas Moynahan, who led a group of residents who refused to evacuate. Damon was promoted to head of the New York FEMA Office in 2040 and was appointed to the position of Director of Emergency Management in 2046.

***James Reynolds -
Director of the Budget***

Daughter of Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively, James Reynolds grew up in the public eye. After she moved with her parents to Rochester, NY in 2024, she graduated as valedictorian of the Rochester High School class of 2034. She went to the prestigious Columbia University in NYC, studying economics with a special concentration in business management. Reynolds graduated with several offers, such as with Goldman Sachs and Charles Schwab, but eventually settled with WeWork. She was named Chief Financial Officer of WeWork in 2045 after leading the high rise in the company's value but saw the value drop after being named CFO. After she was selected to the cabinet of the Governor in 2048, Reynolds received a lot of criticism and backlash for her inexperience and her handling of WeWork's drop in value. She has been especially criticized by Samantha Perelman for her "inability" to tackle the fiscal crisis, causing some tension at meetings.

***Samantha Perelman -
Director of State Operations and
Infrastructure***

Daughter of the late billionaire and Revlon chairman Ronald Perelman, Samantha Perelman was in the headlines from 2012 to 2014, when she sued her cousins for a share of the Hudson News fortune, which was left by her grandfather, Robert Cohen. After losing the case, Samantha retreated to the Long Island house she inherited from her mother until 2025. That year, her father died, and she inherited the business and seat on the Revlon board. Revlon saw a major rise in its value and popularity, and Samantha was praised for keeping up with the demand and handling the operations of the company. She was selected to become the Director of State Operations and Infrastructure in 2048, to the surprise of everyone. One of her biggest critics has been James Reynolds, who often says that she has not done any of the work linked to her and that she is not "deserving" of her seat in the cabinet.

***Mariah Kennedy-Cuomo -
Press Secretary, New York State
Governor's Office***

Twin to sister Cara, Mariah Kennedy-Cuomo initially seemed to take a path away from the family business of politics. She graduated from Brown University in 2017 with an honors degree in history and took a job at Teneo, a global advisory firm for CEOs. In 2021, Mariah supported her father, former New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, after his sexual harassment scandal. She eventually decided to go into politics in 2033, surprising everyone when she was announced as the press secretary for newly-elected NYC mayor Maya Wiley. From 2045, she has since been the press secretary for the New York State Governor's Office. Mariah's closest allies in the government are her sisters, as well as other members of the Governor's close circle.

***Emme Maribel Muñiz -
Commissioner of
the New York State
Department of Transportation***

Emme Maribel Muñiz looked set to follow her mom, Jennifer Lopez, and become a singer. However, she took a different path and went to the University of California, Los Angeles to study business administration. After graduation, she moved back to NYC and took a job in policy analysis with the Port Authority. She quickly moved up the ranks to become the Organizational Policy & Program Manager. In 2037, she accepted the position as Executive Director of the Port Authority of NY & NJ, which she held for 9 years. In 2046, she joined the public sector as the deputy commissioner of the NYS Department of Transportation. This year, Muñiz was selected to become the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.

City Representatives

Amanda Gorman - Staten Island Borough President

Born in Los Angeles, CA, Amanda Gorman graduated from Harvard University in 2020. She was the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States and was selected by President Biden to read her original poem “The Hill We Climb” for his inauguration on January 20, 2021. This made Gorman the youngest poet to ever have been selected for this role, and, to this date, no one has surpassed this feat. With a background of advocacy and an ability to use her words to make a difference, Gorman was perfectly cut out for the political sphere. Gorman currently serves as the Staten Island Borough President, giving her a wealth of useful contacts and the responsibility of representing her constituents.

Justin Coleman - Brooklyn Borough President

Unlike his brother, Justin always knew that he planned to go into politics. After his father, Eric Adams, became NYC’s mayor in 2021, Coleman went off to Columbia University to study public policy at the School of International and Public Affairs. Once he graduated, Coleman moved to D.C to pursue a political career, by working in the offices of some of America’s most esteemed legislators. After returning from D.C, he moved to DUMBO, Brooklyn, where he currently lives with his wife and two children. Coleman, with guidance from his father, entered the political sphere by running for Brooklyn Borough President. Like his father, Coleman is a Democrat, who aims to bring equal opportunity to everyone, regardless of what walk of life they come from.

***John Edward Thomas Moynahan
- Queens Borough President***

The son of famed quarterback Tom Brady, everyone expected Moynahan to follow in his father's footsteps and become a football superstar. However, from a young age, Moynahan expressed an interest in politics and international affairs. After studying International Relations at Harvard University, he went on to pursue a Juris Doctorate from Yale School of Law. He then moved to Forest Hills with his wife and three children, where he still lives today. He hopes to help the citizens of Queens through this fiscal crisis as best as he can, using his father's fame to bring national attention to important issues.

***Khai Hadid Malik - Manhattan
Borough President***

The daughter of Gigi Hadid and Zayn Malik, Khai Hadid Malik was destined for stardom from the moment she took her first breath. But rather than becoming a world-famous model or a renowned singer, as was probably expected, Khai chose to pursue the path of advocacy and politics. From her elementary school days, Khai was always elected Student Body President, giving her a taste for politics. She began interning at her local representative's office when she was in high school and has traveled across the country with various political campaigns. She currently represents the citizens of Manhattan through her role as Manhattan Borough President. However, her parent's fame has stuck with her, and she may face some obstacles in regards to keeping a low profile if her decisions as Manhattan Borough President do not have their desired effects.

***Chelsea Clinton -
New York City Comptroller***

The daughter of former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State (and presidential candidate) Hillary Rodham Clinton, one could say that politics is in Chelsea Clinton's blood. Chelsea was a special correspondent for NBC News from 2011 to 2014 and later worked at the Clinton Foundation and Clinton Global Initiative. Clinton grew up campaigning for her mother in both 2007-2008 and 2016, giving her a wealth of experience in regards to politics. She currently serves as the city's Comptroller and has a wide network of contacts through both her mother and her father that can be utilized to her advantage, if need be.

***Theodore Gillibrand -
NYC District Attorney***

As the son of former NY Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, one could argue that Theodore was born to serve New York City. A Columbia Law School graduate, Gillibrand had always had a strong interest in criminal law, having participated in Mock Trial since his high school days at Brooklyn Technical High School. Gillibrand hopes to make a difference in the lives of his constituents by bettering the NYC criminal justice system, which has not changed much since his mother was NY's Senator in the 2020s. Through criminal justice reform, Gillibrand hopes, NYC can fight the fiscal crisis at hand by providing equality of opportunity.

***Marley Dias - Chancellor of the
NYC Department of Education***

Marley Dias got her start in activism when she was only in elementary school. After noticing that most stories had a white male protagonist, Dias started a campaign called #1000BlackGirlBooks in November of 2015. The goal of the movement was to collect 1,000 books in which black girls are the main characters, and then donate those books to other schools. The movement managed to collect more than 9,000 books in total, many of which were donated to a children's book drive in Jamaica. Since then, Dias has continued her activism career, bringing the need for equal representation to the NYCDOE. She currently serves as the Chancellor of the NYCDOE and brings this passion for equality to every decision she makes.

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