



DOWNTOWN FLUSHING TRANSIT HUB BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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Downtown Flushing Transit Hub BID Executive Director Mabel Law profiled in Crain's New York Business
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Growing a Business Guide Report, Business Improvement Districts



DOWNTOWN FLUSHING TRANSIT HUB BID

FLESHING OUT BUSINESS BOOSTER

THE JOB of heading a brand-new business improvement district focusing on the downtown Flushing transit hub required a very special person. After **tolling for months** to set up the Queens BID, Mabel Law knew she needed someone with experience in the public sector and business, someone who could work with residents, merchants and the army of commuters who pass through the area every day.

In the end, at the urging of local councilman John Liu, Ms. Law hired the one person who totally fit the bill: herself.

Since that day four years ago, the BID has upgraded sidewalks, curbs and signs; cleaned up streets; and helped many small and large businesses in the area to prosper. The organization now has **1,500 members**, with a budget of \$304,000 and a full-time staff of two.

Ms. Law, a lifelong Flushing resident, began her career in community development back in high school, when she worked for the City Volunteer Corps. She went on to work for tenants' rights as a staffer for the Urban Home Study Assistance Board, for minority rights as a member of Asian Americans for Equality, and for children's rights as a staffer at the Research Foundation at CUNY. She also has worked for several banks and retailers.

Ms. Law says one her hardest tasks is **remembering that there are limits** to what she can accomplish.

"When I see homeless people living on the street, my reaction is, 'How can I help?'" she says. "I want to be a superhero, but sometimes, you just have to take a deep breath and come down to earth."

—JEAN ENDE



MABEL LAW Executive director

EDUCATION SUNY Albany, B.S. in sociology and political science, '93; Hunter College, M.A. in urban affairs, '97

LITTLE-KNOWN FACT Doesn't eat meat