

OCTOBER 17

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AWARDS
BENEFIT

2022



BXP is pleased to join SparkYouth in celebrating Champion for Youth Award honorees Jeff Fastov and BXP's Hilary Spann for their leadership and commitment to service and the community.

We are proud to support SparkYouth's vision to expand opportunities and support the youth of New York City.

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AWARDS
BENEFIT

OCTOBER 17, 2022

HONORING

JEFFREY F. FASTOV

SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR, CREDIT STRATEGIES
SQUARE MILE CAPITAL

HILARY SPANN

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, NEW YORK REGION
BXP

**RECIPIENTS OF THE
CHAMPION FOR YOUTH AWARD**

BAABA K. HALM

VICE PRESIDENT AND NY MARKET LEADER
ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**RECIPIENT OF THE
COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD**

AND

CELEBRATING
FIFTEEN OF OUR CITY'S YOUNG LEADERS

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FOR OVER 25 YEARS,

SparkYouth NYC has played an integral role in the growth of more than 75 of our city's most innovative youth-development organizations, creating an exponential impact on the lives of over **300,000 NYC youth**.

Our 9th Cohort of nonprofits represents the **best of the best in youth-centered organizations**, who are utilizing the power of sports, STEM, the arts, urban farming, leadership, civic engagement, and community to stoke the brilliance of the young people who will be our future leaders.

SparkYouth invests in organizations at a **pivotal moment in their trajectory**, utilizing a unique model that helps nonprofits build their infrastructure, increase sustainability, and expand to reach more of our city's young people.

youth

NYC

Tonight, you will hear from some of our extraordinary Young Leaders, whose stories and accomplishments are sure to inspire. But like Bryce Knight-Hall of Bronx Lacrosse so wisely said, **“I should not be the exception to the norm.”**

When you invest in SparkYouth, your gifts of time, talent, and dollars help ensure **every young person in our city** has access to programs that empower, challenge, delight, and support them.

Please contact us at info@sparkyouthnyc.org to learn more about our unique model or to arrange site visits to our remarkable grantee programs.

EVENT LEADERSHIP



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Suzy Myers Jackson



DEAR FRIENDS,

We are so thrilled to welcome you to SparkYouth's 2022 Awards Benefit and I'm delighted to introduce you to our **new Executive Director, Suzy Myers Jackson**.

Suzy has been a part of the SparkYouth community for over a decade, first as a SparkYouth grantee and then as a Board Member, and we're honored to have her bring to SparkYouth 20+ years of first-hand experience as a leader of a youth-centered nonprofit.

SparkYouth ignites opportunity for NYC youth by investing in innovative nonprofits that are poised for significant growth. Our unique model provides multi-year, unrestricted financial support alongside key professional and technical assistance to help organizations invest in strategic planning, impact evaluation, and leadership development... all things successful CEOs know are critical to growth, but that nonprofit leaders are rarely given the resources to make possible.

Tonight, **your support will make an impact at a critical moment for our organizations and young people**, guaranteeing more of our city's youth have the opportunity to discover and nurture their spark.

As our brilliant Board Member, Greta Guggenheim, said, **"There is no better way to support our city than to support our youth. And there is no better way to support our youth than by giving to SparkYouth."**

Thank you to tonight's Honorees and Co-Chairs for their extraordinary efforts to provide more opportunities to NYC's young people. And thanks to you for being a part of this important organization with us.

Please introduce yourself tonight to Suzy and the SparkYouth team, our exceptional young people, and the visionary leaders of our member programs. We promise you won't regret it.

Sincerely,

STEVE KOHN

Board President



PARTNER PROGRAMS 2022-2024

AMERICA ON TECH

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: **JESSICA SANTANA &**

PRESIDENT: **EVIN FLOYD ROBINSON**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **MELISSA-RAY BAILEY GAYLE**

Over the next decade over one million technology jobs will go unfilled, yet fewer than 10% of NYC schools offer computer science education.

America on Tech works to create pathways towards degrees and careers in technology for underserved students in New York City by providing after-school computer science classes taught by software engineers who volunteer from major tech firms. Students who excel are eligible for paid summer internships at companies that include: AOL, Deutsche Bank, BNY Mellon, Warby Parker and Google.

BRONX LACROSSE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **DAN LEVENTHAL**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **BRYCE HALL-KNIGHT**

Using lacrosse as a vehicle to build community, improve academic performance, and develop social-emotional skills **Bronx Lacrosse** improves educational outcomes and life opportunities for underserved students in the South Bronx. Program participants are empowered on the field and in the classroom through mentoring, academic support, and behavior monitoring and intervention.

BROOKLYN BOATWORKS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **MAGGIE MCNICHOLAS**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **DOMINIQUE HOLMES**

Brooklyn Boatworks provides students in underserved communities with access to an inspiring boat-building program that cultivates academic and STEM skills, nurtures positive behavior development, and fosters cooperation, perseverance, and leadership development during the crucial “make or break” middle school years.

CITY GROWERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **BECCA DI MEO**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **CLARISSE MARIE VICTOIRE TEVES**

Harnessing the wonders of nature **City Growers** increases environmental and food literacy, cultivates curiosity, and provides transformative experiences for urban youth. City Growers’ hands-on curriculum and rooftop farms foster a love of nature, an understanding about where food comes from and why it matters.

CITY LIVING

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: **LIZ NORTHCUTT**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **TAMAINE HAMILTON**

City Living empowers youth aging out of the foster care system to achieve their personal goals and transition successfully into adulthood. They provide stability by giving clients urgently needed household goods in order to make their first apartment a home. They empower their clients to become stable and self-sufficient by making referrals to effective counseling, education, and job training programs.

DRAMA CLUB

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: **JOSIE WHITTLESEY**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **TIFFANY (TINY) CRUZ**

Drama Club cares for youth, especially incarcerated and court involved, by creating space for them to thrive, with improv as their guide. Drama Club offers theater and mentorship as social-emotional learning tools to improve the wellbeing of youth.

FUTURES IGNITE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: **MOLLY DELANO**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **OSMAIRY LEONARDO**

Working in New York City's racially and economically segregated public school system **Futures Ignite** advances a whole-school model of programming, counseling, and advocacy to equip BIPOC students to direct their college and career futures. They're committed to supporting all students — regardless of academic performance — to rise into their leadership potential.

HARLEM GROWN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **NICOLE ENGEL &**

PRESIDENT: **TONY HILLERY**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **JOHNNIE BAYLOR**

Food justice is about more than just providing and distributing food.

Harlem Grown provides hands-on education in urban farming, sustainability, and nutrition to elementary-aged students in Harlem by physically renovating abandoned lots and transforming them into urban farms.

Harlem Grown's model positively impacts the entire community through mentorship, job training, and partnerships to create sustainable change.





PARTNER PROGRAMS 2022-2024 (Continued)

HAROLD HUNTER FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **JESSICA FORSYTH**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **ARIEL PRADO**

Utilizing the power of skateboarding as a vehicle to transform lives **The Harold Hunter Foundation** provides underserved youth with valuable life experiences that nurture individual creativity, resourcefulness, and the development of life skills so they can reach their full potential as skateboarders and as people.

INSPIRING MINDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **KATRENA PEROU**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **KYLIE RICHARDSON**

Inspiring Minds engages, inspires, and empowers youth to reach their full potential through culturally-responsive programs and exposure to life-changing experiences. Their programs strengthen the connections between the youth, their community, and their education, giving them the confidence and support they need to excel in high school and beyond.

SEEDS OF FORTUNE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **NITIYA WALKER**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **NATALIE HENRY**

Seeds of Fortune seeks to increase financial security for young women of color by assisting them in acquiring scholarships and grants, strategic college and career resources, and personal financial management techniques. Their 6-year intensive curriculum includes the High School Seed Scholars program in partnership with Yale Women in Economics, Seed Online College Prep Network, and Seed University collegiate program.

STEM FROM DANCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **YAMILÉE TOUSSAINT BEACH**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **ANGELINE BENOIT**

STEM From Dance is working to create a future where minority women are the next generation of scientists, engineers, and coders. This program hooks middle school girls with an exciting dance program, then provides equal time to learning code to program the sets, light-up costumes, and design other production features. STEM From Dance is making sure that young women discover the awesomeness of STEM careers.

TECH KIDS UNLIMITED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **BETH ROSENBERG**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **AARON JEAN FRANCOIS**

Tech Kids Unlimited empowers neurodiverse students through computer science and technology skills. TKU inspires young people with disabilities to create, develop, and share the tools of technology in a supportive and nurturing environment. By addressing gaps in accessible technology education, TKU strives to change the paradigm of education and employment for neurodiverse students.

UPTOWN STORIES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **KATE REUTHER**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **DAVID NUNEZ**

Inspiring kids to discover and develop their inner voices in a diverse, challenging, and supportive community of writers, **Uptown Stories** offers small-group writing workshops led by master teachers and professional authors for children ages eight to eighteen.

YVOTE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **SANDA BALABAN**

YOUNG LEADER 2022: **KENISHA MAHAJAN**

YVote is creating a cross-partisan civic engagement movement through which young people channel their passions and beliefs into positive civic action, at and beyond the ballot box. Working with racially, economically, and politically diverse youth across New York City, YVote participants identify and unpack issues they're passionate about – such as affordable housing/gentrification, school desegregation, and mass incarceration – examining connections between these issues and the question of “why vote?”



CHAMPION FOR YOUTH
HONOREE



JEFFREY F. FASTOV

*SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR -
CREDIT STRATEGIES*
SQUARE MILE CAPITAL

Jeff is responsible for establishing, overseeing and implementing Square Mile's strategic direction with respect to all credit initiatives. Prior to joining Square Mile in 2013, Jeff served as co-head of Credit Suisse's Real Estate Finance and Securitization group. Prior to Credit Suisse, Jeff founded Oasis Real Estate Partners, a capital markets advisor to foreign and domestic financial institutions, private equity funds and other significant real estate credit market participants.

From 1992 to 2009, Jeff was with Goldman Sachs, where he ultimately served as co-head of its commercial real estate lending business. Jeff started his career at Moody's Investors Service where he established and led the Commercial Real Estate Ratings group from 1983 to 1992. Jeff received his B.A. from the University of Rochester and his M.B.A. from Columbia Business School. Jeff is proud to partner with SparkYouth NYC, supporting their critical mission of igniting growth and opportunity in the lives of NYC youth.



CHAMPION FOR YOUTH
HONOREE



HILARY SPANN

*EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT -
NEW YORK REGION*

BXP

Hilary Spann serves as BXP's Executive Vice President, New York Region. Ms. Spann brings to the Company more than 20 years of real estate investment and development experience, most recently the Head of Americas for Real Estate at CPP Investments. During her tenure at CPP, Ms. Spann was responsible for leading all aspects of the Americas real estate business, including investment strategy and execution, talent acquisition and management, and portfolio management. Prior to joining CPP Investments in 2016, Ms. Spann held several executive roles in acquisitions and asset management in the Global Real Assets Group at J.P. Morgan Asset Management, including as the head of acquisitions for the northeast region for real estate. Ms. Spann is a Governing Trustee of the Urban Land Institute, as well as a member of its Americas Executive Committee and she also serves as a Director of the ULI Foundation. Ms. Spann graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a BS and a Masters in City Planning, both from the College of Architecture. She also studied architecture at L'École Nationale Supérieure D'architecture de Paris – La Villette. Hilary is committed to expanding opportunity for young people, and she is honored to support SparkYouth NYC's critical work.



COMMUNITY IMPACT
HONOREE

BAABA K. HALM

VP & NEW YORK MARKET LEADER
ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Baaba Halm is the VP & New York Market Leader for Enterprise Community Partners, a national nonprofit on a mission to make home and community places of pride, power and belonging, and platforms for resilience and upward mobility for all.

Baaba leads a 50-person cross-functional team delivering program, capital and policy solutions to address New York's most complex housing challenges. Under Baaba's leadership, the New York market is increasing the housing supply, advancing racial equity, and building resilience and upward mobility through developing and deploying programs that focus on preservation, homelessness, fair housing, justice involved housing, faith-based development, economic mobility, leveraging the affordable housing sector to create career pathways, supporting BIPOC developers, and much more. Over more than 30 years, Enterprise has invested over \$3.9 billion to create or preserve over 73,000 homes in New York.

Baaba has two decades of experience in housing, community development, and policy, and a deep commitment to racial equity. She most recently served as the executive deputy commissioner and chief diversity officer at the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). There, she was second in command to the commissioner, overseeing six divisions; divisions included Asset & Property Management and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/EEO. During her tenure, she crafted the Equitable Ownership Requirement benefiting minority-owned developers and the agency's first in-kind program to foster the participation of minority vendors across the entire affordable housing portfolio; led HPD's assessment of equity and inclusion practices to strengthen the recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce; and partnered with Enterprise to create the Pathways to Opportunity Program for minority and women-owned business enterprises and nonprofits to become marketing agents for affordable housing projects.

Over Baaba's career, she has been deeply involved with housing policy and developed extensive relationships with New York legislators. As assistant commissioner managing the Government Relations and Regulatory Compliance department at HPD, she led legislative strategy and negotiation, working with federal, state, and local elected officials on policies from mandatory inclusionary housing to tenant protections. During her eight years with the New York City Council, she served in various legal and leadership roles, with responsibilities ranging from steering communications strategy to negotiating and drafting legislation. Baaba also brings rich experience from her work in the nonprofit sector at Covenant House New Jersey and Housing Works, where she focused on issues such as homelessness and housing discrimination. Baaba received a bachelor's degree from Morgan State University and a law degree from Brooklyn Law School.

CELEBRATING
OUR FIFTEEN

spark
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YOUNG LEADERS 2022

Melissa-Ray Bailey Gayle AMERICA ON TECH



What borough do you live in?
I live in the Bronx.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

I love the way my neighborhood creates a community around Caribbean culture. From the variety of restaurants to the small mom and pop shops. There is always a sense of deep cultural immersion when I go home every day.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

Hi, I'm Melissa-Ray Bailey Gayle! I'm a recent high school graduate, a nurse's aide, and an actor! I love discussing sexual health in different communities as well as social marketing events for different companies! If you want to plan a party I'm your girl!

How long have you participated in America on Tech?

I have participated in America on Tech for about two years now!

What spark has America on Tech ignited in you?

America on Tech has fulfilled every spark I ever wanted in my career. I am not a one-track person, I am a multifaceted individual which leads to a lot of confusion when it comes to picking a career. However, America on Tech has helped me with developing my passion for technology and my passion for communications and marketing to ultimately help others in my community.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

The opportunity I am most excited for is the continuation of my nurses aide job! I can truly see the impact those in the medical field have! As I progress in my career of supporting sexual health and technology, this job opportunity allows me to apply my past experiences to my future ones!

What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of being able to host, plan and fundraise for my school's prom event. As the prom committee president, I had to work through several challenges like the low amount of funds provided by the school to student engagement. I truly enjoyed every single moment and wish to plan more events with my position as co-president on the alumni council at America on Tech!



Bryce Hall-Knight
BRONX LACROSSE

What borough do you live in?

I live in The Bronx.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

My favorite thing about my neighborhood is the local food.

Being in the heart of the Bronx means that I am surrounded by different cultures and get to try cuisines from a variety of cultures.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I am 17 years old and currently attend the Urban Assembly Gateway School for Technology.

How long have you participated in Bronx Lacrosse?

I have been a participant of The Bronx Lacrosse program for two years.

What spark has Bronx Lacrosse ignited in you?

Thanks to Bronx Lacrosse I have not only strived to work harder as a player but also as a student. The program has sparked my passion to lead, learn, and always improve.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

I look forward to attending and playing lacrosse at Tufts University. I am excited to lend a hand with the younger participants of the Bronx Lacrosse program in the classroom and on the field through coaching and offering tutoring and homework support.

What are you most proud of?

I am proud that my hard work on the field and in the classroom has paid off as I will be attending Tufts University, which is my dream school.



Dominique Holmes
BROOKLYN BOATWORKS

What borough do you live in?

I live in Brooklyn. I lived in the Bronx for a while but eventually moved back to Brooklyn in the seventh grade.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

I like the accessibility – the fact that a lot of things needed to live properly are close by. There are buses, stores, and a movie theater I can walk to.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I attend Brooklyn Community Arts and Media High School. I'm starting my senior year! I love anything involving my creativity – especially the culinary arts. I used to do a lot of cooking. I love watching cooking videos instead of regular TV. I love cooking with my mom and on my own. I cook things for the family sometimes. One of my brothers makes really good cheesecakes, my other brother is good at mac n cheese, I'm good at normal meals and brownies.

How long have you participated in Brooklyn Boatworks?

I have been involved with Boatworks since 7th grade. After I graduated middle school I took a hiatus, but in 10th grade I got involved again. With the Alumni program, we went on an overnight trip on a tall ship. It was just cool and interesting to learn a bunch of things I never knew about. The visit to the water treatment plant was also interesting. I like to learn new things.

What spark has Brooklyn Boatworks ignited in you?

To build things. I like hands-on things. I'm the one that walks around the house and checks if all the screws are working, are tight and whatnot. I make things for my room. With Boatworks, we forged a hook out of metal. I decided to nail it to the wall in my room and turn it into a hook. I also took apart a cat tree, kept the parts, and made a smaller better cat tree. We have two cats at home.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

Culinary School, upcoming job opportunities – maybe nursing – and scholarships. I'm not sure yet, but I would like to start in a small restaurant and then maybe my own restaurant. I hope Boatworks might be able to help me find scholarships.

What are you most proud of?

My creations and My Family. I like to draw and use 3D software. Seeing peoples' reactions to my creations makes me happy. Seeing my family in a good mood also makes me happy.



Clarisse Marie Victoire Teves CITY GROWERS

What borough do you live in?

I live in Queens.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I love cheerleading, gardening, and cooking/baking, and I also volunteer and collaborate at a musical.

How long have you participated in City Growers?

I have participated in City Growers for 3 years.

What spark has City Growers ignited in you?

City Growers enabled me to have real-life experience with chickens, gardens, and bees, a lot of things not commonly taught in the standardized education system, even though their importance is vital in today's society.

I loved cooking, I never thought that I, as a kid, could experience and excel at something most adults hate, but learning where my produce came from really had an impact on the appreciation that I had for cuisine, and that passion is something I maintain to this day.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

When I graduate high school, I would like to major in fashion production and marketing, with a focus on sustainable fashion, so we don't have to endure the repercussions of fast fashion in the near future.

What are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of my impact on my community.

YOUNG
LEADERS
2022

Tamaine Hamilton CITY LIVING



What borough do you live in?

Thank you for asking, I live in Forest Hills Queens New York.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

It's quite interesting that you asked me this question. As of late I've been asking myself the same question and three major things stood out to me.

1. Forest Hills Queens is a lot safer than the South Bronx which is where I used to live
2. Greater access to resources and opportunities
3. Tons of amazing restaurants and eateries located right in my backyard

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I plan to continue making a difference by advocating for public policy reform regarding issues that impact foster youth and our broader society at large. My interest in political science was inspired by this work. I am now attending BMCC in pursuit of a political science degree and will one day run for office.

How long have you participated in City Living?

I have been a part of City Living for close to 5 years.

(Tamine continued)

What spark has City Living ignited in you?

The President and CEO of City Living had a bold vision to assist youth aging out of foster care. My motivation for starting a non-profit organization that empowers our most vulnerable has been inspired by this act of courage and compassion. With the right guidance, I am hopeful that this will soon become a reality.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

Ideally, I would like to gain insight into how to enter politics in order to make a positive contribution to society. Moreover, I am excited about the opportunity to work with my mentor to build an organization that meets the needs of the most vulnerable in our Society.

What are you most proud of?

Despite the many challenges I have faced, I am most proud of my ability to persevere and make it easier for younger generations. Furthermore, I am most proud of inspiring change in many people, including young adults and government officials.



Tiffany (Tiny) Cruz
DRAMA CLUB

**YOUNG
LEADERS
2022**

What borough do you live in?

I am a resident of Jackson Heights, Queens.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

My favorite thing about my neighborhood is that there are so many different foods from so many different countries.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I am from Puerto Rico and Peru, I'm the second oldest of 4 kids. The last school I attended before I was arrested in 2015 was Newtown High School.

How long have you participated in Drama Club?

I was a participant in Drama Club from 2015-2018.
I have been working for Drama Club since 2018.

What spark has Drama Club ignited in you?

Honestly, everything that Drama Club did for me as an incarcerated adolescent helped me change ME for the better. It was the familiar faces, the check-ins, giving me a space to be myself, and really being cared about when no one else cared. That was the push I needed that opened my eyes and made me want to do the work I do. I will continue to be there for each and every young person I teach because I know how much that meant to me. The change always starts with you and once you have that down, the rest will flow.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

In the future I look forward to being able to teach the Drama Club classes in Rikers Island and being a youth engagement specialist.

What are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of myself and how I changed my whole life around. It's not easy to go from being all kinds of bad to being someone who others look up to. I'm proud of how I pushed myself to be where I am now - a Teaching Artist for incarcerated youth. If I did it, I know I can help the youth I come across. Everyone deserves to be heard no matter their circumstances.

**Osmairy Leonardo
FUTURES IGNITE**



What borough do you live in?

I live in Manhattan.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

One of my favorite things about my neighborhood is the pride of the people who live there.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I attend Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School, which is located in Washington Heights, a community in uptown Manhattan with predominantly Latinx and Caribbean roots.

How long have you participated in Futures Ignite?

I've been a part of Futures Ignite for four years.

What spark has Futures Ignite ignited in you?

Futures Ignite has ignited the spark of leadership in me by providing me with opportunities for internships and programs that help me build the blocks of my future. I've also served on the Youth Ambassadors Committee, supporting partnership development and the creation of the organization's annual gala. I also serve on the Board's Program Committee.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

I'm excited to continue my college journey and learn from my community along the process. I took two college-level classes at Syracuse University through a scholarship program this summer.



**Johnnie Baylor
HARLEM GROWN**

What borough do you live in?

I live in Manhattan.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

My favorite thing about my neighborhood is all of the activities; there is always something to do.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I am originally from CA and moved to Harlem, with my mom, from our last home in Houston a little over one year ago. I am currently attending P.S. 75.

How long have you participated in Harlem Grown?

I have participated in Harlem Grown for over one year.

What spark has Harlem Grown ignited in you?

Harlem Grown has inspired me to eat more healthy and give back to my community.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

I am excited to continue traveling with my family and learning more about other places and cultures.

What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my mom. She works hard for us to have a good life.



Ariel Prado
HAROLD HUNTER FOUNDATION

What borough do you live in?

I have resided in Yonkers, New York for a large part of my life. However, my family and I have always spent the majority of our time in the Uptown and Manhattan areas.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

For the last 3 years, the skate park at Van Cortlandt has been without a doubt my favorite feature of the neighborhood. It constantly radiates a positive and welcoming energy to all who enter and serves as a sanctuary to countless skateboarders.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I am a mix of Italian, and Puerto Rican. I have recently graduated from Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies. I have a passion for skateboarding and teaching and am always ready to give a helping hand.

How long have you participated in Harold Hunter Foundation?

I have participated in the Harold Hunter Foundation for a year and a half.

What spark has Harold Hunter Foundation ignited in you?

The Harold Hunter Foundation has helped me find ways to successfully accomplish my goals on and off a skateboard. Such as building my skating skills and connections through access to skate parks and events, helped me find many friends to relate to and grow with, gifted me with mentors to learn from and converse with, and most importantly granted me a way to help others.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

I am looking forward to future opportunities with HHF, filming and advertising for skateboarding brands, and a possible job giving skateboarding lessons to the youth.

What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my ability to balance out the numerous tasks in my life, such as helping out with my brother who is very ill, constantly practicing and leveling up my skating, helping out my friends who need somebody to talk to, and tons of other day to day tasks.



Kylie-Nilah Richardson
INSPIRING MINDS NYC

What borough do you live in?

Currently have residences in both Brooklyn and Manhattan.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

Brooklyn - the diversity and the familiarity of my neighborhood. There are people of all races and ethnicities interacting and exchanging energy.

Manhattan - There is always an activity to do and new foods to try. The bus and train are also always close in order to travel.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I was born and raised in Bushwick, Brooklyn and then East New York. I graduated from School For Classics as valedictorian and I now attend Hunter College through the Macaulay Honors scholarship.

How long have you participated in Inspiring Minds?

I've participated in Inspiring Minds NYC for 2 years now.

What spark has Inspiring Minds ignited in you?

Inspiring Minds NYC has made me passionate about helping my people, other minorities. It has encouraged me to want to help in any way I can and I had decided that way would be education and politics. I want to use my current and future knowledge of minority history to uplift and educate minority youth to realize that they are better than how they are portrayed and told they will be. I also want to use politics and my public speaking to be their voice to higher up governmental positions.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

I am looking forward to continuing my work with Inspiring Minds this fall as my position expands and I get to reach more of the youth in person. I am also looking forward to potentially expanding my own political literacy program as I search for more funding and opportunities for it.

What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of all of the work I've done through IM NYC for minority youth. I am proud of the public speaking and serious conversations about human rights and oppression with the youth and my own loved ones. I am also proud of being able to go to college for free as I grow and hopefully find the perfect career for me as college goes.



**Natalie Henry
SEEDS OF FORTUNE**

What borough do you live in?

I live in Brooklyn.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

I love that my neighborhood is not just a body of people living together. It's a community. A community of people from very diverse backgrounds with different perspectives. It all comes together to be the fun and cultural environment that we all call Brooklyn.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I was born and raised in Brooklyn and I'm a senior at the High School of Fashion Industries in Chelsea, NY. I hold leadership positions in various organizations that focus on youth advocacy for wellness, racial equity, and sexual health.

How long have you participated in Seeds of Fortune?

I participated with Seeds of Fortune for two years.

What spark has Seeds of Fortune ignited in you?

Seeds of Fortune has made me realize that there are many possibilities for getting a degree for free. This program also opened my eyes to going to college and leaving with more than an education, but with other opportunities such as internship experience, work-study, and more. I'm now committed to doing my research and finding what's out there for me.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

I am thrilled to start my college journey. Usually fear and anxiety arise when I think about my senior year, but with Seeds of Fortune I feel supported through this process. I've decided to concentrate in business as I love to create and lead initiatives around my community. Majors such as marketing, communications, and management interest me the most but I'm open to exploring electives in the arts.

In the near future, I will be taking college classes at University of Chicago next summer under a scholarship program.



**Angeline Benoit
STEM FROM DANCE**

What borough do you live in?

I live in Brooklyn, New York.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

One thing I love about my neighborhood is that the people here are very genuine.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

I attend Uncommon Preparatory Charter High School.

How long have you participated in STEM from Dance?

I have been participating in STEM From Dance for 3 years.

What spark has STEM from Dance ignited in you?

STEM from Dance ignited me with confidence in everything I do and want to do in life.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to going to college and advancing my studies.

What are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of the opportunity I got through dancing to bless people's lives.



**Aaron Jean Francois
TECH KIDS UNLIMITED**

What borough do you live in?

I live in Brooklyn.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

My favorite thing is that it's quiet and the people are friendly.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend

I attended The SEEALL Academy (PS/IS 180) from 2008 to 2017, Midwood High School from 2017 to 2021, and I currently attend Brooklyn College with the goal of pursuing a degree in education. I'm a green belt in karate, I like computer programming and editing videos, and I also love spending time with family and friends.

How long have you participated in Tech Kids Unlimited?

I have participated in Tech Kids Unlimited from 2019.

What spark has Tech Kids Unlimited ignited in you?

Tech Kids Unlimited ignited the passion to expand my knowledge about computers and technology.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to embarking on my teaching career.

What are you most proud of?

I'm very proud of all I've accomplished as an autistic person. I'm most proud that I got accepted to Brooklyn College in 2021, which was my first choice.

**David Nunez
UPTOWN STORIES**



What borough do you live in?

I live in Manhattan.

What is your favorite thing about your neighborhood?

My favorite thing about my neighborhood is how there is a lot of culture in Washington Heights. There are a lot of people here that come from different backgrounds, especially from the Dominican Republic. Since my family is from the Dominican Republic, my neighborhood gives me the opportunity to experience my family's background firsthand. At Uptown Stories (which is in upper Washington Heights), the majority of the students have different backgrounds and cultures. Washington Heights is a neighborhood that receives everyone with open arms.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

My family comes from the Dominican Republic, and I was born in New York City. Since 6th grade, I've attended Columbia Secondary School, which is a great school. I love how not only do they care about the students' education, but about the students' well-being.

How long have you participated in Uptown Stories?

I've participated in Uptown Stories for five years.

What spark has Uptown Stories ignited in you?

Uptown Stories has ignited my passion for poetry, something that I didn't even know I had. Before I started participating in Uptown Stories I would write straight to the point, however, I knew that I had so much more to say. Since I started taking Uptown Stories, I realized that there are no restrictions to what we write, and to how we write. Unlike in school where I was forced to follow certain guidelines even if it is "free writing", Uptown Stories let me write however I wanted to. Because of this, I got to explore more genres, including poetry (which I really enjoy), and I got to unleash my creativity. This summer I took a new class with them, Horror Unleashed. I didn't expect to have as much fun with it as I did, mainly because I haven't explored horror in school or even in my free time. However, as the class went on, I realized how fun it was to try something new, and I really enjoyed writing horror and getting to add twists and make it how I wanted.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

Right now, my plan is to focus on getting into a good university and to continue my passion of reading and writing. Once I am not able to take classes with Uptown Stories because of my age, I plan on volunteering with them.

It is an amazing place that is a great example of the open arms I mentioned before. I am looking forward to working with the teachers at Uptown Stories in a different way, and especially to help the students who are learning that they can take a step out of the box at Uptown Stories.

What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my work that I have done during my time at Uptown Stories. Uptown Stories allowed me to open up, to see things differently, and to share my creativity with more people.

They've helped me grow my spark and to improve it, to make it the best it could be. My stories and poems that I've written at Uptown Stories are an example of my growth and of how much they've helped me improve as a writer.



Kenisha Mahajan
YVOTE

What borough do you live in?

I live in Queens.

Tell us a little about your background and/or what school you attend.

Growing up in India and then moving to the United States, I was exposed to two very different conceptions of democracy. Through social studies classes in elementary school or debate team in middle school, I fostered my passion for politics and social justice.

How long have you participated in YVote?

I'm currently a facilitator at YVote and have participated in YVote for nearly three years now.

What spark has YVote ignited in you?

Through YVote, I've learned the value of different perspectives and how to engage in cross-partisan dialogue. Collaborating with other young activists, allies, and organizations has enabled me to see the significance of young people's voices and intergenerational dialogue in action.

What future opportunity are you looking forward to?

My participation in YVote has also had a great influence on my intended college and career paths, and I look forward to completing the college process and continuing my advocacy work after high school. Specifically, working with the Criminal Justice Action group since my first year at YVote has grown my interest in and passion for criminal justice reform and I hope to further my involvement with criminal justice activism over the next few years.

What are you most proud of?

As a facilitator and participant, I'm proud that YVote has been able to impact our community in so many different ways, whether it's on the larger-scale through policy work like the NYC Youth Agenda or on a smaller scale with our Civic Expo and various programs.

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Congratulations to tonight's honorees and SparkYouth's 2022 leaders.

Congratulations to our colleague
JEFF FASTOV



on his honor from

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L&L Holding Company is proud to support the efforts of SparkYouth NYC and their mission to ignite growth in community-based programs to expand opportunities for the young people of New York City.

Congratulations to this year's honorees,

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Senior Managing Director, Credit Strategies
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Hilary Spann

Executive Vice President, New York Region
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Baaba K. Halm

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CONGRATULATIONS

TO TONIGHT'S HONOREES

HILARY SPANN

JEFF FASTOV

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BAABA HALM

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Congratulations to

Hilary Spann, Jeffrey Fastov and
Baaba Halm on their recognition



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Arnold & Porter is proud to support **SparkYouth NYC** and we congratulate our friend, **Jeff Fastov**, on receiving the **Champion for Youth Award**.

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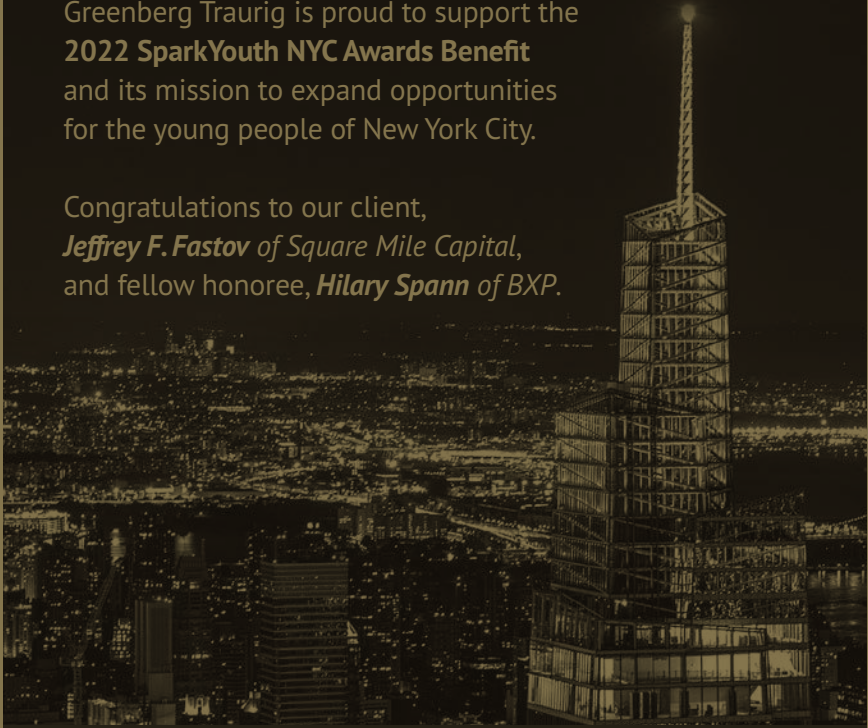
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Our Community, Our Responsibility

Greenberg Traurig is proud to support the **2022 SparkYouth NYC Awards Benefit** and its mission to expand opportunities for the young people of New York City.

Congratulations to our client, **Jeffrey F. Fastov** of *Square Mile Capital*, and fellow honoree, **Hilary Spann** of *BXP*.



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Congratulations Hilary Spann

The Rudin Family is delighted to support our friend Hilary Spann, Champion for Youth Honoree.

We would also like to extend a warm congratulations to fellow Champion For Youth Award recipient, **Jeffrey F. Fastov**, as well as Community Impact Award Honoree **Baaba K. Halm**.

With an unwavering love of our City, we are proud to support SparkYouth's critical mission in providing opportunities for New York City's youth.



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Leading the Way

King & Spalding proudly supports SparkYouth NYC, and we join in congratulating tonight's honorees, including our friend **Jeffrey Fastov** of Square Mile Capital. We salute your dedication to empowering youth and expanding opportunities for the people of New York City.

A graphic of a paper chain made of silhouettes of people holding hands, set against a background of a sunset or sunrise over water.

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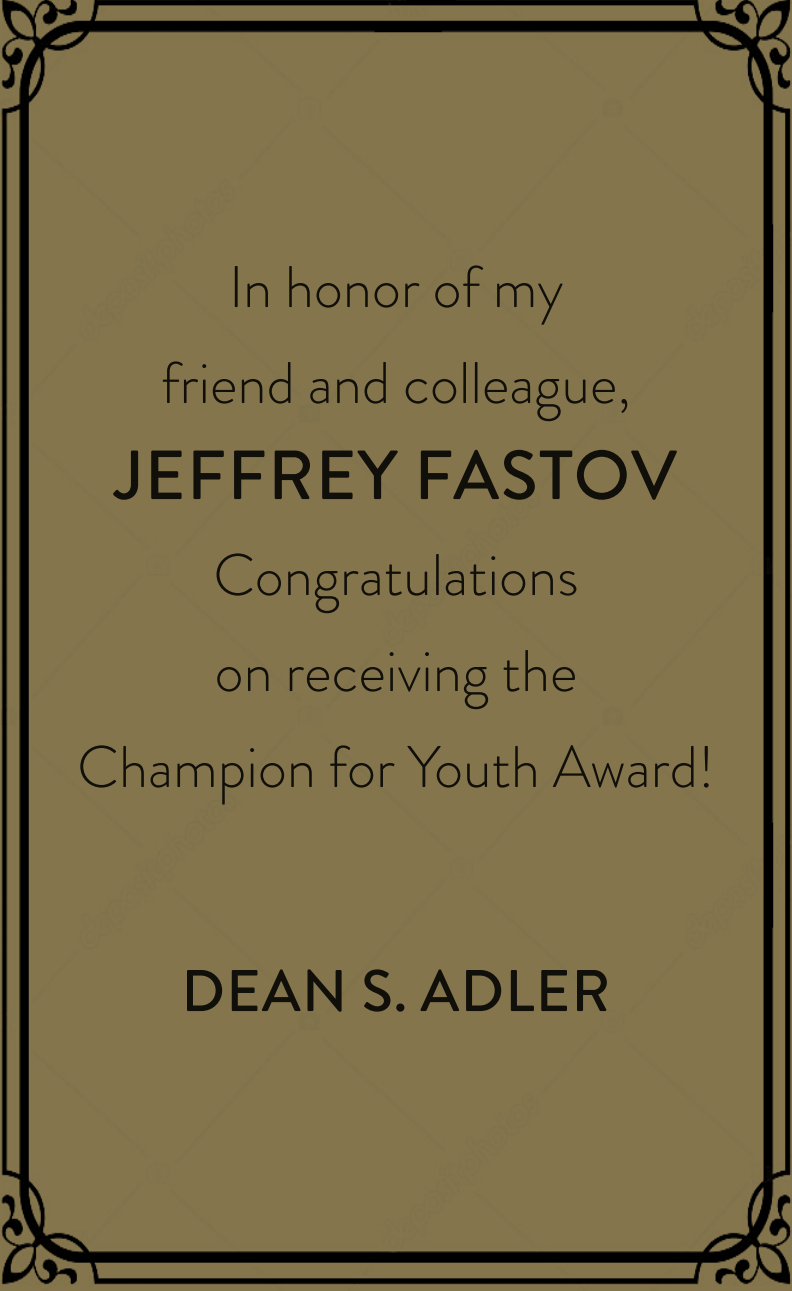
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In honor of my
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JEFFREY FASTOV

Congratulations
on receiving the
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DEAN S. ADLER



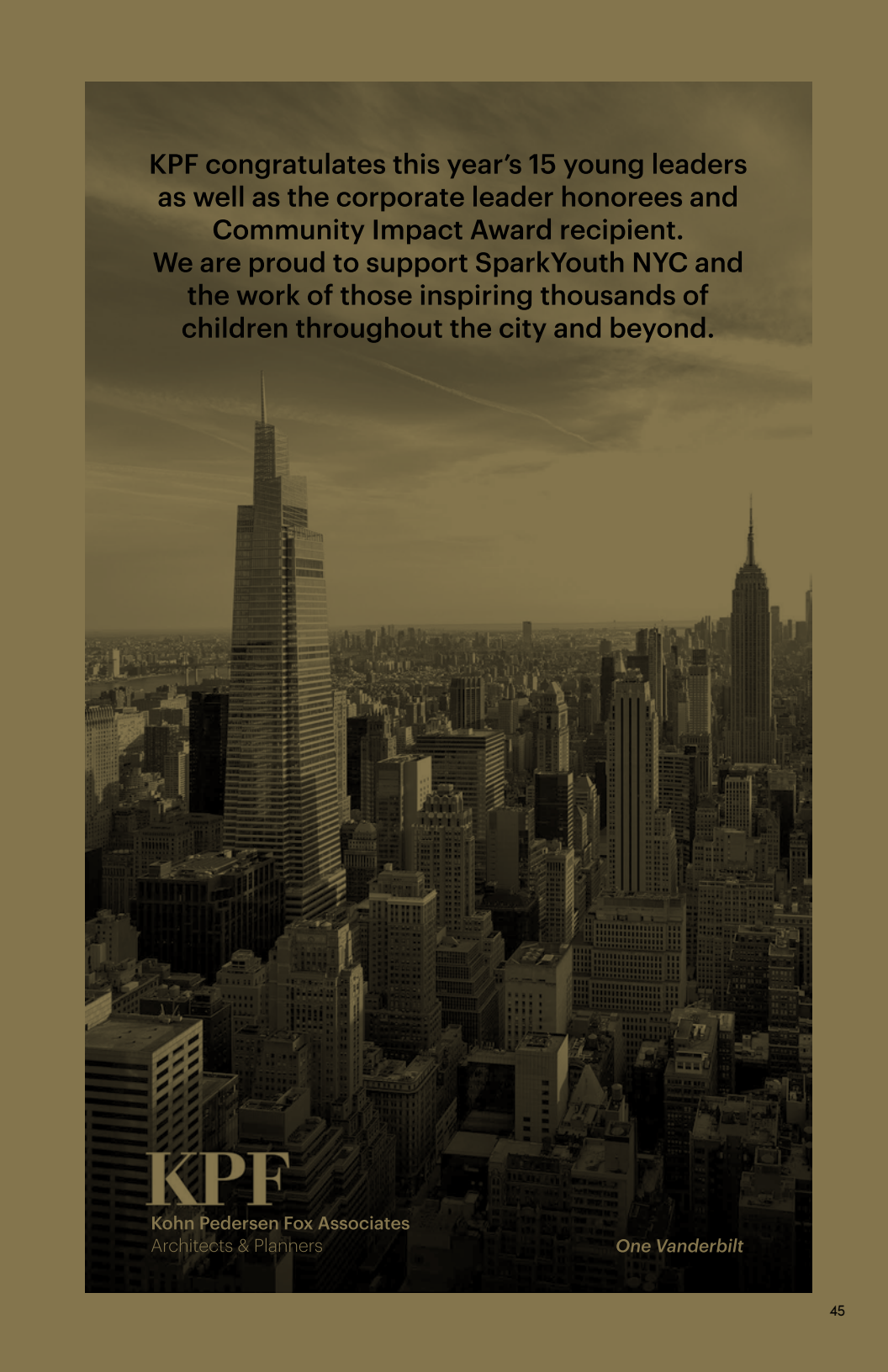
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We thank SparkYouth NYC for their great work creating opportunities for children in our community and applaud the efforts of board members Adam Schwartz & Matt Lazar.



Congratulations to this year's honorees,
Jeffrey Fastov, Hilary Spann & Baaba Halm



**KPF congratulates this year's 15 young leaders
as well as the corporate leader honorees and
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*Senior Managing Director – Credit Strategies
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Congratulations this year's honorees,

Jeffrey F. Fastov

Senior Managing Director, Credit Strategies
Square Mile Capital

Hilary Spann

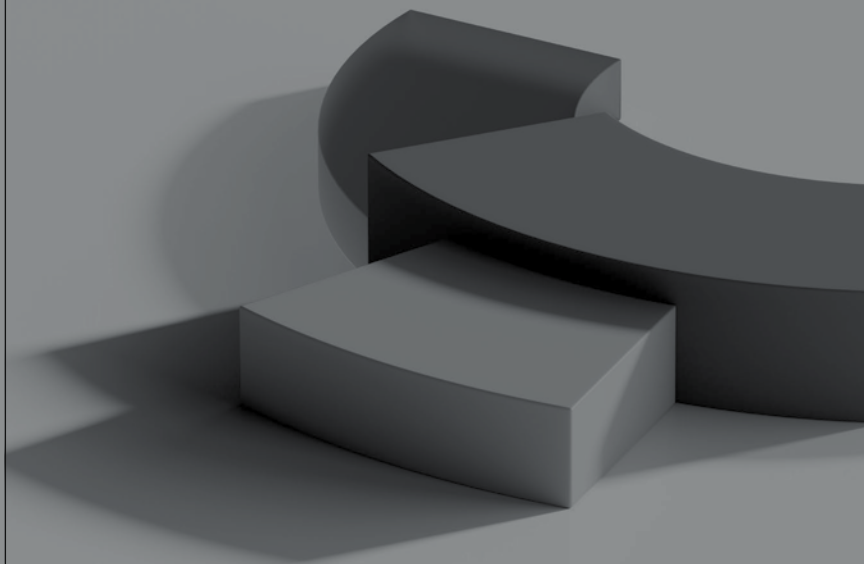
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Once you get there,
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— J.P. Morgan



J.P. Morgan Asset Management salutes
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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



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Congratulations to Champion of Youth Award honorees

Jeffrey F. Fastov and Hilary Spann

and Community Impact Award honoree

Baaba K. Halm

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Congratulations to Hilary Spann
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An aerial, black and white photograph of the New York City skyline. The Manhattan Bridge is prominent in the foreground, crossing the East River. The dense cluster of skyscrapers in Midtown Manhattan, including the Freedom Tower, is visible in the background. The image is used as a background for the text.

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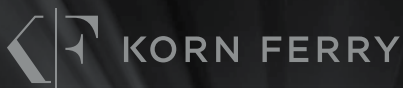
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A warm congratulations to Champion for Youth Award Honorees – **Jeffrey Fastov & Hilary Spann** – and Community Impact Award Honoree – **Baaba Halm!**

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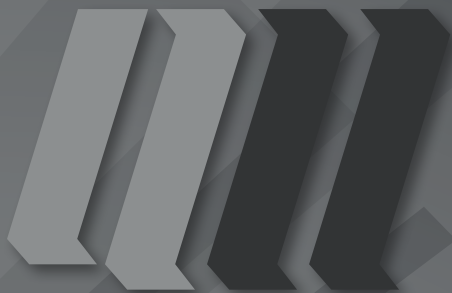
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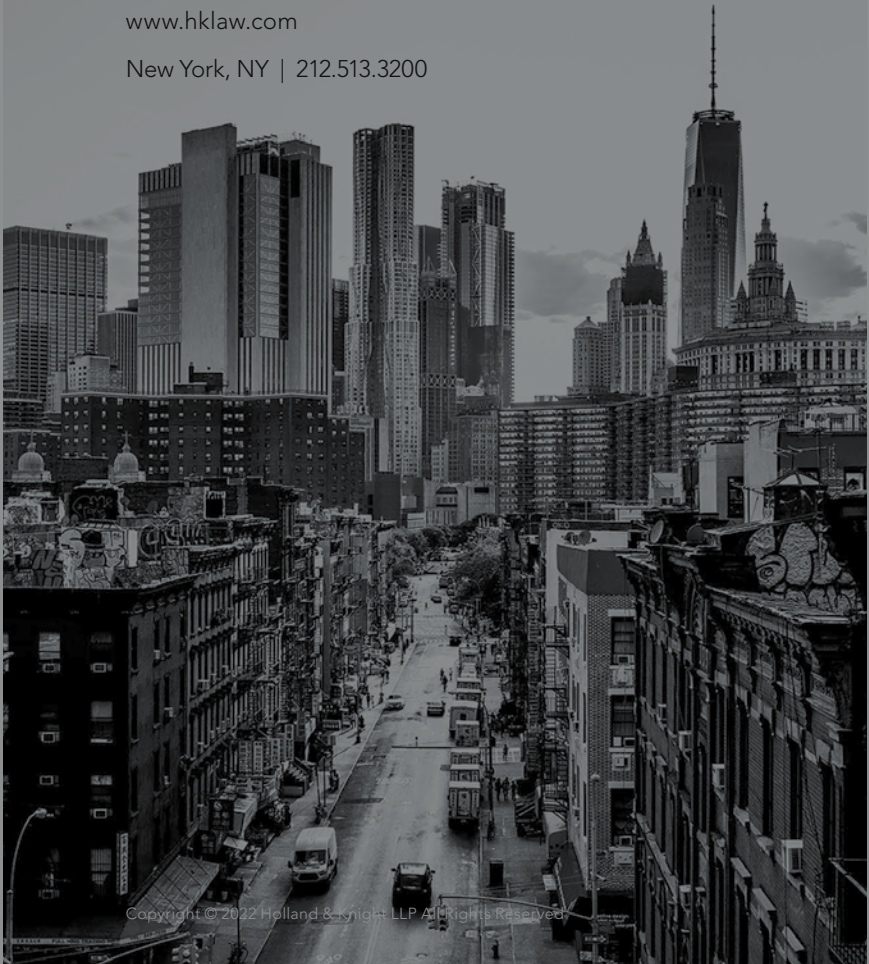
and its 2022 Awards Benefit.

We congratulate the 2022 honorees for their many contributions to the community and to the young people of New York City.

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Madison Capital is pleased to support
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We join in honoring our dear friends
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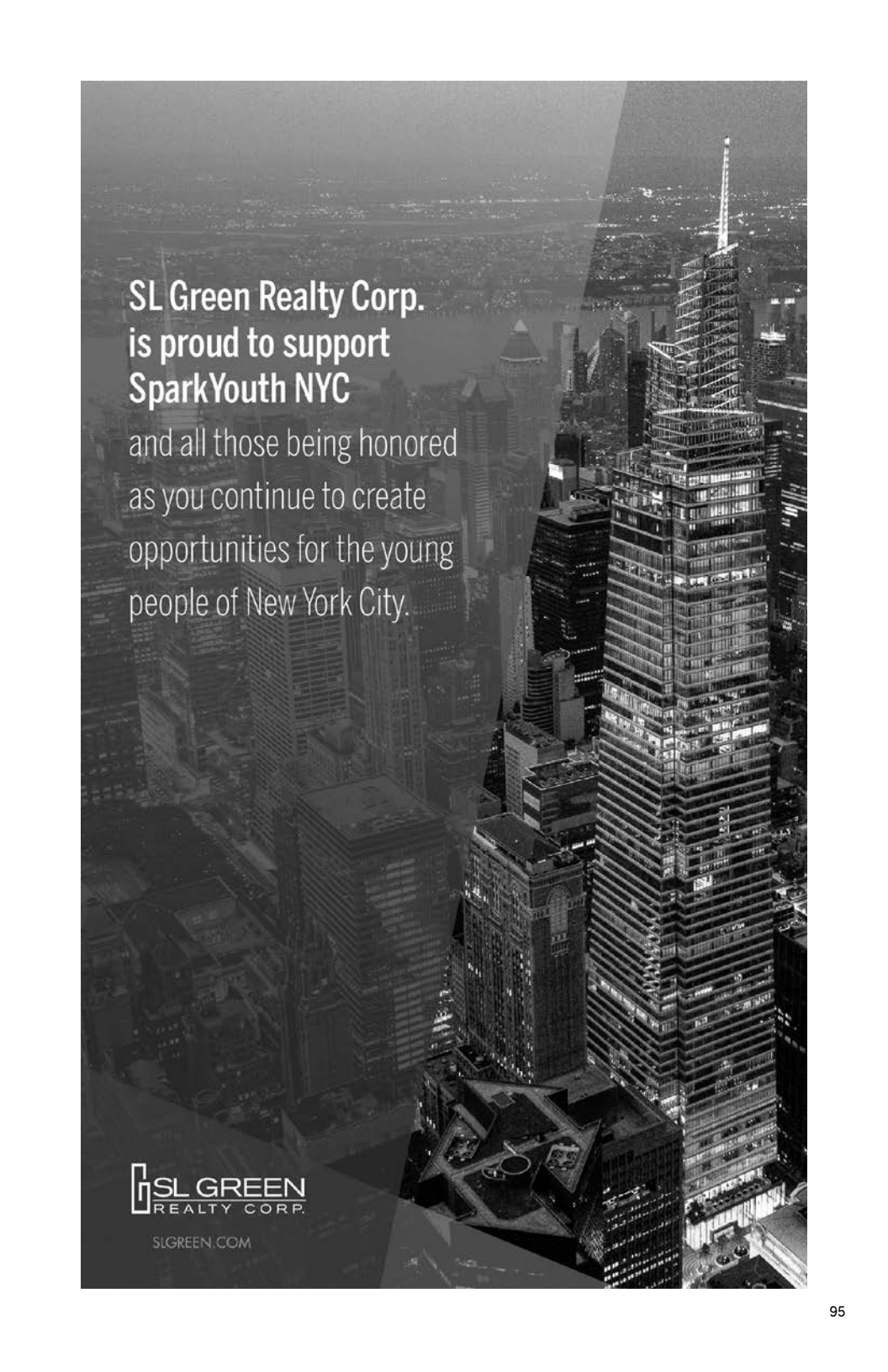
Artemis Real Estate Partners Congratulates

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**Thank you to tonight's
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Colliers acknowledges SparkYouth's efforts of providing opportunities that boost the success of local programs and accelerate the growth of our city's youth.

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