

'Strengthening Communities' panel held



(L-R) Susan Latham, director of Development & Communication of FOPWA; Danny Meyer, CEO of Union Square Hospitality Group; Fatima Goldman, executive director/CEO of FOPWA; Rev. Dr. Thomas Pike, rector of Calvary Church; Arlene Harrison, president of the Gramercy Park Block Association; Jenifer Brown, executive director of Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership

On Thursday, May 1, the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FOPWA) held a panel discussion titled "Strengthening Communities: The Revitalization of Gramercy/Flatiron," at its landmark building at 281 Park Avenue South, at East 22nd Street.

The panel featured leaders of three very different efforts that have strengthened the Gramercy/Flatiron districts: Jennifer Brown, executive director of the Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership

B.I.D.; Danny Meyer, CEO of Union Square Hospitality Group; and Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Pike, Rector of Calvary Church and Chair of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies; the panel was moderated by Fatima Goldman, Executive Director/CEO of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies.

The panelists discussed the neighborhood's parks and the importance of having beautiful spaces for the enjoyment of

community residents, as well as historic preservation efforts in the community, and how various types of community investment have helped to strengthen the commercial presence in the neighborhood.

The event was organized by Susan Latham, Director of Development & Communication at the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, which was founded in 1922 to improve the lives of disadvantaged New Yorkers.