



➤ Co-Founder

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Harry DeRienzo, Co-Founder, BKCIA

Mr. DeRienzo began his career in the 1970s working with residents on Kelly Street in the South Bronx. He organized Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, Inc. (www.bkcianyc.org), a group that has preserved and redeveloped thousands of affordable housing units, becoming a model for self-help community development. Useful representations of this period can be found in the documentaries *Decade of Fire* and *Eyes on the Prize III*.

In 1982, Mr. DeRienzo was recruited to head up the Parodneck Foundation, where he initiated a number of innovative programs, including a home improvement program for at-risk seniors; a Fannie Mae pilot program assisting predatory lending victims; preparation and passage of the city's first 197-a plan for Bronx Community Board 3; co-sponsorship of New York City's largest, single sponsor small homes homesteading program, and sponsorship of CATCH – a citywide mutual housing program.

In November 2002, Mr. DeRienzo returned to Banana Kelly to help rescue it from bankruptcy. Working with residents and others, including former Bronx Borough President, Fernando Ferrer, he was able to rebuild the organization.

Mr. DeRienzo has been published and has spoken locally, nationally and internationally on the subjects of housing policy and community development. His first book, *The Concept of Community, Lessons from the Bronx*, was published by IPOC Press in 2008 and subsequently updated and indexed. That book is now available for free download by visiting Mr. DeRienzo's website at www.communitycivics.com He has written three other books, with the links provided at the end of his website's Home page, and has co-authored a fifth book that will hopefully be published within the next 12 months.