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Ask About the Gowanus Canal

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This week, Jack S. Nyman, the director of the Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute at Baruch College, City University of New York, responded to readers' questions about the development, economics and the future of the Gowanus area.



Jack Nyman, the director of the Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute at Baruch College, will be responding to readers.

Mr. Nyman leads strategic planning, partnering and industry liaison at the institute. He also directs the institute's education programs, research, publishing and public events.

In April the institute will release "Reconsidering Gowanus — Opportunities for the Sustainable Transformation of an Industrial Neighborhood," a study that Mr. Nyman initiated early in 2009 to analyze demographic trends in Gowanus and its changing economic base, and to generate recommendations for realizing its tremendous potential.

The institute's Sustainability Shoptalk series, which Mr. Nyman started in 2008, is helping the real estate industry meet the major challenges of achieving sustainability. He also serves as vice chairman of the board of the Urban Green Council, the national Green Building Council's New York chapter.

Mr. Nyman holds a master of architecture degree from Arizona State University, and an advanced master's in real estate development with a concentration in finance from Harvard University. As an international research fellow at Harvard, he studied real estate law and management. He has authored Harvard case studies and lectured on real estate development and finance.

Mr. Nyman has applied his expertise to many nonprofit organizations through longstanding service on the boards of major acute care and teaching hospitals and their foundations. He is a board member of the CUNY Institute for Urban Systems, the advisory board of the newly created New York Regional Public-Private Development Corporation; an associate of the American Institute of Architects; a fellow of the Institute for Urban Design; and a member of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, the National Association of Real Estate Trusts, the New York Building Congress, the Real Estate Board of New York, the Municipal Art Society of New York and other professional organizations.