



## ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSE NYC

*A FORUM FOR THE CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMUNITY AND FIRST RESPONDERS*

Alliance for Response NYC was established in 2004 in collaboration with Heritage Preservation, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage. We are a local volunteer organization focused on connecting emergency responders with representatives of the cultural heritage community. Our goal is to strengthen mitigation and response capabilities of the NYC art community through training opportunities, fostering of local planning efforts, and improved dialogue and partnerships. AFR NYC is comprised of a cross-section of public and private individuals, businesses, agencies, and institutions interested in the preservation of New York City's cultural holdings.

### Membership

- Membership includes but is not limited to New York City collecting institutions, cultural centers, galleries, performing arts organizations, collectors, conservators, artists, and any interested private individuals, recognizing that preparedness and response are strengthened by the exchange of information.
- Our members represent all five boroughs, all public and private organization types (Museums, Historic Sites, Historic Houses, Libraries/Archives, Botanical Gardens/Zoos, Performing Arts, Fine Art Storage Facilities, Insurance Companies, Private Conservators, etc.) and a wide range of expertise.

### Partnerships

- AFR NYC partners closely with the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM). We have developed joint programming for AFR NYC members, familiarizing first responders with the needs of cultural institutions in emergencies. The NYC Office of Emergency Management looks to AFR NYC as a source of response and recovery information when emergencies impact cultural institutions.
  - The AFR NYC has developed educational resources for the first response community concerning the needs and vulnerabilities of collections.
  - A training program for first responders about cultural institutions' needs and concerns in emergencies has been developed and offered to NYC OEM staff as well as the Citizen Corps program.
- FEMA, OEM, and the National Park Service (NPS) are represented on the AFR NYC steering committee.
- Recent partnerships include the New York Community Trust (NYCT), the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA).

### Exchange of Information

- We aim to connect cultural organizations and individuals with information and tools for emergency preparedness, planning and information for creating response and recovery plans.
- We are building a technological infrastructure that will utilize a newly designed website with a communications portal and social media integration to enhance and expedite the exchange of information.
- During emergency response and recovery, AFR NYC serves as a conduit for information from the Office of Emergency Management and helps those affected find assistance.

### Training and Education

- AFR NYC provides programming, professional development, and networking opportunities to our community.
  - Previous programs have included "Advances in Fire Protection for Cultural Institutions," "Have You Planned For the Cost of Implementing Your Emergency Plan?" and "Emergency Management from a Local, State, and Federal Perspective."

### Current Activities

- Thanks to a grant from the NYCT we are developing curricula to train an AFR-NYC Heritage Response Team, with input from the American Institute for Conservation's Collections Emergency Response Team, the National Park Service, and other professionals in the field.
- The Response Team members and coordinators will use our rich communications portal during future deployments.

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