

Brandon Kielbasa

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RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Lead Organizer/Housing Counselor, Cooper Square Committee, New York, NY (August 2012 – present)

- Organize Lower East Side tenants to reform the Department of Buildings enforcement protocol
- Coordinate initiatives to strengthen and expand Cooper Square Committee's organizing capacity
- Continue to maintain the role and responsibilities of the Housing Counselor/Tenant Organizer

Tenant Organizer/Housing Counselor, Cooper Square Committee, New York, NY (February 2007 – July 2012)

- Organized rent stabilized tenants into single and multi-building tenant associations
- Organized single-room occupancy tenants into tenant associations
- Organized tenants extensively around the issues of predatory equity and illegal hotels
- Counseled tenants in daily drop-in counseling sessions

Outreach Intern, Community Voices Heard, New York, NY (January – May 2005)

- Assisted organizers at community meetings
- Contacted community members and prepared mailings to generate greater participation

Housing Advocate Americorps*VISTA,

City of Bath, Maine – Community Development Department (April – December 2004)

- Facilitated bi-weekly tenant meetings
- Developed outreach materials, tabled at community events, and performed door-to-door outreach
- Pre-qualified tenants for a limited-equity housing cooperative

EDUCATION

Hunter College, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts – double major in Psychology and Creative Writing, May 2012

Macomb County Community College, Warren, MI

Associate of General Studies – Liberal Arts, May 1999

Associate of Applied Science – Vehicle Design, December 1998

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Fellow – Advanced Community Organizers Fellowship, Center for Neighborhood Leadership, New York, NY (January 2011 – December 2011)

- The fellowship seeks to broaden the career options of community organizers through advanced academic study aimed to enhance the critical-thinking component of organizing strategies

GENERAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Facilities Manager, PD Organic Food Co-op, Glen Ridge, NJ (February 2006 – January 2007)

Technical Writer, Magestic Systems Inc., Old Tappan, NJ (January 2005 – January 2006)

Trail Crew Leader/Conservation Intern, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, FL (February 2004 – March 2004)

Trail Crew Member/Conservation Intern, Squam Lakes Association, Holderness, NH (August 2003 – November 2003)

Industrial Designer II, GDX Automotive, Farmington Hills, MI (February 2000 – July 2003)

Industrial Designer, Engineering Global Solutions, Dearborn, MI (August 1998 – January 2000)

Mechanical Draftsman, Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, MI (July 1996 – February 1998)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Member – Board of Directors

Grosse Pointe Gardens Condominium Association, Harper Woods, MI (October 2001 – July 2003)

- Addressed member/owner complaints and building management concerns