

Groundwork Honors Champions of Yonkers' Renaissance

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YONKERS – Groundwork Hudson Valley is celebrating two long-time champions of Yonkers at the Urban Garden Party on September 14, 6-9:30 p.m. at X20 Xaviars on the Hudson.

The event will honor Rick Magder and St. John's Riverside Hospital, both of whose efforts have made Yonkers a healthier and greener community. United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will serve as the event's Honorary Chair.

Magder, who has been at the forefront of Yonkers' revitalization as Groundwork's founder and executive Director for nearly 17 years, will be leaving Groundwork this fall for a position leading the Fairmount Park Conservancy in Philadelphia. He was a driving force behind the creation of the daylighted river park in downtown Yonkers,

brought the Science Barge to Yonkers' waterfront, and built a youth employment program that was recognized by President Obama. Magder developed innovative health initiatives, like Yonkers' soon-to-be-inaugurated RailTrail for biking and walking and the Get Fresh Yonkers programs that provide affordable local produce to low-income neighborhoods.



(Rick Magder, Groundwork Founder and ED)



(Overhead view of St Johns green roof.)

The evening will also be a chance to toast Groundwork's purchase of the Science Barge, which will be all lit up for the occasion. Guests will be able to see the new signage as well as the

upgraded solar arrays, donated by Green Mountain Energy, from the panoramic windows of X20, above.

Urban Garden Party guests will enjoy a locally- sourced dinner by award-winning chef Peter Kelly. Kelly has received numerous national honors, including *The New York Times*' highest rating and was recently awarded "Best American Restaurant" by *Westchester Magazine*.

The event will also feature Nicholas Lowry, appraiser on PBS's *Antiques Roadshow*, as auctioneer. Lowry is president and principal auctioneer of Swann Auction Galleries in New York City.

The Urban Garden Party is expected to draw 300 attendees. Lead corporate sponsors include Blank Rome LLP, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Dagher Engineering, IAC Applications, and Sound Associates.

Funds raised that evening will be used to sustain Groundwork's programs throughout Yonkers, including the Green Team, which employed 15 Yonkers teens this summer, and the weekly youth-run Get Fresh Yonkers Farmers' Market. Other programs the event supports are the Science Barge, community farms at Philipse Manor Hall and Buena Vista Avenue, and the Yonkers RailTrail, to break ground in 2017.



(Ron Corti, St. Johns Riverside Hospital President and CEO)

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit Groundwork's website at groundworkhv.org.