

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: James Garcia, jgarcia@cityhall.nyc.gov, (347) 803-0526

**THE MAYOR'S FUND TO ADVANCE NEW YORK CITY AND NYC SERVICE ANNOUNCE
2021 LOVE YOUR BLOCK GRANT RECIPIENTS**

13 resident-led groups across New York City have been awarded the "Love Your Block" grant of \$1,000 to revitalize a public space in their neighborhood

NEW YORK — The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and NYC Service have launched the *2021 Love Your Block* initiative, awarding 13 resident-led groups from across the city with a \$1,000 grant to help beautify their block and engage neighborhood volunteers to bring about local change.

In its 12th year, the *Love Your Block* initiative continues to champion civic engagement by empowering communities to take pride and ownership of their communities. For over a decade, this initiative has awarded 390 grantees, engaged more than 10,500 volunteers and has leveraged a total of \$390,000 dollars to revitalize 20 miles of public space in all five boroughs to date. All *Love Your Block* grantees receive the support of community volunteers and services from City agency partners including: New York City Department of Environmental Protection, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, The City of New York Department of Sanitation, and New York City Department of Transportation.

"The City is proud to invest in 13 resident-led community groups through the *Love Your Block* initiative," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. "Our community leaders are the resident experts of their neighborhoods, and I look forward to celebrating how they bring forth their unique visions of beautifying public, shared spaces for the benefit of their neighbors and our city."

"Over the last 12 years, *Love Your Block* continues to be a connector between resident-led groups and our City – supporting people power to address the needs they see street by street, block by block," said **Acting NYC Chief Service Officer Laura Rog**. "Resident engagement is critical to our neighborhoods, uniting and empowering residents to make communities and our City thrive."

"When city residents feel empowered to improve their own neighborhoods and take pride in where they live, it not only benefits the entire community, it improves quality of life for all New Yorkers," said **Daniele Baierlein and Jorge Luis Paniagua Valle, Co-Executive Directors of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City**. "By investing in our city and our neighbors, New Yorkers will, in turn, invest in a brighter and more prosperous future for generations to come, one block at a time."

The *Love Your Block* initiative will help build on New York City's recovery process by delivering tangible results to communities who need it most. This grant funding will go towards educating New York City residents on the tools and City agency services available to them, that when taken advantage of, can increase quality of life through improved public and community spaces. In an effort to combat the crippling effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Mayor's Fund

to Advance New York City and NYC Service sought to reach more residents and covering more miles in hardest-hit COVID-19 neighborhoods.

The 2021 *Love Your Block* grantees include:

Brooklyn

- Str8OuttaBklyn, Ocean Hill
- Southside Homeowners Association, South Williamsburg
- Flatbush Cleanup, Flatbush
- Crown Street Block Association, Crown Heights
- Lincoln Road R & B Block Association, Prospect Lefferts Gardens
- 300 Halsey Street Block Association, Bedford-Stuyvesant
- 400 Bainbridge Street Block Association, Bedford Stuyvesant

Queens

- Proud Astorian, Astoria
- Seagirt Avenue & Friends Block Association, Far Rockaway
- Maspeth Making a Difference, Maspeth
- Gateway Bike & Boathouse, Rockaway

Bronx

- The Neighborhood Advisory Community Garden, Melrose

Manhattan

- Central Park North Block Association, Harlem

“The *Love Your Block* grant is one of many ways New York City supports residents who want to help keep their neighborhoods clean, and DSNY is pleased to supply the awardees with the tools they need. We join the Mayor’s Fund and NYC Service in congratulating all of the recipients,” said **New York Sanitation Department Commissioner Edward Grayson**.

“One major lesson of the last difficult year of COVID is how precious we have all found our shared outdoor open spaces, including the streets themselves,” said **DOT Commissioner Hank Gutman**. “The *Love Your Block* initiative predates *Open Streets* and all the other programs we have created to safely address the pandemic – but it has the same wonderful spirit. *Love Your Block* recognizes that we New Yorkers are at our best when we can be outdoors -- sharing experiences with family, friends and neighbors. We heartily congratulate all this year’s grantees for their dedication and commitment to a more unified and beautiful.”

“As the steward of more than 30,000 acres of public land, NYC Parks relies greatly on the contributions of volunteers – especially throughout the pandemic,” said **NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP**. “The *Love Your Block* initiative inspires New Yorkers to lend a helping hand to care for their neighborhood’s shared spaces, making them beautiful and welcoming to all. Special thanks to the Mayor’s Fund and NYC Service for their continued partnership and for providing residents with valuable resources that keep our city green.”

“As all New Yorkers endeavor to become better stewards of our shared environment it is encouraging to see so many groups across the five boroughs taking action to improve their communities and the health of our planet,” said **DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**.

"Congratulations to all the recipients of the 2021 *Love Your Block* initiative, particularly the Central Park North Block Association here in Manhattan," said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. "The *Love Your Block* initiative is a great way to encourage the most local form of civic involvement. By providing individual blocks with tools that they need to address sanitation, safety, and beautification issues, we enhance everyone's quality of life."

About the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization working with 50 City agencies and offices, 300 institutional funders, and 100 community-based partners. The Mayor's Fund works in partnership with the business and philanthropic communities to advance initiatives that improve the lives of residents in all five boroughs. It seeks to seed promising, evidence-based models; evaluate the efficacy of new public programs and policies; bring innovative solutions to scale; and respond to the emerging needs of the city by building public-private partnerships. First Lady of New York City Chirlane McCray is chair of the Mayor's Fund Board of Directors. In addition, the Mayor's Fund has an Advisory Board of prominent civic and business leaders to advise and assist the Board of Directors. Follow the Mayor's Fund @NYCMayorsFund on Twitter.

About NYC Service

NYC Service is a division of the Mayor's Office that builds partnerships to deepen and expand civic engagement through volunteer and service programs, creating sustainable change for our city's greatest needs. We unite New Yorkers in service to advance lifelong civic engagement for a more equitable and inclusive city. To learn more about NYC Service and connect to volunteer opportunities, visit nyc.gov/service.

###