

Emmanuel Fuentesbella

We first met Emmanuel at a bike commuter breakfast celebrating a new bike lane in Astoria this past fall. He has since graced Volunteer Nights and T.A.'s newly formed Long Island City/Astoria Committee with his charm and wit.

Occupation: Freelance Film/TV Crew

Age: 53

What neighborhoods do you live/work in? I live in Long Island City which used to be the best kept secret in New York City (but not anymore). My work takes me to different neighborhoods making biking truly interesting.

What's your commute? If you ride a bike, what kind is it?

Living two blocks south of the 59th St. Bridge, I can be in Manhattan in 10 minutes by bike. I own a roadie and a city hybrid with saddlebags for groceries. Going for two more: a racer and mountain bike.

Why did you start volunteering with T.A.? I've always owned a bicycle but was never into group rides until I joined T.A.'s NYC Century Bike Tour. I learned more about T.A. and liked what it is doing.

What kinds of volunteer activities have you done with T.A.? I'm king of stuffing envelopes. There's a method to the madness. The volunteer table is fun, robust and aswirl with eclectic characters.



WILEY NORVELL

Hours (volunteering) per month: Only about 6 hours a month as my freelance hours are erratic, unpredictable, irregular and can be frustrating to would-be dates. "Honey, we're going into OT." (Click.)

What upcoming projects are you working on with T.A.? I would like to get involved in advocacy, legislation, canvassing and strategy.

What is your most/least favorite thing about moving around NYC? Most: 24/7 subway system! Cute girl on rollerblades hanging to my belt as I pedal uphill on 2nd Ave. Least: Man, don't get me started. Blocked

bicycle lanes, lack of bicycle lanes and sidewalk bicycle racks, reckless cyclists, getting doored and the dire lack of senior and handicap access to subways.

Do you have a personal philosophy? Do unto others before they do unto you? If you are easy to work with, you do a good job and you are uncomplicated, you will always find work.

Issues that concern you as a bicyclist or walker in NYC: The two things that concern me most is establishing bicyclists' equal right to space on the road and getting the NYPD's to do something about bicycle theft (to reduce the need for huge chains to secure my bike).

If you could change one thing about transportation in NYC, what would it be? I would remove the newly-installed wire fence on north pedestrian/bike path and re-open south pedestrian/bike path of Queensboro Bridge. I would like to see all left lanes of one-way streets dedicated solely to bicycles, no car parking allowed ever.

Thoughts on T.A. as an organization: T.A.'s roots could still be deepened and spread further. Your trunk is solid but many want to cut it down. With recent legislative successes and bike lane openings, your branches keep adding and must reach out to form coalitions. You are now wanting to fruit and blossom. And like any tree, it takes years. But you are on solid ground.

Do you have a favorite neighborhood public space? Pedestrian/bike lanes on the bridges. I like looking at vast expanses of water. It's awesome that a simple bike ride can take me to several of them around the city.

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