2016 gala
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS
JUNE 9TH

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY PRIDE CENTER
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June 9, 2016

Dear Friends,

Greetings to everyone gathered here tonight at the Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s (BCPC) 2016 Community Leadership Awards & Gala!

New York’s diversity has always been one of our city’s greatest strengths. It’s what defines and connects us and makes us a truly strong and exceptional city.

That’s why the City Council and I have made promoting diversity and inclusion in communities across all five boroughs one of our top priorities and why we’re so grateful to have partners in this effort like BCPC.

As they celebrate their gala tonight, I would like to thank BCPC and its entire team for the critically important work they are doing to help improve and empower the lives of our LGBT+ community in Brooklyn. Your work is vital and invaluable and has helped make a difference in the lives of so many different people who proudly call this city home.

Congratulations as well to this year’s honorees.

I hope everyone has a wonderful time tonight. Happy Pride Month!

Sincerely,

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker
Dear Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Community Leadership Awards and Gala 2016. Look at us!... Eight years in the making... stronger than ever, bigger than before and continuing to grow by leaps and bounds. We have a story to tell!

With your support, the Brooklyn Community Pride Center continues to serve our LGBT+ Brooklynites as well as neighboring boroughs. Because of your generous contributions, the Brooklyn Center continues to provide critical services and a safe space for all LGBT+ folks. To each and every one of you, I say thank you. You Rock!

The Brooklyn Center is continuing on a path of growth. We are still adding new programming, fostering valuable partnerships, changing the hours of operations of the Center to respond to needs in our community and providing more space to accommodate our growth. Yes, your Brooklyn Center is moving to a new home in the coming weeks at Restoration Center, Bed-Sty, Brooklyn. We will have doubled the space we currently occupy. Our program calendar remains full as we continue to expand program curriculum with emphasis on youth, elder, transgender and gender non-conforming folks, and arts and culture as well as partnerships with other LGBT+ community based organizations. This brief description gives you a tiny idea of how much we are on the move.

Tonight as we gather here together to celebrate the success of Brooklyn Community Pride Center and how far we've come, we take particular pleasure and pride in honoring four of our dynamic community leaders: BFC Partners, Developer, H. van Ameringen Foundation, a private grant making foundation, Marty Markowitz, Former Brooklyn Borough President and Mrs. Janice Savin Williams, Co-Founder of The Williams Capital Group, a full service investment bank. We are so proud to share space with these giants and award them for their work that uplifts the LGBT+ community.

Finally, I want to say thank you again, all of you... our dedicated staff, interns, volunteers, Board of Directors, Co-Chairs and Host Committee. Thank you all for joining us to celebrate. We look forward to continuing this journey together.

Onward,

Debbie Brennan, Chair, Board of Directors
VALUE PROPOSITION

Across the spectrum from young people to elders, the Brooklyn LGBT+ Center enables our community to actively participate in positive, life-affirming activities. We offer a distinctive choice for residents of New York City’s largest borough to celebrate, heal, learn, create, organize, relax, socialize, and play.

VISION & MISSION

The Brooklyn Community Pride Center aims to be Brooklyn’s premier network of programs and services for the LGBT+ community and our allies to connect, organize, play, and belong. Our mission is to provide relevant programs and services to Brooklyn’s LGBT+ community.

HISTORY & PROGRAMS

Prior to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s 2008 inception, Brooklyn was the only NYC borough without an LGBT+ Community Center to meet the unique and varied needs of a racially, economically, ethnically, and geographically diverse community. Today, the organization is focusing on direct programs and services for elders, transgender gender nonconforming people, and youth. The Brooklyn Center’s annual budget of $400,000 is expected to grow significantly to meet ambitious growth targets described in “2020 Vision: A Conceptual Framework for Brooklyn’s Twenty-First Century LGBT+ Center” available for review on our website. Strategic partnerships aligned with program priorities will enable programmatic adaptability and scalability.

Let’s build it together!
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TONIGHT’S PROGRAM

Thursday, June 9th at 26 Bridge Street
VIP Reception 6–7 pm
Gala Reception 7 pm
Program 8 pm
After Party 9–11 pm
Silent Auction throughout the evening
Music by DJ Robi D Light

HONOREES

BFC PARTNERS

MARTY MARKOWITZ
FORMER BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
H. van AMERINGEN FOUNDATION
JANICE SAVIN WILLIAMS
CO-FOUNDER OF THE WILLIAMS CAPITAL GROUP

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Lisa Davis
Sonelius Kendrick-Smith

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Debbie Brennan
Brian Kenny
Terrance Knox
Lou Martarano & Roland Ballester
Owain & Shane Morgan
Floyd Rumohr & Paco Arroyo
Jonathan Santos-Ramos
Alan Washington

2016 Gala Branding and Design: Stephen Rainforth for Modacoda
Welcome friends to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center 2016 Community Leadership Awards & Gala! As Co-Chairs for this event, we are very excited to share this evening to celebrate the significant impact that BCPC is having on the Brooklyn community and to honor those who have contributed to its vision and to its growth.

As we enjoy tonight’s festivities, we want to remind ourselves of BCPC’s great efforts to build a premier network of programs and services and provide a safe space for the LGBT+ community. As a community partner, BCPC provides enthusiasm, resources and tools to inspire our young people, elders, transgender, and gender nonconforming folks to actively participate in positive, life-affirming activities.

Tonight we enthusiastically express our gratitude to our amazing partners and this year’s honorees: BFC Partners, Marty Markowitz (former Brooklyn Borough President), H. van Ameringen Foundation and Janice Savin Williams, Co-Founder of The Williams Capital Group.

This is a significant moment. Eat, Drink, be Merry or Mary or Max! This is home and we invite you to relax and be inspired so that afterwards you will tell those you know about BCPC’s story.

Lisa Davis
Sonelius Kendrick-Smith
Co-Chairs, 2016 Community Leadership Awards & Gala
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All proceeds from the Community Leadership Awards & Gala directly support activities across the spectrum from young people to elders to actively participate in positive, life-affirming activities.
Committed to development in every sense of the word, BFC Partners not only looks to break ground on new buildings, but to jump-start the neighborhoods around them — economically, culturally, and socially.

For the past 25 years, BFC’s activities have focused on the acquisition, development, financing, construction, marketing and management of affordable housing, which includes government subsidized low and moderate-rental as well as for sale home ownership. As a market leader, BFC and its principals have concluded over $1.5 billion in acquisition and development projects and have over $1 billion currently in development. At the forefront of the revitalization of many neighborhoods including the East Village, Harlem, Williamsburg, Downtown Brooklyn and Staten Island’s North Shore — BFC excels in finding creative solutions to unique and challenging projects.
Mr. Markowitz has been called a tireless champion for the City by Mayor de Blasio. He was first elected in 2001 after serving twenty-three years as a New York State Senator.

Mr. Markowitz presided as Brooklyn Borough President during a period that included the revitalization of Coney Island and Brooklyn Bridge Park, the opening of the Barclays Center, and a surge in worldwide interest in Brooklyn as a visitor destination. His career in public service began in 1979, when he was elected to the New York State Senate for the first of eleven consecutive terms. In his tenure as Brooklyn Borough President, about 3 years ago Marty renovated and reopened the Kings Theatre here in Brooklyn (formerly known as the Loew’s Kings Theater) on Flatbush and as his final Borough President project, the first seasonal covered amphitheater in NYC, the Amphitheater at the Coney Island Boardwalk will open late this summer. His legacy continues to live on. Born in Crown Heights, he resides in Windsor Terrace with his wife, Jamie and Beep, their African gray parrot.

The Brooklyn Community Pride Center is here today because Mr. Markowitz was instrumental in supporting the development of the Center and its launch from 2008-2009.
Established in 1967 in New York, the Foundation provides support for programs for HIV/AIDS, particularly minority groups, LGBT+ homeless youth, housing for LGBT+ frail and isolated elderly, sentencing reform, legalization of marijuana and so much more.

The H. van Ameringen Foundation is a philanthropic leader in the LGBT+ community and a leadership supporter of the Brooklyn Community Pride Center since 2011.
Janice Savin Williams is Co-Founder and Sr. Principal of The Williams Capital Group, L.P. Established in 1994 by Mrs. Savin Williams and husband Christopher, Williams Capital is a full service investment banking firm that serves institutional investors and corporations worldwide in the fixed income and equity capital markets.

Mrs. Savin Williams has served on the boards of community and professional associations as well as not-for-profit organizations. Currently, she serves on the board of The Harlem School of the Arts, Women In Need — and as a Trustee of Tufts University.

In 2010, Mrs. Savin Williams was appointed Vice Chair of the National Advisory Council on Minority Business Enterprises by U.S. Commerce Secretary, Gary Locke. Extremely active in the New York City civic and not-for-profit landscape, she has received The 2010 CUP Leadership Award, The African American Heritage Award from The City of New York, the Partnership With Children’s 2004 Ann Vanderbilt Award and the 2004 Business Leadership Award of the New York State Supreme Court.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Mrs. Savin Williams earned her Bachelor of Arts in Economics at Tufts University. She currently resides in New York with her husband and has two young adult children who reside nearby.

Janice Savin Williams has been an avid supporter of the Brooklyn Community Pride Center since 2014.
June 9, 2016

Deborah Brennan
President
The Brooklyn Community Pride Center
4 Metrotech
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Ms. Brennan:

Brooklyn has a time-honored tradition of recognizing the outstanding contributions made by members of the many diverse groups that live and work in our great borough, so it is most fitting that we take note of the important cultural, political and social legacies of Brooklyn’s vibrant LGBTQ community as we gather at the 2016 Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s Community Leadership Awards and Gala Celebration.

It is my pleasure to join the Brooklyn Community Pride Center in recognizing you, President Deborah Brennan, along with Floyd Rumohr, Executive Director, and the entire Board of Directors and staff for your hard work providing support and services as well as celebrating the diverse lives and experiences of Brooklyn’s LGBTQ community. Since 2008, the Center offers youth and elder programs, arts and cultural programming, community education panels, legal clinics, peer support services and social events for the LGBTQ community. I also extend special congratulations to this year’s honorees, who have been selected to receive accolades at your organization’s gala: BFC Partners, former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, the H. van Ameringen Foundation, and Janice Savin Williams, Co-Founder of The Williams Capital Group. The tribute they are receiving distinguishes them as truly remarkable.

On behalf of 2.6 million Brooklynites, I salute the wonderful staff and Board of Directors of The Brooklyn Community Pride Center for their leadership and contributions to the LGBTQ community in Brooklyn and New York City. I applaud the Brooklyn Pride Center for continuing to expand the quantity and quality of LGBTQ services in the community that strengthens and empowers our great borough. I congratulate the honorees who uphold the mission of The Brooklyn Community Pride Center. Thank you for helping our communities move forward as One Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Adams
Brooklyn Borough President
June 9, 2016

Dear Friends,

It is with great pride that I extend my warmest welcome to all attendees of the Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s (BCPC) 2016 Community Leadership Awards and Gala.

Since 2008, BCPC has offered a myriad of services to the LGBTQ community, ranging from recreational activities to health awareness. The spaces BCPC has established have provided safe haven for many New Yorkers whom other critical networks have failed. Today, BCPC’s extensive network connects a diverse group of youth and adults with resources that complement their goals and catapults their success. As a powerful advocate for the LGBTQ community, BCPC growth is symbolic of New York City’s progression. I hope to soon count BCPC as a neighbor in the community of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

BCPC’s 2016 honorees, Marty Markowitz, Henry van Ameringen Foundation and Janice Savin Williams, have played distinctive roles in supporting and culturally enriching the community. I am proud to join BCPC in recognizing the diligence of those who contribute their efforts to creating a more unified and enriched community. Furthermore, I acknowledge the hard work and perseverance of the BCPC staff, board and volunteers for their innovation and enthusiasm.

I am confident and glad that BCPC’s positive impact on our community will continue for years to come. Thank you and congratulations!

Sincerely,

Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
June 9, 2016

Floyd Rumohr
Executive Director
Brooklyn Community Pride Center
4 Metrotech Center
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Greetings,

On behalf of the 35th Council District, I would like to congratulate the Brooklyn Community Pride Center on the occasion of your 2016 Community Leadership Awards and Gala.

As Chair of the Committee on Women’s Issues and Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus in the New York City Council, it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize this organization for its steadfast commitment to the advancement of Brooklyn’s thriving LGBT+ community.

For nearly a decade, the Brooklyn Community Pride Center has provided a wide array of programs and services that have tremendously impacted the lives of countless New Yorkers across all ages and backgrounds. I thank you, the staff, Board Members, Advisory Council, volunteers, and supporters for providing a safe haven where the LGBT+ community can connect, belong, heal, create, teach, and inspire. In addition, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to this year’s honorees: BFC Partners, former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, the H. van Ameringen Foundation, and Janice Savin Williams. Thank you for your leadership, philanthropy, and continued advocacy!

Through your incredible work, we can continue to celebrate inclusion and diversity throughout the Borough of Brooklyn and the City of New York. Once again, congratulations to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center and this year’s honorees on your outstanding accomplishments. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Yours in Partnership,

Laurie A. Cumbo
COUNCIL MEMBER
35 DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

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YOUTH SERVICES
June 9, 2016

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to recognize the outstanding work of the Brooklyn Community Pride Center and congratulate you on the occasion of your 2016 Community Leadership Awards and Gala.

I salute the talented Center staff, board, and volunteers for their dedication and fine work in serving the LGBT+ community and tonight’s honorees for supporting it:

BFC Partners
Marty Markowitz
H. van Ameringen Foundation
Janice Savin Williams

All of us must do our part in supporting the organization’s vision for the future described in 2020 Vision: A Conceptual Framework for Brooklyn’s Twenty-First Century LGBT+ Center. Working together, I am confident that the Brooklyn Center’s vision will become a reality and I strongly support a permanent home for the Center on behalf of Brooklyn’s LGBT+ community.

The Brooklyn Community Pride Center has been an outstanding sanctuary for the LGBT community of all ages for nearly a decade. BCPC consistently goes the extra mile in their work, whether it is through their vital health programs, original programming or social activities. BCPC certainly hits their mark on their vision and mission each year in providing assistance, care and devotion for the well-being of the LGBT community. They remain an exceptional humanitarian organization in New York City’s booming and diverse borough of Brooklyn.

Congratulations on your many years of service and here’s to looking forward!

Sincerely,

Vincent Gentile
District 43 - Council Member
June 9, 2016

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I extend greetings to all who have gathered for the Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s Community Leadership Awards and Gala.

The Brooklyn Community Pride Center provides Brooklyn’s LGBT+ community with a safe environment to receive physical and mental health services, social support and cultural programming. Such service, which is truly the lifeblood of the community and the city, so often goes unrecognized and unrewarded.

As Public Advocate for the City of New York, I would like to extend my congratulations to this year’s honorees including BFC Partners, Real estate developer, Marty Markowitz, former Brooklyn Borough President, Henry van Ameringen, philanthropist and Janice Savin Williams, Co-founder of The Williams Capital Group.

I would like to thank the Brooklyn Community Pride Center and their dedicated staff for the vital work that they are doing to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender conforming, queer, intersex and two spirit communities.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful evening and may you enjoy continued success in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Letitia James
Public Advocate for the City of New York
2020 VISION CHALLENGE

What’s Your Vision for Brooklyn’s Twenty-First Century LGBT+ Center?

Make your own video and tell us!

This is your opportunity to make your ideas known. We’re listening. And it’s possible your ideas will make their way into our plan.

Accept the challenge at lgbtbrooklyn.org/2020-vision.

Let’s Build Brooklyn’s Premier LGBT+ Center Together!
May 10, 2016

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I extend greeting to all those gathered here at the 2016 Community Leadership Awards & Gala from the Brooklyn Community Pride Center.

For almost a decade, the Brooklyn Pride Center has played an instrumental part in improving the quality of life for the LGBT community and has focused on positive projects that promote cultural improvement, as well as social acceptance. As we turn a new chapter of modern history that embraces more inclusiveness, I am proud to be able to send my best wishes and support to everyone involved with this organization.

Thank you for being champions in all the tireless work that you do fighting for the LGBT community. You are an absolute blessing to have in our community.

Sincerely,

Council Member Brad Lander
39th Council District
Brooklyn
June 9th, 2016

Dear Brooklyn Community Pride Center ("BCPC"),

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate BCPC on its celebration at the Community Leadership Awards and Gala. As Chair of the LGBT Caucus, I look forward to hearing about the great work that our organizations are doing to serve our LGBT community. BCPC continues to serve Brooklyn at its greatest and most qualitative capacity.

I am proud to know that BCPC is active and pushing the boundaries of what it means to be inclusive and creative. BCPC is ensuring that LGBT individuals receive the services they are entitled to, as well as fostering leadership skills and creating relationship building opportunities within its programs.

Congratulations and thank you for your hard work.

Warm regards,

Rosie Mendez
NYC Councilmember, District 2
is pleased to support

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY PRIDE CENTER

on its

2016 Community Leadership Awards & Gala

We salute our very own

JANICE SAVIN WILLIAMS

and extend warm congratulations to

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Congratulations to all the Community Leadership Honorees.

Their efforts to support and strengthen the LGBTQ community has been exceptional.

It is with great pride that we congratulate them and offer our own continued support to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center.
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Since its founding in 1988, Brooklyn Brewery has been proud to play a positive role in the communities it serves. In the early years of Brooklyn Brewery, the company did not always make a profit, but always donated beer to not-for-profit and arts organizations, a tradition that is carried on today. The Brewery has facilitated many community meetings at its event space, and its employees serve on not-for-profit boards, including the Prospect Park Alliance, the Brooklyn Historical Society, and Transportation Alternatives. Brooklyn serves.
New York Law School and Dean Anthony W. Crowell
Congratulate Brooklyn Community Pride Center and its Honorees.
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• Vacation Rental in Aldea Zama
• 2 Bed/2 Bath
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Kudos to Brooklyn Community Pride Center and Tonight’s Honorees

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and Tonight’s Honorees

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Brooklyn Community Pride Center extends our heartfelt gratitude to Debbie Levinson for her years of service on the board of directors. We will miss you when your term ends on June 30!

Interested in joining our board of directors? For a Board Recruitment Prospectus, please visit lgbtbrooklyn.org/staff-board.

Connect With Your Center!
Get involved in support groups and diverse activities for elders, youth, and transgender nonconforming folks. Visit our new website and see what’s going on at your Center!

lgbtbrooklyn.org/programs
Join Our Growing Team!

The Brooklyn Community Pride Center is growing and looking for high performing, goals driven aces to work with us on a part-time basis:

- **Facilities Coordinator**
- **Transgender Gender Nonconforming Group Leader**

Visit lgbtbrooklyn.org/jobs for more information.

**DJ ROBI D LIGHT**

With boundless energy and an infectious smile, Brooklyn-based DJ Robi D Light has quickly become a household name within New York City’s LGBTQ nightlife community. Her eclectic sets and professionalism have led to performances for Manhattan’s LGBT Center, Stonewall Community Foundation, Harlem School of the Arts, and The Rockefeller Foundation. Robi has shared the stage with R&B duo Nina Sky, and recently opened for the legendary Lady Bunny. JD Samson selected Robi to perform an opening set for her popular New Year’s Eve party, Higher Ground, held at the Ace Hotel.

In 2015, Robi joined Scratch Events, a music company founded by Run DMC’s Jam Master Jay. Scratch specializes in pairing club-caliber DJs with leading brands. As a member of this elite team, Robi is consistently booked to spin for retail giants H&M, Bloomingdale’s, Macy’s, Sephora, Oakley, Birchbox, and many more. When she is not spinning, Robi leads DJ classes for Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls, a non-profit music and mentoring program.
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Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please email corrections to Dillon Seebalack, Development Associate at dseebalack@lgbtbrooklyn.org.
CONGRATULATIONS TO TONIGHT’S HONOREES AND HAPPY EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY TO OUR FRIENDS AT BCPC

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