



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NBK PARKS MARKS MILESTONE DECADE ANNOUNCES HONOREES FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

September 5, 2023 — North Brooklyn Parks Alliance (NBK Parks) is pleased to announce its esteemed honorees to mark a major milestone at its **20th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, October 5, 2023**. The first organization of its kind since its formation two decades ago, NBK Parks has remained New York City's only district-wide parks conservancy, serving all of Brooklyn's Community Board 1. Founded in 2003, NBK Parks' mission was born out of the rezoning along Greenpoint and Williamsburg's waterfront and continues today with the transformation and maintenance of public spaces across North Brooklyn, ensuring that resources are invested with an eye toward equity.

On October 5th at one of Greenpoint's most innovative spaces, Under the K Bridge Park, North Brooklyn Parks Alliance will honor individuals and businesses who came together two decades ago to form the organization and remain connected to our strategic initiatives today: Norm and Elaine Brodsky, Brooklyn Brewery, and Joseph Vance. In looking ahead, NBK Parks is also proud to honor a new partner, LadyFag, who embodies the potential of Under the K as a cultural destination and open air event space.

Few people are as well known on the waterfront as **Norm and Elaine Brodsky**. Norm was a founding director of our organization and instrumental in the acquisition of Bushwick Inlet Park. Together, Norm and Elaine, who is the Chair of North Brooklyn Chamber, led local businesses through the rezoning, the pandemic, and the area's transformation.

Steve Hindy, founder of **Brooklyn Brewery**, was also one of our founding directors and led the board as its chair for more than a decade. Today, as Brooklyn Brewery establishes a new home on North 15th Street, we are working together to establish a network of public spaces along the corridor that connects McCarren and Bushwick Inlet Parks.

The longest-serving Board Member and also a founding director, **Joseph Vance** has been an anchor for the organization for two decades. An award-winning architect, he steered the Board through the design and construction of its keystone project, Under the K Bridge Park.

Well known as an artist, producer, and writer, **LadyFag** is a legend in NYC's nightlife. A longtime Greenpoint resident, she transformed Under the K Bridge Park last June into "LadyLand," where 6,000 people gathered in a glorious celebration of Queer culture during Pride NYC.

"This year's anniversary gala will pay homage to the people who envisioned the future of public space in our neighborhood, those who helped to build it, and those who are elevating public space to epic levels in the years to come," said **NBK Parks Executive Director Katie Denny Horowitz**.

On October 5th, NBK Parks will also present the 2023 Sister Francis Kress “Eco-Warriors” who have made a positive impact on parks and open spaces in our communities. Sister Kress (1914-1917), a beloved North Brooklyn figure, was the first to investigate Newtown Creek's historic oil spill and worked tirelessly to implement the Clean Air and Clean Water Quality Acts. This year we are honoring the next generation of advocates and stewards—the youth who are already showing up for their communities. Recipients will be announced in a later release.

ABOUT THE GALA

The 20th Anniversary Gala will take place from 6:30-10:00 PM on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at Under the K Bridge Park. Tickets go on live today, Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

The gala will be held in the waterfront “Creekside” section of Under the K Bridge Park that abuts the Newtown Creek and has panoramic views of the Manhattan skyline. At night, the cathedral-like park space under the Kosciuszko Bridge is spectacularly illuminated by the glow of the bridge’s light show. The Gala’s proceeds will provide crucial funds to support the mission and work of NBK Parks.

- [Support: Sponsor our 20th Anniversary Gala](#)
- [Watch: NBK Parks 20th Annual Gala \(2023\)](#)
- [Watch: The Sister Francis Kress Environmental Award](#)

ABOUT OUR HONOREES

NORM & ELAINE BRODSKY

Norm Brodsky has created dozens of companies—including three chosen for [Inc. Magazine’s](#) Inc. 500 list—and is the first entrepreneur to win Inc. Magazine’s Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the former co-owner of CitiStorage, which was the largest independent and privately owned archive business in the country. Norm is currently Inc. Magazine’s [Street Smarts columnist](#) and the Entrepreneur-in-Residence of [Birthing of Giants](#) Entrepreneur Fellowship Program. In 2019, Norm’s alma mater, Rider University, named their accredited business and accounting college [The Norm Brodsky College of Business](#) in his honor. **Elaine Brodsky** is the former co-owner of CitiStorage. Elaine was the winner of the 2006 [Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year](#) regional award for New York City and received the 2007 [National Association of Women Business Owners](#) Lifetime Achievement Award. She was an active member of the Board of the [League Education and Treatment Center](#) and the [North Brooklyn Angels](#), and is currently the Chairperson of the [North Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce](#).

[honorees continue on next page]

JOSEPH VANCE is the owner of the award-winning architectural and interior design firm [Joseph Vance Architects](#), specializing in townhouse and brownstone renovations that have been featured in *House & Garden*, *Vogue*, and *The New York Times*. He is a founding director and longest sitting board member of the [North Brooklyn Parks Alliance](#) and is currently serving as Board Secretary. Previously, he was the co-chair of the [Greenpoint Waterfront Association for Parks and Planning](#) for five years and on the board of the [Brooklyn Greenway Initiative](#) for eight years.

BROOKLYN BREWERY, founded by [Steve Hindy](#) and Tom Potter, has been operating in Williamsburg since 1990. In 2014, Brewmaster [Garret Oliver](#) became the first brewer to win a James Beard Award and the company ranks in the top 10 of Brewers Association [Top 50 Craft Brewing Companies](#), based on sales in 2022. Under the current leadership of [CEO Eric Ottoway](#) and President Robin Ottoway, Brooklyn Brewery will [relocate to 1 Wythe Ave](#), bringing highly anticipated new development to the Williamsburg-Greenpoint Industrial Business Zone.

RAYNE BARON, known professionally as [Ladyfag](#), is a New York City-based writer, performer, nightlife personality, and the producer behind such long-running NYC parties as [Battle Hymn](#), [Holy Mountain](#), [11:11](#), and [Mouth Your Body](#). She was dubbed “a nightlife sorceress” by [The New York Times](#) and “the woman saving New York nightlife” by [Paper](#). Regarding the recent move of [Ladyland](#)—her outdoor music festival for and by queer people, to [Under the K Bridge Park](#)—[Ladyfag said](#): “The fact that there’s a state park hosting us reminds me that I live in New York, and that’s a special thing. The city has been really supportive.”

ABOUT NORTH BROOKLYN PARKS ALLIANCE

Founded in 2003 and formerly know as Open Space Alliance, North Brooklyn Parks Alliance (NBK Parks) is NYC’s only district-wide parks conservancy, with a mandate to serve all of the parks and open spaces throughout Brooklyn Community Board 1 (Greenpoint / Williamsburg). We partner with city and state agencies, elected officials, and the community to provide services that directly improve the ecology and quality of life in our neighborhoods. Our mission is to create a vibrant, accessible, and equitable parks and open space system in North Brooklyn.

nbkpark.org, [@nbkpark](#), [#nbkpark](#)

Media Contact

Karrie Witkin, Manager: PR and Fundraising / karrie@nbkpark.org / 917-593-3080