

Eric Benaim '93

Prior to starting working in Real Estate, Eric owned a live event production and marketing company and made the career change to real estate as a result of 9/11. After initially focusing on luxury sales in Manhattan, Eric took a gamble on Long Island City and decided to focus exclusively on the area in 2006. That first year alone, he sold 50 apartments and in 2008, in spite of the recent financial collapse, Eric founded Modern Spaces, forever changing the face of Real Estate in the area. After weathering the storm of a down economy, the company has grown to be the leading brokerage and marketing firm in LIC. In just six short years, Eric has expanded the company to offices in LIC, Manhattan, Astoria, and Brooklyn. Modern Spaces has captured a grand total of 70% of the market share of Long Island City and has successfully marketed over \$1 billion in sales to date.

In 2009, Eric was recognized by Mayor Michael Bloomberg as one of 40 under 40 Queens Rising Stars and later, he was recognized by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz as one of 40 under 40 Brooklyn Rising Stars. Eric was the first person to be awarded the honor in both boroughs.

Eric is involved in community building and various charities and organizations throughout Long Island City and beyond. Majority Leader and Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer was quoted as saying, "Eric Benaim was single handedly responsible for putting Long Island City on the Map." Eric has been a Long Island City resident since 2006 and is considered by many not only as a community leader but is also known as "The Mayor of Long Island City".

He is a member of the Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY), an art collector, active supporter of the arts, and is on Board of Directors for the Long Island City Partnership and on the Advisory Board for Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens. Eric is often asked to speak at various events throughout the city, has been featured in the press many times, including The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, CRAINS, The Real Deal, NY1 to name a few. His greatest passion is the projects he is involved in from early inception to completion.

Interview with New York Times

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/24/realestate/commercial/eric-benaim.html?_r=0