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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 5, 2019**

**Henry Street Settlement Symposium – April 10, 2019**  
***A City of Extremes: Can New York’s Housing Affordability Crisis Be Resolved?***  
**Michael Kimmelman of the New York Times to Moderate**

Henry Street Settlement, the social service, arts, and health care agency on the Lower East Side, will host the Fourth Annual Lillian Wald Symposium: *City of Extremes: Can New York’s Affordable Housing Crisis Be Solved?* on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 265 Henry Street. Michael Kimmelman, the esteemed *New York Times* art critic will moderate.

With housing costs in New York City continuing to skyrocket, “affordable” housing lotteries nearly unattainable, rent-control laws set to expire in June, and NYCHA facing severe deficits, New York’s renters face an uncertain future. A panel of leading activists, policymakers, and other thinkers on the subject of affordable housing will gather for a stimulating evening of discussion and solutions.

The event is free, but an RSVP is required at [henrystreet.org/waldsymposium](http://henrystreet.org/waldsymposium) or by phone at 212-766-9200 x2250.

**Speakers:**

Damaris Reyes, Executive Director, Good Old Lower East Side  
Jaelyn Sachs, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development  
Julia Duranti-Martinez, New Economy Project  
Nicolas Dagen Bloom, New York Institute of Technology  
Isaac Henderson, L + M Development Partners

***Speaker Bios:***

**Damaris Reyes**, executive director of Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES), is a lifelong resident of the Lower East Side. She has used community organizing as a way to address affordable housing and other social-justice issues locally and nationally for nearly 20 years. She is the chair and co-founder of LES Ready, a recovery and disaster network; is a board member of the Center for Neighborhood Leadership, the National Center for Law and Economic Justice, and the Southside United HDFC—Los Sures; and serves on Community Board 3. Reyes received the 2006 New York Women’s Foundation’s Neighborhood Leadership Award and the 2009 Jane Jacobs Medal from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Municipal Arts Society.

**Jaclyn Sachs** is the director of strategy and operations in the Office of Neighborhood Strategies at the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). She leads a variety of initiatives and services to support affordable housing planning and policy across the city, as put forth in the Mayor's Housing Plan. Previously she served as a senior planner in HPD, managing the land-use approvals process for several affordable housing development projects and planning initiatives. She holds a master in urban planning degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

**Julia Duranti-Martinez** coordinates the New Economy Project's Community Land Trust (CLT) Learning Exchange, a capacity-building initiative for emerging CLTs in New York City, and facilitates community education on this novel concept. She previously worked to promote language justice as an interpreter in Austin, Texas, and conducted community-based research on urban resilience and community development in the Dominican Republic as part of her graduate thesis. Duranti-Martinez has worked in Colombia, providing human rights accompaniment and leading popular education delegations.

**Nicholas Dagen Bloom** is a professor of social science at New York Institute of Technology. He is the author or editor of nine books from leading academic presses, the co-editor of the *Journal of Planning History*, and a frequent reviewer and guest critic of scholarly manuscripts, student architectural proposals, and published works in urban history. He has been interviewed and quoted on housing and other topics in leading national and regional media outlets including WNYC, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and NPR Marketplace. He contributes frequently to *Gotham Gazette* as an editorial writer on various New York urban affairs topics.

**Isaac Henderson** is a development director at L+M Development Partners. He has more than 15 years of experience in this industry, having been involved in the development of more than 2,000 units of mixed-income housing, and has extensive experience working with federal, state, and city affordable-housing programs including Low-Income and New Market Tax Credits, tax-exempt bonds, and public subsidies. Isaac manages the Essex Crossing Project, a nine-site, 2-million-square-foot development on New York City's Lower East side that will include more than 1,000 units of mixed-income housing, retail, office, and community facility space.

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*Henry Street Settlement, founded in 1893 by Progressive reformer Lillian Wald, provides social service, arts, and health care programs to more than 50,000 individuals at 17 sites on the Lower East Side.*