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Roll 'Em! Steiner Expansion Will Help Local Workers

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Joe Stepansky

Steiner Studios founder Douglas Steiner chats with Mayor Bloomberg at Monday's announcement of expanded production space in the Navy Yard.



Hollywood is again investing in the Brooklyn Navy Yard — but local workers may get the payoff.

The Steiner Studios film production facility unveiled expanded capacity on Monday — but the celeb-unstudied announcement also included news of the relocation of a major job-training program to the Navy Yard, plus some more grant money from the Bloomberg Administration.

Brooklyn Workforce Innovations' "Made In NY" program, a free course that trains inexperienced locals for entry-level production positions, will relocate from a center near the

Gowanus Canal to Building 92 in the Navy Yard, just five blocks away from the production facility where "The Producers," "Spider-Man 3," and the first two seasons of "Boardwalk Empire" were shot.

"Brooklyn Workforce Innovations has been really good about placing people into the industry," said the studio creator, [Douglas Steiner](#), whose film production workspace opened in 2004 and has expanded four times, including Monday's opening of five new soundstages, bringing the total to 10.



As a result, Mr. Steiner predicted a lot of collaboration between "Made in NY" and the film companies that rent out his studios and need a steady supply of extras, designers, and other lower-skilled positions essential to producing films.

"Production companies will be looking to hire," he said.

The “Made in NY” program claims to have trained 300 people in its six years — but that number can increase thanks to a closer proximity to the expanded Steiner production facility.

“We have such a close connection to Steiner [already],” said Ms. Finch. “It’s directly affecting people in the neighborhood.” She added that the proximity to the studio will help keep program graduates on production companies’ radar.



Dwayne Smith got a film-production job after training with Made in NY.

“Made in NY” graduate Dwayne Smith hopes that’s true. A 25-year-old resident of Clinton Hill, Mr. Smith landed a part-time grip job at Steiner Studios after graduating from the program, but he wants more hours.

The expansion, he said, “is going to bring the community up.”

Thirteen to 15 television pilots will be shooting in New York this spring, said Katherine Oliver, the commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, and each production could create as many as 1,000 positions.

In 2011, 188 films and 140 television series were shot on location in the city.

Mayor Bloomberg, on hand for the symbolic ribbon-cutting on the new Steiner soundstages, also pledged \$500,000 grants to film production companies that train local workers.

Gretchen Mol, who stars in “Boardwalk Empire,” was the only bold-faced name on hand — and she left after answering one question about whether she prefers filming on the east coast or the western one.

She prefers it here, said the Connecticut native.

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