

People to Watch in 2014

NY REGION

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Here are a few names to look for this year

Maggie Boepple

The director of the World Trade Center Performing Arts Center is charged with developing plans—and raising hundreds of millions of dollars—for the Frank Gehry-designed project. She is working to reduce construction costs, which stood at \$469 million in March.

Marc Holliday

The CEO of SL Green Realty Corp. is looking for a little help from Mayor Bill de Blasio so he can build a soaring 65-story glass office tower with a spindly top on a prime site next to Grand Central Terminal. The tower requires zoning rights under a Midtown East rezoning plan that stalled in the City Council in the final months of the Bloomberg administration but could be rekindled in 2014.

George Gresham

The president of 1199 SEIU Healthcare Workers East leads the only big union to endorse Mr. de Blasio in the primary. He and his nearly 400,000 members will be working to make sure the city's living wage and paid sick-leave laws are expanded.

Thomas Heatherwick

The artist and designer, known for his visually spectacular creations such as the Olympic caldron at the 2012 London Games, will create one of the most expensive works of public art in the world on Manhattan's West Side. The installation will be at the center of the \$15 billion Hudson Yards development.

Joanie Mahoney

The upstate Onondaga County executive, a Republican, is an influential confidante of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and is seen as a potential lieutenant governor candidate. Watch for her to campaign for the governor in rural areas in 2014.

Chirlane McCray

Mr. de Blasio's wife is also his top adviser. A poet and speechwriter, the first lady's role in the administration is still undefined, but the mayor says he consults her on all major decisions.

Kevin Ollie

The University of Connecticut men's basketball coach aims to lead the team back to the postseason a year after it was banned from the tournament for one year because of low Academic Progress Rate scores and other sanctions. UConn is ranked 17th by the Associated Press.

Ken Thompson

The new Brooklyn district attorney defeated a longtime incumbent with promises of a new approach at an office under scrutiny for questionable prosecutions. His biggest challenge could be fulfilling a pledge to reduce prosecutions of low-level marijuana arrests.

Jorge Daniel Veneciano

The director of El Museo del Barrio, a Latino, Caribbean and Latin American art-focused museum, comes from the Sheldon Museum of Art at the University of Nebraska, where he introduced an innovative management structure and expanded the staff.

John Wisniewski

The ambitious New Jersey assemblyman has been in the national spotlight as Democrats continue to probe why

Republican allies of Gov. Chris Christie closed local access lanes leading to the George Washington Bridge last year. The former state Democratic Party chairman, Mr. Wisniewski eyed a run for governor in 2012, and could be examining it again in 2017.