



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 30, 2014  
**CONTACT:** [pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov), (212) 788-2958  
No. 320

**THE MAYOR’S FUND TO ADVANCE NEW YORK CITY ANNOUNCES NEW  
PRIORITY AREAS AND BOARD OF ADVISORS**

*Fund to strengthen communities and support our children by focusing on  
improving neighborhood open spaces, expanding arts education, and increasing youth  
employment*

**NEW YORK**—The Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City today announced its new board of advisors, as well as the priority areas the organization will focus on as it leverages innovative public-private partnerships to enrich the lives of New Yorkers. The priority areas, which include: improving neighborhood open spaces; expanding access to quality arts education; and increasing youth employment, are aimed at strengthening our communities and creating greater opportunity for our children.

“Public-private partnerships have the power to quickly transform the way we tackle some of our most challenging problems, by combining the flexibility of private funding with the scale of government. There is tremendous potential to create new program models as we invest in our neighborhoods,” said **First Lady Chirlane McCray, Chair of the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City.**

Parks and other open spaces form the center of healthy communities where children, adults, and seniors can come together to play, learn, exercise and relax. This five-borough initiative will revitalize and re-imagine open spaces in high-need neighborhoods to ensure every family has access to safe and vibrant outdoor spaces. The model will include elements such as multi-purpose equipment for adults and seniors, year-round programming, Wi-Fi connectivity, and public safety policies grounded in community policing models, all built on a foundation of community partnerships and local park “ownership.”

Access to arts programming is a vital element of a quality education. It is linked with greater academic achievement in a variety of subjects, provides an important emotional and creative

outlet, and introduces students to careers in a thriving sector of our City's economy. Working with a variety of City agencies, the Fund will partner with private sector supporters to ensure children across the city can participate in arts education both in and out of school.

Early work experience does more than just help young people in the short term; it is linked to lower high school dropout rates, as well as higher rates of future employment and wages. The Fund will work to expand the current model of summer youth workforce development into a robust year-round program. The effort will include participation from businesses, non-profits and city agencies to provide our children with the skills they need to be successful in the workforce, including increased opportunities to explore different careers, deepen their understanding of the connections between academic achievement and career development, and cultivate a network of job contacts.

The Fund will be guided in carrying out these priorities by a new board of advisors, which includes more than 50 committed public servants. The board encompasses a range of backgrounds, interests, and expertise that reflect the diversity of New York City, from artists and activists to business owners and philanthropists.

“The members of our Board of Advisors represent New Yorkers from all five boroughs, a range of neighborhoods, and from a diverse slate of industries. They share an eagerness to help leverage private resources in support of the administration's work to build one city, where everyone rises together,” said **First Lady Chirlane McCray**.

#### **The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City Board of Advisors:**

Husam Ahmad, HAKS Construction  
Marisol Alcantara, West Harlem District Leader  
Jo Andres, Artist, Filmmaker & Choreographer  
Gina Argento, Broadway Stages  
Barry Berke, Kramer Levin  
Anthony Bonomo, Physicians' Reciprocal Insurers  
Barbara Bowen, Professional Staff Congress  
Jill Bright, Conde Nast  
Steve Buscemi, Actor  
Derrick Cephas, Weil, Gotshal & Manges  
Janet Dewart Bell, Communications and Policy Consultant  
Cheryl Efron, Founder, Conjunction Fund & Founder, Greater NY  
Jay Eisenhower, Grant & Eisenhower  
Steven Feldman, Bullion International  
Hal Fetner, Sidney Fetner Associates  
Marian Fontana, Writer, Performer & Founder, 9-11 Families Association  
Charlene Gayle, Macon Realty  
Aron Govil, Ducon Technologies  
Beth Green, Attorney  
George Gresham, 1199 SEIU  
Jon Halpern, Halpern Real Estate Ventures

Fred Heller, Metro Systems  
Louis Hernandez, Former President, NYPD Hispanic Society  
Anne Hess, MADRE & Philanthropist  
Lorna Brett Howard, Philanthropist  
Laura Imperiale, Tully Construction  
Amabel Boyce James, Philanthropist  
Orin Kramer, Boston Provident  
Pam Kwatra, Kripari Marketing  
John McAvoy, Con Edison of New York  
Mary McCormick, Fund for the City of New York  
Cheryl McKissack, McKissack & McKissack  
Ron Moelis, L+M Development  
Rud Morales, Primary One, Inc.  
Mike Muse, Muse Recordings  
Charles Myers, Evercore Partners  
Cynthia Nixon, Actor  
Ronald O. Perelman, MacAndrews and Forbes  
Bruce Ratner, Forest City Ratner  
Steven Rubenstein, Rubenstein Communications  
Bill Rudin, Rudin Management  
Bill Samuels, Effective New York  
Mary Sansone, Congress of Italian-Americans Organization  
Chris Shelton, CWA, District 1  
Harendra Singh, Singh Hospitality Group  
Daisy Soros, Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans  
Jerry Speyer, Tishman Speyer  
Rob Speyer, Tishman Speyer  
Mary Alice Stephenson, GLAM4GOOD  
Stuart Suna, Silvercup Studios  
Ken Sunshine, Sunshine Sachs  
Carol Sutton Lewis, Carol Sutton Lewis and William M. Lewis, Jr. Charitable  
Foundation  
Jon Tisch, Loews  
Dan Tishman, Tishman Construction  
Estela Vasquez, 1199 SEIU  
George Walker, Neuberger Berman  
Jeff Wilpon, Sterling Equities  
Steven Witkoff, The Witkoff Group

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