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April 2017
An Insider's Look at the BronxWorks 2017 Sapphire Annual Gala

Mark your calendar!

The BronxWorks 2017 Sapphire Gala takes place on June 12, 2017 at 583 PARK AVENUE at 6:00pm.

Please join BronxWorks as we celebrate 45 years of Lifting Lives and Building Futures, recognize our distinguished honorees, and raise funds to live our mission to feed, shelter, teach and support our Bronx neighbors.
For more information about the gala, or to purchase tickets, journal ads or sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website!

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**Introducing Our Honorees**

**Paul Lipson of Barretto Bay Strategies**

Paul Lipson is an urban solutions consultant with a specialization in mixed-use community development, renewable energy, and clean transportation solutions for metropolitan areas. Lipson's firm, Barretto Bay Strategies, currently advises a number of anchor institutions, community development organizations, and firms in the clean tech sector, each with projects positioned at the interface of public policy and market development in these spaces.

From 2004 - 2011, Lipson served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Jose E. Serrano (NY-16), an 11-term Democrat and senior appropriator from the Bronx. In 2009, Lipson served as principal author of The American Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Act (HR 4399), a bill introduced with bi-partisan support aimed at scaling up the domestic electric truck industry and helping to address air quality deficits incurred by medium duty fleets based in places like the South Bronx. Earlier in his career, Mr. Lipson founded and led The Point Community Development Corporation, a pioneering CDC based in the Hunts Point section of The Bronx and active in the sustainability sector.

Under Mr. Lipson's tenure, The organization launched the South Bronx Greenway, initiated the revitalization of 8 acres of scatter-site brownfields, redeveloped two significant industrial parcels, launched a creative sector business incubator in the historic American Banknote Building, and led local community consensus-building around land use and waterfront issues in the Hunts Point peninsula. Mr. Lipson is the proud father of 14 year-old twins, Leo and Vivian Lipson.

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stockholders. Integrity, prudence, and reliability are the values that have guided them since their inception.

For over 30 years, BronxWorks has entrusted a critical part of our employees’ assets to Mutual Of America. The partnership that exists between BronxWorks and Mutual of America is invaluable to BronxWorks, our staff and the communities that we serve.

Lemle & Wolff is a full service firm specializing in the development, construction and management of high-quality affordable housing. For more than 75 years, Lemle & Wolff has invested in the growth and sustainability of New York City's neighborhoods through a long-term ownership strategy focused on successful partnerships with government, community stakeholders and residents. The firm has developed or preserved thousands of affordable apartments and today manages over 6,000 units across the city. BronxWorks is thrilled to collaborate with The Lemle & Wolff Companies as many opportunities emerge for our Bronx neighbors as a result of the alliance. Most recently Lemle & Wolff, along with its partners L+M Development and Community Preservation Corporation worked with BronxWorks to implement programming following the creation of affordable senior housing units at the new Soundview Housing Project.

Meet our Special Ambassador:
New York Knicks Legend, Walt "Clyde" Frazier

We're extremely excited to welcome Walter "Clyde" Frazier as our special Ambassador for the 2017 Sapphire Gala. Walt will be welcoming guests, taking pictures and signing autographs throughout the night, so don't miss your opportunity to meet this NY Knicks Legend in person.

Walter "Clyde" Frazier (born March 29, 1945) is a former basketball player in the NBA. As their floor general, Frazier led the New York Knicks to the franchise's only two NBA championships (1970 and 1973), and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1987. Upon his retirement from basketball, Frazier went into broadcasting; he is currently a color commentator for telecasts of Knicks games on the MSG Network.

Frazier held Knicks franchise records for most games (759), minutes played (28,995), field goals attempted (11,669), field goals made (5,736), free throws attempted (4,017), free throws made (3,145), assists (4,791) and points (14617). Center Patrick Ewing would eventually break most of those records, but Frazier's assists record still stands.

Frazier is also known for his iconic fashion sense and unique style. The website Clyde So Fly catalogs and grades every suit the Living Legend wears while broadcasting New York Knicks games on the MSG Network.

A special thanks to Bruce Eagel from Eagel Sports Promotions for arranging our ambassador's visit.
Laura Behnke, Mistress of Ceremonies

BronxWorks is thrilled to welcome Laura Behnke back to preside as the Mistress of Ceremonies at the 2017 Sapphire Gala. A Minnesota native and University of Wisconsin graduate, Laura is the weekend sports anchor and sports reporter at Eyewitness News (ABC 7) in New York City, a role she began in December of 2010. Laura covers all of the region's professional teams including the Yankees, Mets, Giants, Jets, Knicks, Nets, Rangers, Devils and Islanders. Prior to moving to Manhattan, Laura spent two and a half years in San Francisco, where she was the weekend sports anchor at NBC Bay Area as well as time in Boston as a sports anchor and reporter. Laura has won several awards for her work, including an Edward R. Murrow Award for her behind the scenes look inside Fenway Park's Green Monster.

BronxWorks first met Laura and her cameraman Roger Anderson while they were on assignment in 2015 covering two BronxWorks holiday events. BronxWorks is honored to have been a subject of Laura's distinguished reporting and is pleased to have her return to the podium in support of the event.

"It's a privilege to once again support BronxWorks and the important work that they do within the Bronx community." - Laura Behnke

Staff Profile: Evan Hahn, Bessie Taliaferro and Allison Gangi

If you've visited our website, read a BronxWorks press release or followed us on social media recently, then you've seen the work of Evan Hahn, Digital and Content Manager, Bessie Taliaferro, Development Associate and Allison Gangi, Development Assistant. These three staff members are new to the BronxWorks Development team. If you plan to attend the BronxWorks 45th anniversary Sapphire Gala, you will have a chance to meet them in person! "I am really excited about the gala! I've never attended so I don't really know what to expect, but I see how much time, effort and talent is being funneled into this amazing endeavor." Evan said while typing the newsletter you're currently reading.

Evan Hahn comes to BronxWorks with a background in video production and grassroots development. He's spent the last four years in New York producing multi-media content for various television networks and local companies. Evan caught the development bug 5 years ago while volunteering in South Africa with the United States Peace Corps. "For years I've looked for a career that could combine my passion for development work and my devotion to digital production. I'm so happy to finally find a home here on the BronxWorks Development Team."

Bessie has worked in non-profits supporting a variety of causes—from arts education to the environment to prison reform and is thrilled to join an organization with such a diverse array of programs. Having volunteered as a tutor for Literacy Partners and the Doe Fund, she is especially interested in adult education. She is also a certified ESOL instructor. Bessie especially enjoys writing donor and
communications materials. "In less than two months, I've had a chance to draft sponsorship proposals, press releases, and Letters of Inquiry. I'm excited to have such a dynamic role at such an effective organization."

Allison Gangi recently returned from serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia, where she began her career in non-profit development. Prior to her service, Allison expanded her skills in communications, web development, photography and writing. She is also a certified TEFL instructor who volunteered teaching ESL courses to adult students through Community Impact in Harlem. Allison is excited about coordinating the gala and assisting attendees at the event. "I'm enthusiastic about being part of an organization with such an honorable mission and impressive track record."

Join us at the 2017 Sapphire Gala and you will also see other BronxWorks staff members volunteering their time to ensure a great event.

For this month’s Photo Essay, take a look back at some of the great moments of the Annual Events from the past several years.

Photo Essay: Great Moments in Gala History

Shanika Blount with the BronxWorks Veggiecators sharing healthy treats with guests.
Stepping it up in 2015

The BronxWorks classic steppers crank the festivities up a notch with a spirited step routine.
An emotional gift in 2016

Two of our 2016 Honorees, Beth Lehmann and Tamara Lipshie, received an extra special thank-you gift from the children at a BronxWorks family shelter who have been part of the Bedtime Stories reading program: copies of their favorite book "Where the Wild Things Are" with personal notes from the children written on the inside cover.

Dumpling Bar in 2013
The BronxWorks Gala is known for having delicious and unique food options. Board Vice Chair Janice Hart samples the offerings at a unique dumpling bar.

Thank you to our early sponsors!

For more information about the gala or to purchase tickets, journal ads, or sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website or contact Bessie Taliaferro at 646-393-4004 or etaliaferro@bronxworks.org

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