



Schneps  
MEDIA

# POWER WOMEN 30

PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Here's to 30 Years  
of Schneps Media Power Women!

Celebration took place on:  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

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[PowerWomenBKLYN.com](http://PowerWomenBKLYN.com)



# Power Women of Brooklyn Honored

On Thursday, September 19, Schneps Media, publishers of amnyMetro, Brooklyn Paper, Caribbean Life, and Noticia NYC, proudly brought together the most extraordinary women to connect, support one another, do business and build community. Power Women of Brooklyn honored those fearless females who make Brooklyn the thriving and vibrant place it is to work, live and do business. When women support women, amazing things happen! This event, which took place at El Caribe, and welcomed over 300 people for an ultimate networking and celebratory evening.

100% of the event's raffle proceeds was donated to The Sato Project.

To nominate for future events or learn more about sponsorships please contact: [demetra@schnepsmedia.com](mailto:demetra@schnepsmedia.com) or call 718-260-2580.

Photography by Ralph Depas.



1. 2024 Brooklyn Power Women
2. Amber Adler, Award-Winning Activist & Best-Selling Author
3. Ty'East Alleyne-Bobb, Typostrophe 360 LLC
4. Chrissy Beckles, The Sato Project (center), with Team Sato Project
5. Katia Belony, Best Realty Professionals
6. Monique Brizz-Walker, Event Strategies for Success
7. Leonora Bulychova, Club A-Elita with her guests
8. Kelly Carroll, Atlantic Avenue BID
9. Christine Colvert, Shulman & Hill, with Mistress of Ceremonies, Zhané Caldwell (right to left)
10. ICON Angela Cooper, NYC Health + Hospitals/ McKinney
11. ICON Rev. Kimberly Council, Brooklyn Deputy Borough President
12. Dr. Anika Daniels-Osaze, Ed.D., MPH, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
13. ICON Hon. Maritza Davila, 53rd District
14. ICON Sheryl Demosthenes-Atkinson, CABS Health Network (center), with guests
15. Dr. Seanna-Kaye Denham Wilks, NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County
16. Cynthia Felix-Jeffers, Brooklyn Sunset Park Lions Club
17. ICON Dr. Sandra Scott, One Brooklyn Health (center left) with Michelle Figueroa, One Brooklyn Health (center right) and Team One Brooklyn Health
18. Rose Graham, Community School District 17/ Community Board 17, with Mistress of Ceremonies, Zhané Caldwell (right to left)
19. ICON Renee Hastick Motes, MPA, Episcopal Health Services
20. Williar Hodges, Community Health Center of Richmond (center left) with Dr. Gracie-Ann Roberts, Community Health Center of Richmond (center right) and Team Community Health Center of Richmond
21. Anastasia Koshik, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
22. Myrdith Leon-McCormack, World Bride Magazine & MLM Represents
23. ICON Francisca Leopold, Kings County Hospital Community Advisory Board
24. Elizabeth Lovejoy, Bay Ridge 5th Avenue BID
25. Taina Martinez-Laing, MSW, NYCPS, Baltic Street Wellness Solutions
26. ICON Kamla Millwood, Palatial Publishing LLC
27. Shannon O'Rourke, Optum
28. Debbie Roman, Per Scholas (right), with daughter, Leslieann Peers-Roman, Rising Star (left) Award and Randy Peers, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce (center)
29. Cassandra Perez-Desir, Door Dash
30. Jeanine Ramirez, Jeanine Ramirez Media Consulting
31. Patricia Riggio-Strong, Dime Community Bank
32. Gloria D. Sandiford, Fplateau Realty Corp
33. Dr. Lisa Scott-McKenzie, NYC Health + Hospitals/ Woodhull
34. Rev. Dr. Neithe Soleyn, Faith Deliverance Pentecostal Church of God
35. ICON Hon. Phara Souffrant Forrest, 57th District with Mistress of Ceremonies, Zhané Caldwell (right to left)
36. ICON Sara Steinweiss, Conflict Resolution Systems, LLC
37. Natalia Travilina, TraNa Relief Association
38. Dimple Willabus, Rhythm Nation Entertainment
39. ICON Barbara Williams, NYC Civic Engagement Commission
40. Lakeasha Williams, Brickhouse Unlimited Inc.



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## POWER WOMEN ICONS

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**ANGELA COOPER**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF**  
**COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
**AND VOLUNTEERING SERVICES**  
**NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/MCKINNEY**

Angela Cooper is Assistant Director of Communications, Public Affairs and Volunteering Services at NYC Health + Hospitals/McKinney. Cooper says she learns from everyone – the elderly, youth, strangers, and her girlfriends. She says she loves what she does: Giving service to others. Cooper is inspired by her Villagers from every demographic background. Their Integrity, Compassion, Dignity, and Spirituality all inspire her. Her most humbling moment at work is when a lady held her hands and looked into her eyes and said, “Thank you for bringing me so much joy at this stage of my life.”

ICON



**REV. KIMBERLY COUNCIL**  
**DEPUTY BROOKLYN BOROUGH**  
**PRESIDENT**

Deputy Borough President, Reverend, and fierce community advocate are all words you can use to describe Kim Council. All her life, Rev. Kim Council has dedicated her career to the communities and people of Brooklyn, focused on finding ways to better lives and strengthen opportunities for all. As Deputy Borough President, she carries this work out on a borough-wide scale, working with faith-based and community leaders to find solutions for some of the biggest challenges facing our borough from housing to food insecurity and violence.

ICON



**HON. MARITZA DAVILA**  
**ASSEMBLYMEMBER,**  
**53RD DISTRICT**

Maritza Davila, born in Puerto Rico and raised in Bushwick, Brooklyn, is a lifelong community advocate and New York State Assemblywoman for the 53rd District. She began as a community organizer, focusing on education, healthcare, and affordable housing. Davila served as President of the Community School Board of District 32 and co-founded the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In 2023, she became Chair of the Social Services Committee, continuing her fight for tenant rights, parole justice, and economic support for struggling families. Davila is a passionate leader committed to uplifting her community and advocating for Latino New Yorkers.

ICON



**SHERLY DEMOSTHENES-ATKINSON**  
**CEO**  
**CABS HEALTH NETWORK**

Sherly Demosthenes-Atkinson, known as a “Home Care Advocate,” has served as CEO of CABS Home Attendants Service, Inc. since 2017. With a Master’s in Health Administration from Hofstra University and over 20 years in healthcare, she is dedicated to delivering quality care to underserved communities. Previously, Sherly was the Executive Director and Associate Director of Case Management at CABS. Under her leadership, CABS secured a major contract with NYCHA, expanded services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and launched the CABS Health Network. Sherly also serves on the Dean’s Advisory Board at Hofstra University’s School of Health Professions and Human Services.

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**KAMILA DOTTIN**  
**DIRECTOR OF PROJECTS**  
**INDEPENDENT DRIVERS GUILD**

Kamila Dottin is the Director of Projects at the Independent Drivers Guild (IDG), where she oversees and coordinates organization-wide projects, ensuring timely completion and budget adherence. A Howard University alumna with a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts in Fashion Merchandising, Kamila has nine years of production management experience. In 2018, she transitioned to advocacy, joining IDG to champion drivers’ rights. Under her leadership, IDG represents 250,000 drivers across multiple states, fighting for collective bargaining to stop driver exploitation. Kamila’s strategic oversight has been instrumental in achieving significant victories for drivers nationwide.

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**RENEE HASTICK-MOTES, MPA**  
**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF**  
**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER**  
**EPISCOPAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Renee Hastick-Motes is the Senior Vice President/Chief External Affairs Officer and President of the St. John’s ICARE Foundation at Episcopal Health Services, serving the Rockaway Peninsula. She leads government relations, marketing, public relations, grant efforts, and more. Renee was instrumental in launching the mobile health initiative, Healthcare in Reach. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Hofstra University. Her career includes leadership roles in government and community relations, earning numerous awards for her service. Renee holds degrees in Marketing and Public Administration and is involved in several professional organizations. She is a proud wife and mother of three.

2024

POWER WOMEN 30

# CONGRATULATIONS!

on being named a Power Woman of Brooklyn!



**KATIA BELONY**

BEST REALTY PROFESSIONALS



BSE Global is proud to support the Power Women of Brooklyn

## CONGRATULATIONS

to our very own

**Laurie Jacoby**

and all of the honorees for your work in the community.

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## POWER LIST

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RECOGNIZING THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND IMPACTFUL INDIVIDUALS AND HONORING THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY.

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 14  
2024

AWARDS & NETWORKING  
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## TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS

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**FRANCISCA LEOPOLD**

**CHAIR  
KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL COMMUNITY  
ADVISORY BOARD**

Francisca Leopold is a passionate community empowerment leader and Associate Human Rights Specialist at the NYC Commission on Human Rights. With degrees in accounting and business administration, and an FLMI designation, she excels in fostering community development. As Chair of the Kings County Hospital Review Board and a longstanding member of Brooklyn Community Board 09, she has driven initiatives in mental health, HIV/AIDS awareness, and senior health services. Founder of the Lefferts Alliance Community Togetherness Block Association, she also serves on the Board of Directors for the Prospect Lefferts Garden Neighborhood Association. Proudly representing St. Lucia and Barbados, Francisca's dedication enhances community well-being.

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**CHAPLAIN DR. INGRID P. LEWIS-MARTIN**

**CHIEF ADVISOR  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Chaplain Dr. Ingrid P. Lewis-Martin serves as Chief Advisor to New York City Mayor Eric Adams, playing a crucial role in the daily operations of City Hall. As part of the executive leadership team, she oversees the Office of Administrative Services (MOAS) and the Office of Appointments (MOA), managing a \$60M+ budget, strategic planning, and talent recruitment. Ingrid restructured the City's hiring process to promote diverse and inclusive leadership and is key in negotiating and delivering City agreements. Dedicated to public service, she ensures efficient and equitable governance. Ingrid is married to Glenn D. Martin I, with whom she has a son, Glenn II, and a granddaughter, Meagan.

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**KAMLA KARINA MILLWOOD**

**FOUNDER/CEO & PRESIDENT  
PALATIAL PUBLISHING LLC**

Kamla Karina Millwood is the dynamic founder of Palatial Publishing LLC, a M/WBE certified company. Drawing inspiration from her late father, Kenton Kirby, the former Editor Emeritus of Caribbean Life Newspaper, Kamla excels in writing and community engagement. Currently, she is on a city-wide book tour promoting literacy through her Peach the Duck series. Kamla's leadership and impact have earned her numerous accolades, including the Dr. Roy Hastick Legacy Award and Schneps Media Caribbean Impact Awards. Her career as an author, publisher, speaker, and consultant showcases her dedication to fostering positive change and empowering communities.

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**EMERALD SNIPES-GARNER  
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WE CAN'T BREATHE INC.**

Emerald Snipes-Garner is the Founder and Executive Director of "We Can't Breathe Inc." and a dedicated advocate for social justice. Driven by personal tragedy, she has worked alongside activists and lawmakers, notably contributing to the passing of the Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Bill in 2020. Emerald began her activism with the National Action Network under Reverend Al Sharpton, leading marches nationwide. She collaborates with Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Elizabeth Warren on policing legislation and serves as a lived experience expert at UCLA. Emerald mentors young activists and is a sought-after speaker, inspiring many with her resilience and commitment to justice.

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**DR. SANDRA SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
ONE BROOKLYN HEALTH (OBH)**

Dr. Sandra Scott, MD, was appointed Interim CEO of One Brooklyn Health in January 2024. A graduate of Louisiana State University and Baylor College of Medicine, she completed her Emergency Medicine residency at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Scott previously served as Executive Director of Brookdale Hospital Center and Chair of One Brooklyn Health's Department of Emergency Medicine. Renowned for her leadership in emergency response and health equity, she played a pivotal role in addressing COVID-19 and maternal health disparities. Dr. Scott is the first woman, physician, and person of color to lead the hospital in its 100-year history.

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**PHARA SOUFFRANT FORREST  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN  
57TH DISTRICT**

Phara Souffrant Forrest represents Brooklyn's 57th Assembly District, encompassing Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and parts of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights. Elected in 2020, she is the daughter of Haitian immigrants and a lifelong resident of the district. Phara attended SUNY Geneseo and earned her nursing degree at CUNY. Before her political career, she worked as a maternal child nurse and was president of her building's tenant association. In office, she champions tenants' rights, healthcare access, and criminal justice reform, including passing the Less Is More Act. Phara lives in Crown Heights with her husband and son.

# CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to  
**Renée Hastick-Motes**

**SVP & Chief External  
Affairs Officer at EHS and  
President of the St. John's  
ICARE Foundation** for being  
honored as a 2024 Schneps  
Power Women of Brooklyn  
Award Recipient!



COMMUNITY HEALTH  
CENTER OF RICHMOND

The Board of Directors, Executive  
Team and Staff congratulate

*Williar Hodges*

Senior Director, Finance and Benefits Administration

for being recognized as a  
**2024 Power Woman**

Congratulations to all of the honorees.  
You lead by example in your communities  
and we applaud your strength, leadership,  
creativity, and innovation.

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**SARA STEINWEISS****FOUNDER  
CONFLICT RESOLUTION SYSTEMS, LLC**

Sara Steinweiss is a conflict resolution expert and founder of Conflict Resolution Systems, LLC, with nearly 30 years of experience. Specializing in negotiation, positive psychology, and mediation, she empowers individuals and organizations to navigate challenging situations and foster healthy relationships. Sara is an Applied Positive Psychology Coach and has delivered impactful workshops on stress management, communication, and personal growth. Her work has earned her several awards, including Woman Advocate of the Year and Brooklyn Top Women in Business. Outside of work, Sara enjoys connecting with friends and family, sharing laughter, music, and meaningful conversations.

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**BARBARA WILLIAMS****CITYWIDE DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH  
NYC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Barbara Williams has over 20 years of community service experience and holds degrees in Organizational Behavior and Effectiveness from NYU. She has been a 2nd and 3rd Vice President of the NAACP Brooklyn Branch and Chair of the Advisory Board for 500 Men Making a Difference. As the founder of Pearls for Her, Barbara designed programs for women 40 and over and led significant COVID relief efforts, distributing 100,000 meals and 50,000 facemasks. Currently, she directs Outreach and Volunteer Programs for the NYC Civic Engagement Commission, enhancing civic participation. Barbara has received numerous awards for her community contributions and COVID response efforts.

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**HON. JAIME R. WILLIAMS****ASSEMBLYMEMBER,  
59TH DISTRICT**

Assemblymember Jaime Williams has proudly served New York's 59th Assembly District since April 19, 2016. Her district includes the diverse neighborhoods of Bergen Beach, Canarsie, Georgetown, Gerritsen Beach, Marine Park, Mill Basin, and Mill Island. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Jaime moved to New York City, where she earned degrees in social work from York College and Fordham University, along with a CASAC-T certificate in Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling. As Chair of the Sub-Committee on Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness, she has led humanitarian aid missions to Antigua, Puerto Rico, Haiti, and Kentucky, demonstrating her deep commitment to those affected by natural disasters.

**POWER WOMEN****AMBER ADLER****AWARD-WINNING ACTIVIST &  
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR**

Amber Adler is an award-winning activist, author, and former NYC Council nominee, known for securing millions in funding for education, autism support, and anti-hate initiatives. Featured in major media and Netflix's *My Unorthodox Life*, she advocates for a bill to classify Coercive Control as a felony and played a key role in passing "Sammy's Law" for traffic safety. Amber led Neighborhood Advisory Board 15, directing \$1 million in federal funding, and now serves as Community Action Board Representative for Southern Brooklyn. As a social dynamics expert, she drives impactful campaigns, connecting brands with meaningful causes to foster societal change.

**TY'EAST ALLEYNE-BOBB****COMMUNITY COORDINATOR  
BROOKLYN ADULT LEARNING CENTER**

Ty'East Alleyne-Bobb is the CEO of Tyopstrophe 360 LLC, providing fun and innovative 360 photo booth experiences for corporate and special events. She also works as the Community Coordinator for the Brooklyn Adult Learning Center, helping adults obtain GEDs, learn English, and access career training. A dedicated member of the Central Brooklyn Lions Club for over 25 years, she serves as the club's Marketing and Communications Director and District 20-K1 Marketing Chair. Ty is a wife to Reeve and proud mother of four children: Donovan, Tyra, Tayla, and Renee Morgan.

**CHRISSY BECKLES****FOUNDER & PRESIDENT  
THE SATO PROJECT**

Chrissy Beckles, a former NYC marketing consultant, transformed her life after witnessing the dire situation of stray dogs in Puerto Rico. In 2011, she founded The Sato Project, rescuing and rehabilitating over 7,500 dogs from "Dead Dog Beach" and beyond. Amid natural disasters, Chrissy's organization provided crucial aid and reunited countless displaced pets with their families. In 2023, she launched Operation Sato, a mass spay/neuter initiative, further combating the island's overpopulation crisis. Chrissy's innovative approach has made her a leading voice in animal rescue, dedicated to giving a voice to those who cannot advocate for themselves.

# *Congratulations Monique Brizz-Walker on being named a Power Woman of Brooklyn 2024!*



Monique Brizz-Walker is the visionary founder of Event Strategies For Success, a premier boutique firm specializing in high-impact fundraising and special event strategy. With a focus on both national and global scales, Monique supports nonprofit leaders in delivering events that transform communities and strengthen organizations.

*With nearly 30 years of experience, Monique has played an instrumental role in elevating New York City's most prestigious nonprofit organizations, raising over \$25 million in philanthropic funding.*



[eventstrategies4success.com](http://eventstrategies4success.com)



**KATIA BELONY**  
**LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER**  
**BEST REALTY PROFESSIONALS**

Katia Belony is a licensed real estate broker hailing from Brooklyn, New York. Katia's story begins when she immigrated to the United States from Haiti. The move was a life-altering experience, exposing her to a world of opportunities and challenges. Katia's dedication and unwavering commitment to her studies culminated in her earning not one, but two Master's degrees. She created monthly workshops, to educate people about creating wealth through real estate. Making informed decisions about buying, selling, investing in real estate. Her unwavering commitment to empowering others through education earned her a reputation as a true community leader.



**MONIQUE BRIZZ-WALKER**  
**PRINCIPAL & FUNDRAISER**  
**EVENT STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS**

Monique Brizz-Walker, the founder of Event Strategies For Success, brings nearly three decades of special events fundraising expertise. Her Brooklyn-based firm empowers and elevates national and global leaders in maximizing philanthropic impact, having raised over \$25 million for notable New York City nonprofits, including the American Folk Art Museum and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Monique excels in crafting high-impact fundraising events and strategic partnerships. She serves on many community boards, including Brooklyn Org's Elders Advisory Fund. Married for 37 to Stan E. Walker, an educator and mentor, Monique balances her professional achievements with a deeply fulfilling personal life.



**LEONORA BULYCHOVA**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**CLUB A-ELITA**

Leonora Bulychova is the president of Club A-Elita, a nonprofit she founded in 2015 in memory of her mother. After immigrating from Belarus in 1990, Leonora overcame language and cultural barriers, becoming a certified programmer and daycare provider. Through Club A-Elita, she organizes fashion shows, cultural events, and excursions for women aged 65+, fostering community engagement. During the pandemic, she produced 70 mini-films and continues to lead dance yoga and meditation classes. Leonora's dedication to enriching the lives of others through art, culture, and education defines her impactful leadership.



**KELLY CARROLL**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**ATLANTIC AVENUE BID**

Kelly Carroll is the executive director of the Atlantic Avenue BID, where she has revitalized the commercial corridor since 2022. Under her leadership, the organization expanded its finances, launched public programming, restructured the board, and increased media visibility for local businesses. Previously, she served as Director of Advocacy & Community Outreach at the Historic Districts Council, playing a key role in preserving NYC's historic districts. Kelly has taught at NYU SP5 since 2020 and serves on the boards of the City Club of New York and the Historic Districts Council. She holds a master's degree from Columbia University.



**CHRISTINE COLVERT**  
**PARTNER**  
**SHULMAN & HILL**

Christine Colvert was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Since joining Shulman & Hill in 2015, she has vigorously represented thousands of injured workers throughout Brooklyn and the surrounding boroughs. Christine has cultivated an outstanding reputation amongst her peers. Due to her zealous advocacy and dedication, Christine has been able to score tremendous results on behalf of her clients, including, but not limited to, settlements, payment of lost wages, and authorization for medical treatment.



**DR. ANIKA DANIELS-OSAZE, ED.D., MPH**  
**ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR EDUCATION,**  
**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**SUNY DOWNSTATE HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Anika Daniels-Osaze has over 25 years of experience in student affairs, specializing in health professions recruitment, academic advising, and curriculum development. At SUNY Downstate, she secured \$12.4 million for pipeline programs and scholarships. She holds degrees from Cornell, NYU, and Northeastern, and has served as president of NAMME and the Cornell Black Alumni Association. A scholar of Ancient Egypt (Kemet) for 30 years, she is a Kemeti Spirituality priest and Queen Mother in Ghana. Recognized with numerous awards, Dr. Daniels-Osaze mentors students and has been featured in documentaries on Kemeti history and culture.

BALTIC STREET WELLNESS SOLUTIONS

*Presents*

# 2ND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

**WEDNESDAY  
NOVEMBER 6TH, 2024**

**9am - 5pm**

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**DR. SEANNA-KAYE DENHAM WILKS**  
**CHIEF EXPERIENCE OFFICER**  
**NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/KINGS**  
**COUNTY**

Dr. Seanna-Kaye Denham Wilks, Chief Experience Officer at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, leads patient experience and employee engagement, fostering holistic practices like musical performances and community-designed murals. Nationally recognized, she promotes mental health awareness and mentors future leaders. Her work in healthcare aims to advance social justice and equitable community wellness. Dr. Denham Wilks has been honored as a Planetree Fellow and named among Becker's Healthcare's top Chief Experience Officers. Rooted in her Jamaican heritage and deep faith, she is also a devoted wife to Pastor Courtney Wilks and mother to their son, Caleb.



**CYNTHIA FELIX-JEFFERS**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**BROOKLYN SUNSET PARK LIONS CLUB**

Cynthia Felix-Jeffers, a first-generation Dominican American, has dedicated over 30 years to NYC Public Schools, advocating for culturally and linguistically diverse students. A leader in several organizations, she serves as Vice President & NYC Regional Director for NYSALAS, President of the Brooklyn Sunset Park Lions Club, and Vice President of the Alliance for Puerto Rican Education & Empowerment. Cynthia also holds roles on the boards of NYU Langone's Family Health Centers and Brooklyn's Community Board 7. A proud Brooklynite, her passion for education and community service has earned her numerous awards, inspiring those she serves.



**MICHELLE FIGUEROA**  
**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**  
**ONE BROOKLYN HEALTH (OBH)**

Michelle Figueroa is the Chief Financial Officer for the One Brooklyn Health System, bringing over 25 years of leadership experience in finance, administration, and operations. She previously served as Deputy Executive Director for Finance & Operations at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem and Metropolitan. Known for her strong financial acumen and mission-driven leadership, Michelle holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from St. Joseph's College and has completed the Carol Emmott Fellowship for Women in Leadership. She is pursuing an MBA in Data Analytics and Organizational Management. Michelle enjoys tropical travel, documentaries, and family time with her husband and four children.



**ROSE GRAHAM**  
**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS,**  
**EDUCATOR & COMMUNITY ADVOCATE**  
**NYC DEPT OF EDUCATION & COMMUNITY**  
**BOARD 17**

Ms. Rose Graham, originally from Jamaica, has dedicated her career to education since 1992, starting as a paraprofessional and advancing through roles including Literacy Specialist, Assistant Principal, and Director of Community Affairs and Attendance Coordinator at Community District 17. With a Bachelor's and multiple Master's degrees from Brooklyn College, she has enhanced student performance and closed achievement gaps through her innovative work. Rose has led various initiatives, including the NYC Summer STEM program and COVID-19 support centers, and was honored as a 2020 COVID-19 Hero. Active in numerous organizations, she is a prominent advocate for quality education and community service.



**WILLIAR HODGES**  
**SENIOR DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND**  
**BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF**  
**RICHMOND, INC.**

Williar Hodges is a seasoned healthcare executive and joined the Community Health Center of Richmond, Inc. ("CHCR") in 2010 and currently serves as the Senior Director of Finance and Benefits Administration for CHCR, a Federally Qualified Health Center based on Staten Island, New York, 40,000+ annual patient visits, \$21 million operating budget, 4 primary care sites, and 112 staff members. Williar oversees all aspects of payroll operations, accounts payable, union relations, training, and employee benefits including health insurance, retirement plans, and paid time off programs. Williar also supervises the Environmental Services Department who also provide cleaning, visitor control, maintenance and upkeep of CHCR's facilities, and compliance with environment of care accreditation standards.



**LAURIE JACOBY**  
**CHIEF ENTERTAINMENT OFFICER**  
**BSE GLOBAL**

As Chief Entertainment Officer at BSE, Laurie Jacoby oversees programming and marketing for Barclays Center, including booking concerts, non-tenant sporting events, family shows, award shows, and premier events. Prior to joining BSE, Jacoby spent 22 years with Madison Square Garden Entertainment, where she was responsible for high-profile concerts and events at Madison Square Garden and Radio City Music Hall. Jacoby is a three-time Pollstar Award winner for Venue Executive of the Year, has been named to Billboard's Women in Music Executive list and Power 100 List, and won International Entertainment Buyers Association 2023 Venue Executive of the Year.



**RiseWell**  
Community Services



# Congratulations

Congratulations, Taina Laing, on your well-deserved Power Women of Brooklyn nomination! Your dedication to the community, your work with those in recovery, and your steadfast advocacy is inspiring! You truly makes a difference every day and we are grateful to work with you!

And a big congrats to all of the Power Women of Brooklyn honorees!

From your friends at  
**RiseWell Community Services**



COMMUNITY HEALTH  
CENTER OF RICHMOND

**The Board of Directors, Executive  
Team and Staff congratulate**

*Dr. Gracie-Ann Roberts*

Chief Quality Officer

**for being recognized as a  
2024 Power Woman**

Congratulations to all of the honorees.  
You lead by example in your communities  
and we applaud your strength, leadership,  
creativity, and innovation.



**ANASTASIA KOSHIK**  
**DIRECTOR OF MARKETING &**  
**COMMUNICATIONS**  
**BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Anastasia Koshik is the Director of Marketing & Communications at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, overseeing internal and external communications, graphic design, and public relations. With over five years in the nonprofit sector, she has led high-profile initiatives like the AANHPI Celebration and the Brooklyn Made Stores launch. A summa cum laude graduate in Business Management and Studio Art from Stony Brook University, Anastasia also freelances as an abstract artist and graphic designer under the brand What Feels Right. Fluent in English, Russian, and Spanish, she is involved with the BEYOND ART Collective and participates in NYC art events.



**MYRDITH LEON-MCCORMACK**  
**FOUNDER**  
**WORLD BRIDE MAGAZINE & MLM**  
**REPRESENTS**

Myrdith Leon-McCormack, founder of World Bride Magazine, is a pioneering force in the wedding and publishing industries. Transitioning from a celebrated Celebrity Manicurist to a leading branding expert, Myrdith has redefined the wedding sector with her global and inclusive perspective. Through her firm, MLM Represents, she guides clients in leveraging their brands for exceptional business performance. Her magazine celebrates love across cultures and reflects her extensive travels. Additionally, Myrdith serves as Executive Entertainment Producer for "Keep It Moving w/Marsha Jews" on WEAA 88.9 FM. Her work in both branding and entertainment continues to inspire and shape industry standards globally.



**ELIZABETH LOVEJOY**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**BAY RIDGE 5TH AVENUE BID**

Elizabeth Lovejoy is the Executive Director of the Bay Ridge 5th Avenue Business Improvement District (BID), where she has led with a focus on collaboration, transparency, and community engagement for over seven years. Her leadership drives strategic alignment and operational success for the BID. Previously, Elizabeth spent six years as an IT Systems Office Administrator, excelling in digital marketing and operations. She also founded Lilo Design Co., a creative agency specializing in website design, branding, and marketing for small businesses. Based in Brooklyn, NY, Elizabeth is known for transforming ideas into impactful results in both nonprofit and business sectors.



**TAINA LAING, MSW, NYCPS**  
**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**  
**BALTIC STREET WELLNESS SOLUTIONS**

Taina Laing, MSW, NYCPS, is the Chief Operating Officer of Baltic Street Wellness Solutions, New York State's largest peer-led organization. With over 20 years of experience in peer advocacy and supervision, she champions equality and addresses service disparities in underserved communities. Taina is a strong advocate for the inclusion of peer perspectives in social and health policies. She serves as Co-President of the Alliance for Rights and Recovery, President of the New York State Peer Certification Board, and is involved in multiple state boards. Taina holds an MSW from Stony Brook University and plans to pursue a Ph.D. focusing on transgenerational trauma.



**SHANNON O'ROURKE**  
**DIRECTOR OF RADIOLOGY**  
**OPTUM**

Shannon O'Rourke, Director of Radiology at Optum, has over 21 years in radiology, with 14 years at Optum (formerly Bay Ridge Medical Imaging/ProHealth Care). Inspired by her mother, an ultrasound technologist, Shannon earned her license in 2003 and transitioned into radiology marketing before becoming a practice manager in 2017 and a practice administrator in 2019. By 2021, she was promoted to Director of Radiology, overseeing all Brooklyn sites. Shannon is celebrated for her empathetic and compassionate leadership, dedication to developing her team, and commitment to service. She leads with integrity and inspires others, making a lasting impact on her field.



**LESLIEANN PEERS-ROMAN**  
**RISING STAR AWARD**

Leslieann Peers-Roman, 19, was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Brooklyn, New York. A student in the Macaulay Honors Program at Brooklyn College, she has been passionate about marine life from a young age. Leslieann has worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society, volunteering as a Discovery Guide and serving as a Youth Ocean Advocate, creating awareness materials to inspire environmental action. She has spoken at schools and conferences on important topics like the Hudson Canyon. Her advocacy work led her to join the OceanEcho Fellowship, where she helps empower the next generation of environmental activists to protect our planet.



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*Chief Operating Officer*

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**KASSANDRA PEREZ-DESIR**  
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, NY/NJ & PR  
DOORDASH

Kassandra Perez-Desir is the Head of Government Affairs for NY/NJ and Puerto Rico at DoorDash, managing government relations, strategic partnerships, and delivery app regulations. Previously, she was Regional Director of Government Affairs at Verizon and a VP at Bolton St. Johns, representing clients in technology, immigration, and more. With over 20 years of experience, Kassandra has worked with Senator Schumer, the Bloomberg administration, and as Special Advisor to Governor Cuomo on environmental justice. She holds a J.D. from New York Law and a B.A. from St. John's University. Kassandra lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two daughters.



**JEANINE RAMIREZ**  
FOUNDER  
JEANINE RAMIREZ MEDIA CONSULTING

Jeanine Ramirez is an award-winning journalist and media consultant with over two decades of experience in New York City news. She worked as an anchor and reporter at WPIX-TV, KWES-TV, and NY1 News, covering major events such as September 11th, Superstorm Sandy, and the Barclays Center construction. Ramirez has also reported from the Caribbean and was a Grand Marshal at the National Puerto Rican Day Parade in 2002. Recognized with five Emmy nominations and numerous awards, she founded a media consulting company in 2021 and co-hosts the podcast "The 5 Of Us." Ramirez is also developing a new TV show and book project.



**PATRICIA RIGGIO-STRONG**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR OF  
CRA AND FAIR LENDING  
DIME COMMUNITY BANK

Patricia is the First Vice President and Director of CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) and Fair Lending at her financial institution, with over 20 years of experience in community development. She oversees the bank's CRA activities, ensuring regulatory compliance and positively impacting low- and moderate-income communities. Patricia also leads the bank's community outreach, forging partnerships with local organizations to address community needs. Additionally, she serves as a Board Member for Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn, supporting affordable housing and homeowner education. Outside of work, Patricia enjoys traveling and spending time with her children, Thomas and Kristen.



**DR. GRACIE-ANN ROBERTS**  
CHIEF QUALITY OFFICER  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF  
RICHMOND, INC.

Dr. Roberts is the Chief Quality Officer at the Community Health Center of Richmond, Inc. (CHCR), a Federally Qualified Health Center on Staten Island, New York. Joining CHCR in 2016, she leads the Quality Division, overseeing Joint Commission accreditation, maternal and child operations, quality improvement, and special projects. Dr. Roberts is a licensed Physician Assistant and a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality. She holds an Associate of Science from Borough of Manhattan Community College, a Bachelor of Science from the City College of New York – Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, a Master of Public Health from Brooklyn College, and a Doctorate of Medical Science from the University of Lynchburg.



**DEBBIE ROMAN**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEW YORK  
PER SCHOLAS

Debbie Roman is the Managing Director of Per Scholas New York, overseeing campuses in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and satellite classrooms across NYC's five boroughs. With over 15 years of experience in community engagement, workforce development, marketing, and event management, she builds strategic partnerships to advance Per Scholas' mission. Debbie previously held leadership roles at the Girl Scouts of Greater New York and the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island. She holds an MBA in Marketing, a bachelor's in Communications, and a Certification as a Nonprofit Professional. Debbie serves on several nonprofit boards and lives in Brooklyn with her family.



**GLORIA DELGADO SANDIFORD**  
BROKER, CO-OWNER & VICE PRESIDENT  
FLATEAU REALTY CORP

Gloria D. Sandiford is President of the Brooklyn Chapter of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers and Vice President of Flateau Realty, Corp. With over 24 years in real estate, she has excelled in marketing residential and commercial properties, achieving over \$300M in sales. Recognized as one of the "Top Five Black Agents in Brooklyn" by BK Reader, Sandiford's career includes significant awards and community contributions. Before real estate, she had a successful 12-year career in retail, including roles in direct mail marketing and as a buyer for major cosmetic brands. She also has a background in teaching entrepreneurship and active community involvement.

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**The Board of Directors, Executive  
Team and Staff congratulate**

*Dr. Monique T. Welbeck*

Chief Nursing Officer

**for being recognized as a  
2024 Power Woman**

Congratulations to all of the honorees.  
You lead by example in your communities  
and we applaud your strength, leadership,  
creativity, and innovation.



**DR. LISA SCOTT-MCKENZIE**  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/WOODHULL

Dr. Lisa Scott-McKenzie, DHA, CEM, FABC, FACHE, is the Chief Operating Officer at New York City Health + Hospitals/Woodhull. With 38 years in North Brooklyn, she is renowned for leading core initiatives that enhance patient care, manage multi-million-dollar projects, and contribute to operational success. As a Certified Emergency Manager, she has managed major events, including Superstorm Sandy and COVID-19. Recognized by various leaders and organizations for her achievements, Dr. Scott-McKenzie holds advanced degrees from Capella University and multiple certifications in healthcare and emergency management. She is celebrated for her leadership, teamwork, and dedication to preparing future healthcare leaders.



**DR. NEITHE E. SOLEYN**  
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT  
FAITH DELIVERANCE PENTECOSTAL  
CHURCH OF GOD

Neithe E. Soleyn is a prominent leader and educator with a deep commitment to faith and community. She earned a Doctorate in Theology from International Theological Seminary and a Master of Divinity from New York Theological Seminary. Soleyn founded Faith Deliverance Pentecostal Church of God in 1990, leading it for 25 years and establishing several new churches. In 2016, she founded NSOLEYN OUTREACH BIBLE SEMINARY, which was certified by New York State in 2020. An author of "Hit Hard Score High," she is also recognized for her humanitarian work, including advocacy for migrant rights. Soleyn has received numerous awards, including being named a Power Woman of Brooklyn.



**NATALIA TRAVILINA**  
FOUNDER  
TRANA RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Natalia Travilina has dedicated over 30 years to serving her community in the USA, where she has worked as a Senior Global Director with Mary Kay, Inc., trained by Mary Kay Ash herself. Recently, she has focused on supporting newly arrived Ukrainian refugees, addressing their needs and organizing cultural events through her organization, TraNa Relief Association, Inc. Natalia's efforts have made a significant impact, earning her recognition as a Women of Distinction 2024 honoree by Assemblymember Alec Brook-Krasny. Her leadership and commitment continue to enrich lives and foster community unity.



**DR. MONIQUE T. WELBECK**  
CHIEF NURSING OFFICER  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF  
RICHMOND, INC.

Dr. Welbeck is the Chief Nursing Officer at the Community Health Center of Richmond (CHCR) in Staten Island, overseeing clinical operations for the Federally Qualified Health Center, which serves over 40,000 patients annually across four primary care sites. Joining CHCR in 2012, she provides leadership in nursing, compliance, and patient care. Dr. Welbeck is board-certified as an Adult Health and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, a Certified Diabetes Educator, and an HIV Specialist. She holds a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Rutgers University, a Master's in Nursing Science from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College of Mount Saint Vincent.



**DIMPLE WILLABUS**  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
RHYTHM NATION ENTERTAINMENT

Dimple Willabus is a multifaceted leader—wife, mother, grandmother, business owner, and community advocate. With nearly 30 years of experience as an Entertainment Journalist and Media Expert, Dimple began her career hosting Guyana's first live TV show, Rhythm Nation, in the early '90s. After moving to the U.S., she continued her journalism career with WCBS before founding Rhythm Nation Entertainment, a production and consulting company. Dimple holds a Master's in Media Studies from CUNY Brooklyn College and serves as CEO of her company, President of Stalwarts Youth Corporation, and Founder of First Responders Lions Club. She is currently running for NYC Council in District 46.



**LAKEASHA WILLIAMS**  
FOUNDER & ENTREPRENEUR  
BRICKHOUSE UNLIMITED INC.

Lakeasha Williams, known as Shine Shine, is an Executive Leadership Strategist with nearly 30 years of experience in education. She founded Brickhouse Unlimited Inc. to extend her impact by implementing her Core Leadership Shineprint system, which helps professionals develop business skills and generate income streams. Lakeasha has transformed struggling schools and districts, focusing on leadership development and creating systems for success. An advocate for educational equity, she emphasizes entrepreneurship and financial literacy for children. She is also an author of Amazon Best Sellers, including Shine On Brown Girl and Still I Thrive. Lakeasha is a doctoral candidate in Leadership Innovation and Continuous Improvement.

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