

SSSP 2025-2026 New York, New York
Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) Report
Uzma Chowdhury and Cami Touloukian, Co-
Chairs

Final Report Submitted July 10, 2026
The members of the SSSP 2025-2026 LAC are:

Uzma Chowdhury, Co-Chair (2025-2026)
Columbia University
uhc2000@columbia.edu

Cami Touloukian, Co-Chair (2025-2026)
Teachers College, Columbia University
clt2162@tc.columbia.edu

Uzma and Cami worked directly with Michele Koontz and President Sarah Jane Brubaker in the roles of Co-Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Both offered invaluable guidance and insight throughout the process. We are deeply grateful for their support and assistance.

The committee was responsible for completing a range of tasks. Below is an overview of these responsibilities and how we carried them out.

Uzma and Cami met via Zoom in September 2025, to review the committee's assigned tasks and Cami developed a plan for completing them. Uzma and Cami also met with Dr. Brubaker and Dr. Hadi Khoshnevis, Program Chair, Society for the Study of Social Problems (2025-2026) in September. At that meeting, the team created a list of names and contact information for local NYC organizers and activists who might be interested in a community organizing panel, brainstormed organizations with which to collaborate and nominate for the Indigenous People's Social Justice Award, and began to compile a list of walking tours and events in the NYC area.

Uzma and Cami co-created the Welcome to the City of New York essay, which highlighted New York's legacy of resistance and activism, acknowledged its Indigenous history and present, and provided practical recommendations for navigating the city, exploring neighborhoods, food, art, and social justice landmarks near the conference.

The LAC committee collaborated to determine which local organization to nominate for the Indigenous People's Social Justice Award. The committee selected the Urban Indigenous Collective. No members of the LAC are affiliated with this organization. The Urban Indigenous Collective was nominated for providing access to culturally-tailored health and wellness services for self-identified Indigenous peoples in Lenapehoking and the greater NYC area. The nomination information was sent on 4/4/2026. Michele Koontz wrote a letter to CNYC informing them they were the recipient of the award on 4/8/2025. Sutton King agreed to accept on their behalf on 4/23/26.

Uzma and Cami co-wrote the LAC committee report that was circulated to LAC members for feedback. The report was submitted on 7/10/2026.

Future Recommendations:

The LAC Committee suggests using a dynamic Welcome to the City format, such as a Google Doc or shared Canva account, that allows events to be added as they become available.

The LAC Committee suggests utilizing the SSSP list-serv to solicit recommendations from SSSP members who may have expertise and familiarity with the city.

Respectfully,

Uzma Chowdhury and
Cami Touloukian
LAC Co Chairs 2025-
2026