2017 gala
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS
JUNE 15TH

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY PRIDE CENTER
lgbtBROOKLYN.org
THANK YOU FOR MAKING PROGRESS POSSIBLE.

Citi proudly supports the members of the LGBTQ community and its allies. For all you do this month and always, we're proud of what you accomplish. #MakeProgressPossible
June 15, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to welcome everyone as Brooklyn Community Pride Center hosts its annual Leadership Awards and Gala.

New York is proud to be the birthplace of the modern LGBTQ rights movement, and my administration is committed to remaining a leader in not only the fight for equality, but also in addressing the issues confronting the LGBTQ community. Established in 2008, BCPC has been a critical partner in this mission, offering resources and programs that uplift LGBTQ residents in Brooklyn and beyond. By encouraging advocacy, offering substance abuse counseling, providing health education and free HIV testing, recording the oral histories of immigrants for its New Americans project, and sponsoring social activities and support groups for youth, seniors, and trans and gender non-conforming people, the Center has made a positive difference in the lives of so many Brooklynnites. As you gather tonight to recognize individuals who exemplify its spirit of service, Chirlane and I join in applauding everyone associated with this wonderful organization for their efforts to unite and empower LGBTQ New Yorkers as we work to create a city where all people can rise together.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to this year’s honorees. Please accept my best wishes for a festive evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
WELCOME FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends:

Welcome to this year’s Community Leadership Awards and Gala!

Tonight, we gather to connect with each other, celebrate our accomplishments, and honor distinguished leaders in our community. Because of your generosity, we continue to grow into the robust Center the LGBT+ community of Brooklyn so richly deserves.

In the coming days, we will be in our new home at Restoration Plaza in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Our square footage will nearly double with access for community organizations to bring their important work to Brooklyn. This accomplishment will be amplified with our planned expansion into the Bedford-Union Armory in 2019/2020 and commence our vision to establish a network of satellite sites serving New York City’s largest borough.

Our task tonight, and indeed for the next thirty-six months, is to continue to introduce new friends and funders to our work that is more important than ever in the current political climate. The goals described in 2020 Vision: A Strategic Framework for Brooklyn’s Twenty-First Century LGBT+ Center get closer day-by-day because of you. Our community is safer, less alone, and engaged in life affirming activities because you have taken the time to share a bit of you with us.

Our vision of a thriving, diverse community hub where LGBT+ people and our allies are celebrated is getting closer. Thank you for transforming the aspirational into the probable.

Onward,

Debbie Brennan, Chair, Board of Directors
Across the spectrum from young people to elders, the Brooklyn Community Pride 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.

Our vision is to become Brooklyn’s premier network of programs and services for the LGBT+ community of New York City’s largest borough. Our mission is to provide services and support to the borough’s LGBT+ community through original programming and partnerships with exemplary organizations.

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. Our annual budget of $400,000 is expected to grow significantly to meet ambitious growth targets described in “2020 Vision: A Strategic Framework for Brooklyn’s Twenty-First Century LGBT+ Center” available 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 15th at 26 Bridge Street
Cocktails 6:30 pm
Dinner and Awards 8 pm
Dancing 9 pm – 11 pm
Silent Auction and Raffle throughout the evening
Music by DJ Kevin Graves

HONOREES

DR. DEMETRE DASKALAKIS
QUEER HEALTH WARRIOR

CARLOS MENCHACA
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER 38TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

CO-CHAIRS
Jordan Bach
Nicholas Gomez
David Lopez

HOST COMMITTEE
Lisa Davis
Bernie Gonzalez
Jonathan Santos-Ramos
Floyd Rumohr

2017 Gala Branding and Journal Design: Stephen Rainforth
Welcome to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s 2017 Community Leadership Awards & Gala!

We hope you enjoy eating, drinking, dancing, and getting to know this vibrant community of fellow changemakers that we’re blessed to call family.

Two members of our family deserve our special recognition tonight. Dubbed the “Queer Health Warrior,” Dr. Demetre Daskalakis has dedicated his career to fearlessly advocating for LGBTQ+ sexual health. New York City Council Member Carlos Menchaca is a founding member of the Brooklyn Pride Center and, as Brooklyn’s first openly gay office holder and our state’s first Mexican-American elected official, is similarly fearless in his fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

In their fearlessness, both of tonight’s honorees are paving a path to freedom and happiness for countless people. Their steadfast conviction in matters of wellbeing and equality makes us proud to call ourselves gay New Yorkers.

We believe that when a small, committed group of people come together with the shared purpose of love, what was once impossible becomes possible.

We’d like to thank the Board and you, our generous donors, for helping to expand our vision of what’s possible for LGBTQ+ people, for Brooklyn, and for the world.

With deep appreciation,

Jordan Bach
Nicolas Gomez
David Lopez

Co-Chairs, 2017 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.
Demetre Daskalakis is the Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Disease Control of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He received his medical education from NYU School of Medicine and completed his Internal Medicine Residency and Infectious Disease Fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the Brigham and Women’s, Massachusetts General Hospital combined program, respectively. He received his Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Daskalakis has been a career-long physician activist in the area of HIV treatment and prevention with special focus on the health of LGBTQ+ populations in New York City. He established HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection testing at commercial sex venues and developed NYC’s first Post-Exposure Prophylaxis phone line. Dubbed a queer health warrior, Dr. Daskalakis has provided leadership to the NYC Department of Health Bureau of HIV and was pivotal in the plan to end HIV in NYC by 2020.
In 2013, Carlos Menchaca became Brooklyn’s first openly gay office holder and New York State’s first Mexican-American elected official.

An early proponent and founding member of the Brooklyn Pride Center, Carlos fights consistently for the rights of the LGBT+ community.

Carlos authored the legislation for New York’s first municipal identification card, IDNYC, which now serves over one million New Yorkers. As Chair of the Committee on Immigration, Carlos has supported innovative programs for immigrant day laborers, street vendors, and worker cooperatives. He is an ardent proponent of workers’ right to organize and workplace safety.

Carlos is a champion for the neighborhoods in his district and has fought gentrification and displacement through street protest, support of tenant advocates, and with legislation that expands tenants’ rights and protections.

Council Member Menchaca is a leading voice in New York City’s Sanctuary movement. He sees criminal justice reform and ending Broken Windows policing as integral to Sanctuary efforts.
June 15, 2017

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. 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 2017 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 Executive Director Floyd Rumohr, and the entire board of directors and staff for your hard work providing services and support as well as celebrating the diverse lives and experiences of Brooklyn’s LGBTQ+ community. Since 2008, the Center offers youth and senior 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: Queer Health Warrior Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, and my colleague in government, Council Member Carlos Menchaca, representing Brooklyn’s 38th Council District. The tribute they are receiving distinguishes them as truly noteworthy.

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

Sincerely,

Eric L. Adams
Brooklyn Borough President
June 15, 2017

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 Event.

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 work, 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 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,

Lettitia James
Public Advocate for the City of New York
June 15, 2017

Dear Friends:

Greetings to everyone gathered here tonight at the Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s (BCPC) 2017 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 their critically important work that they are doing to help improve and empower the lives of our LGBT+ community here 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
June 15, 2017

Brooklyn Community Pride Center
4 Metrotech Center
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to extend best wishes to all attending the Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s Community Leadership Awards & Gala.

For years, the Brooklyn Community Pride Center (BCPC) has served as an invaluable network, supporting LGBT+ Brooklynnites. BCPC provides a wide range of vital services and programs that help youth, families, seniors, transgender New Yorkers, and HIV positive residents in Brooklyn. By fostering a supportive community and organizing engaging activities and events, BCPC has made a significant impact on LGBT+ communities across our City.

Thank you to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center for bringing us together to celebrate community and service. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Stringer
New York City Comptroller
June 15th, 2017

Dear Brooklyn Community Pride Center ("BCPC"),

Congratulations on another successful year of advocacy and services provided to the LGBTQ Community in Brooklyn and throughout the City. 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 know of the amazing work that BCPC is doing to bring a safe space to the residents of Brooklyn and I applaud you for your achievements.

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

Congratulations and thank you for your hard work.

Warm regards,

[Signature]

Rosie Mendez
NYC Councilmember, District 2
June 15, 2017

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 2017 Community Leadership Awards and Gala.

Since its founding, this Center has served as an invaluable resource – providing a wealth of programs, services, and opportunities for Brooklyn residents to thrive. As New Yorkers, we take great pride in embracing and celebrating our diverse communities – such as the LGBTQIA+ who are integral to the advancement of our city.

As Chair of the Committee on Women’s Issues and Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus in the New York City Council, I am proud of your incredible work to transform this Center into a second home for people of all ages and backgrounds. I thank you, the staff, Board Members, Advisory Council, volunteers, and supporters for your unwavering commitment to “inclusion, putting people first, safety, respect, and transparency.” In addition, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to this year’s honorees for their philanthropy and continued advocacy.

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
35th District, Brooklyn

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY PRIDE CENTER
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
LGBT New Americans

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ELDER PRIDE

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YOUTH PRIDE

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LGBT NEW AMERICANS

HIV PREVENTION

ADVOCACY + ACTIVISM

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BROOKLYN COMMUNITY PRIDE CENTER
5/18/2017

Mr. Floyd Rumohr
Executive Director
Brooklyn Pride Center
4 MetroTech Center
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Floyd,

I congratulate you and the Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s leadership team on your success serving the LGBT community.

It’s hard for me to imagine Brooklyn without our beloved Pride Center. But it wasn’t too long ago that our borough’s LGBT residents had nowhere to call home. As the Center was founded in 2008, I recall our early organizing meetings and fundraising events. The needs of our community in Brooklyn were well known back then. What we couldn’t know was how far our vision of a full-service community center would take us.

Now, a rich variety of services are fostered under Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s care and your Community Leadership Awards and Gala is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the Center’s success. I’m sure the event co-chairmanship of Jordan Bach, Nicholas Gomez, and David Lopez will create a fantastic evening.

The Brooklyn Community Pride Center has grown to reflect and serve our borough’s diverse spectrum of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, and religion. I always look with admiration at your special care for youth, the elderly and groups of people who have not found access to vital community services in the past.

Bravo to you and the Center’s membership for articulating a 2020 Vision Strategic Framework that sets worthy goals, stays true to your mission, and shows how you’ll serve Brooklyn’s LGBT communities for years to come. I can’t wait to see what comes next and I pledge my ongoing support as the Center continues to thrive.

Sincerely,

Carlos Menchaca
May 24, 2017

Dear Fellow New Yorkers,

It gives me great joy to join Brooklyn Community Pride Center in celebrating their 2017 Community Leadership Awards & Gala. The Pride Center is one of the great institutions of Brooklyn. Our borough is much richer because the Pride centers is there to enable our community to actively participate in positive, life-affirming activities. It is a refuge and wonderful meeting ground for the full range of Brooklynites to celebrate, heal, learn, create, organize, relax, socialize and play.

Brooklyn Pride not only fulfills a noble mission, it is also a place that I can call home, and place where I can find friendship with its wonderful staff. I would like to especially recognize Floyd Rumohr for his leadership, compassion, creativity and warmth.

Brooklyn is a place that celebrates the full tapestry of humanity, and the Brooklyn Community Pride Center exemplifies that spirit. It brings me great pleasure to honor this spirit at this awards gala.

Sincerely,

Jesse E. Hamilton
New York State Senator
20th District
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To learn more about us, visit celebritycruises.com

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We look forward to strengthening our partnership with Brooklyn Community Pride Center to continue to improve the health and wellness of LGBTQ communities in Brooklyn.

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CAMBA is proud to be partnering with the Brooklyn Community Pride Center to help build an inclusive NYC for all LGBTQ individuals and their families.

Learn more at CAMBA.org and 40years.CAMBA.org.

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The Brooklyn
Community Pride Center
and Its Honorees

www.nyls.edu
CONGRATULATIONS TO TONIGHT’S HONOREES

We look forward to providing the Brooklyn Community Pride Center with a new home at the Bedford Union Armory!
WELCOME
NEW CAUSE CHAMPIONS TO THE BROOKLYN COMMUNITY PRIDE CENTER’S BOARD!

STEPHANIE JOHNSON
Senior Marketing Manager, Gwynnie Bee: Stephanie brings her technology, marketing, and communications strengths to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center through her service as chair of the pr/marketing committee.

SONELIUS KENDRICK-SMITH
Director, Deutsche Asset Management, Deutsche Bank: Sonelius co-chaired last year’s Community Leadership Awards and Gala and is an asset to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center through his vast experience in financial management.

KAREN POTTER
Director, HR Technology, Citi: Karen brings her leadership skills of Citi’s HR technology team, which is focused on enhancing the employee experience on a global scale at Citi, to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center’s board.

Interested in serving on our board, advisory council, or on a committee? Download our Board Recruitment Prospectus at lgbtbrooklyn.org/staff-board
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!
Brooklyn Community Pride Center

CORE VALUES

INCLUSION: Like the color spectrum, there are too many beautiful hues in between the primary or the binary. No matter how many letters we add to LGBTQIA+, some groups will be unintentionally forgotten. Which is why we have adopted the symbol (at left) to represent and include everyone on the spectrum of sexual orientation and gender identity.

PEOPLE FIRST: It can be tempting to focus on technology or other distractions at home and work. We value face-to-face interactions whenever possible. We aim to serve visitors new and old with enthusiasm and effectiveness.

SAFETY: Ours are sacred spaces that enable all members of our community, including allies, to be themselves. We stand-up for each other, seek to understand perspectives that are new, and encourage others to be brave in the face of adversity.

RESPECT: Life can be challenging for all of us. All the more reason to take a deep breath, pause, and think before speaking to ensure that our words honor diverse opinions and backgrounds.

TRANSPARENCY: Information is important at all levels from donors to organizational decision-makers. That’s why you’ll see our independent audits, IRS 990s, and other documents available for review on our website.
THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

spence-chapin.org

Spence-Chapin is a licensed and accredited nonprofit organization that has been offering quality adoption services for more than 100 years.

stonewallcdc.org

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griotcircle.org

GRIOT Circle is an advocacy and service organization committed to the dignity, well-being, and quality of life of LGBTQ people of color as we age.

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Sincere gratitude is extended to our hard-working and dedicated volunteers who contributed their time and talent from July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016!

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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.
The Williams Capital Group is pleased to support Brooklyn Community Pride Center on its 2017 Community Leadership Awards & Gala.

Congratulations to this year's Honorees:

DR. DEMETRE DASKALAKIS
CARLOS MENCHACA

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