

SIDEWALK CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE: Sidewalk cleaning and maintenance is a key part of what the Initiative does. Removing 46,000 bags of garbage and 1,464 incidents of graffiti every 12 months is a **big** job. However, sidewalk cleaning and emptying trash cans is just the beginning of what the SoHo Broadway Clean Team handles for the Initiative. The numerous issues and tasks addressed by the SoHo Broadway Clean Team include: missed garbage collections, bus bulb grate cleaning, snow removal from crosswalks and bus stops, abandoned encampments, discarded Christmas trees, street furniture painting and maintenance, trash receptacle cleaning, power washing, and public compost station servicing.



At the end of October 2018, at the urging of residents on Crosby and Mercer Streets, Council Member Margaret Chin provided funding to the Initiative to provide daily sidewalk cleaning on Crosby and Mercer Streets south of Houston Street through the end of June 2019. The service includes emptying trash cans multiple times per day and once-daily sidewalk cleaning. The initiative is exploring ways to continue this service.

The Initiative also launched a New York Compost Box, a public compost station located at Broadway and Spring Street. The New York Compost Box serves over 20 residents and since June 2018 has diverted approximately one ton of compostable food scrap waste from the landfill. SoHo Broadway is planning to launch a 2nd New York Compost Box in the upcoming year.

PUBLIC SAFETY: The goal of the Initiative's public safety program is to relieve sidewalk congestion while creating a welcoming and safe environment for residents, workers and visitors. The Initiative pays particular attention to sidewalk congestion caused by illegal sidewalk use from vending, event load in/out and line queuing at events. Initiative staff are in frequent communication with residents, office tenants, retail managers and government officials to resolve conflicts.

In 2018-19, the Initiative responded to 240 community complaints, made 127 notifications to city agencies about illegal or unsafe conditions and made 188 outreach/education contacts with vendors operating from illegal locations. In 2018-19, these efforts led to a 10% reduction in the average number of vendors operating illegally along SoHo Broadway.

The Initiative's Sidewalk Cleaning/Maintenance and Public Safety programs are overseen and directed by the Director of Operations, Frank Wessels.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: This past year saw the Initiative continue to experiment with community events. The Initiative held its 2nd Trivia Night in the fall and then pedestrianized Howard Street between Broadway and Mercer to host our first ever Earth Day Block Party. Given the popularity of these events and the community's call for more open space, the Initiative is exploring opportunities to host more community events that pedestrianize certain outdoor spaces on a temporary basis.

PLANNING: In July 2018, the Initiative released the SoHo Broadway Zoning Guidebook, a detailed overview of the history of SoHo Broadway, its zoning, and how the area is used today. The Guidebook also outlined the implications of operating within the current zoning and regulatory framework for stakeholders who live and work on Broadway. The Guidebook drew attention to issues faced by the SoHo Broadway community, serving as one of the catalysts for the Envision SoHo/NoHo pre-planning process launched by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Margaret

Chin and the Department of City Planning in January of 2019. As a member of Envision SoHo/NoHo's stakeholder advisory group, the Initiative has been actively advocating on behalf of SoHo Broadway's residents, businesses and property

owners. The Initiative has been encouraged by the Envision SoHo/NoHo process and is eagerly awaiting the final recommendations that are expected to be released over the summer.

