



Invitation to Cover

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Partnerships for Parks *It's My Park Awards Reception* Brooklyn Volunteers to be Honored

Parent Child Relationship will be Awarded for Outstanding Service, Activism and Collaboration

Awards To Be Held Next Wednesday, March 27, 2019

March 22, 2019 -- NEW YORK, NY -- Partnerships for Parks is proud to announce its 6th annual *It's My Park Awards Reception*, recognizing New York City park volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to their local parks through service, advocacy, and collaboration. *It's My Park* is Partnerships for Parks' signature program to engage volunteers in hands-on service projects throughout New York City neighborhood parks. The reception will be held next Wednesday, March 27, at the Prince George Ballroom, Manhattan. Partnerships for Parks will present seven awards at the ceremony, including the 2018 Golden Trowel Awards for each of the five boroughs, as well as the Rookie of the Year Award and the Tim Tompkins Leadership Award.

This year's honorees are seven outstanding community groups selected from over 280 that participated in the 2018 *It's My Park* program. Together, these groups amounted to more than 24,000 New Yorkers who organized and participated in over 1,100 park service projects in nearly 340 parks across the city. These volunteers are vital to improving and sustaining New York City's 29,000 acres of green space, from parks and street trees to playgrounds and skateparks. Their dedicated stewardship helps build long-term investment in these public spaces and strengthens the social fabric of their neighborhoods.

The ceremony will include remarks from **Sabina Saragoussi**, director of Partnerships for Parks; **Heather Lubov**, executive director of City Parks Foundation; NYC Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver**, FAICP; NYC Parks Assistant Commissioner **Sam Biederman**; and NYC Council Member **Barry Grodenchik**, chair of the NYC Council's Committee on Parks and Recreation. All five leaders will be on hand to honor and celebrate these inspiring volunteers for their outstanding service.

The Golden Trowel Award recognizes volunteers' commitment to transforming their parks and green spaces into dynamic community assets. It is presented to a community group from each borough that has led *It's My Park* and other programs, and has demonstrated exceptional organizational growth. **This year's Golden Trowel award for Brooklyn goes to Parent Child Relationship, led by Nicole Xueqin Huang, Yong Feng Zhu, Yan Feng Zheng, Yunqian Lin,**



and Iris Ng.

Parent Child Relationship was founded in 2016 by Nicole Xueqin Huang, and serves the predominantly non-English speaking immigrant communities of Sunset Park and Dyker Heights. The mission of PCR is to promote civic participation, improve conditions, and deepen the bond between parents and children in the Asian immigrant communities of Brooklyn through multi-generational service events. PCR began working at Leif Ericson Park in Bay Ridge in 2016. With no active group, the park was plagued with litter, debris, and disuse. The group started hosting *It's My Park* projects bi-weekly to clean and beautify the park, and after two years of dedication and tireless outreach, the community became fully engaged. By 2018, the park was clean and renewed with wood chips for tree care, and new daffodil bulbs and plants. PCR hosted multiple community events last year, such as Lunar New Year, an Easter egg hunt, a fitness event, and a back-to-school event, bringing hundreds of people into Leif Ericson Park and transforming it into a hub of activity. In the spring of 2018, PCR expanded their reach and began working in Sunset Park. Partnering with local Fujanese seniors, they hosted weekly *It's My Park* projects throughout the year. In 2018, the group also received a Capacity Fund Grant from Partnerships for Parks, graduated from the Partnerships Academy Fellowship, obtained their 501c3 status, and received a citation from Council Member Justin Brannan.

For more information on the *It's My Park* Program, please visit www.partnershipsforparks.com

It's My Park award winners were self or peer nominated and vetted by a Partnerships for Parks selection committee that focused on nominees' achievements in the past year. Special regard was given to nominees who overcame a challenge in their park or within their community group, coordinated an It's My Park project, and/or acted as an inspirational role model for NYC community park volunteers.

When: March 27, 2019 / 6:30 pm – 9 pm

Members of the press are invited to attend.

Please RSVP to Tomasia Kastner – Tomasia.Kastner@parks.nyc.gov or (212) 360-8284

Where: Prince George Ballroom

15 E. 27th St., New York, NY 10016

On-Site Contact: Tomasia Kastner / Tomasia.Kastner@parks.nyc.gov

Visuals: Remarks from NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, City Parks Foundation

Executive Director Heather Lubov, NYC Parks Assistant Commissioner Sam Biederman, NYC Council Member Barry Grodenchik, and Partnerships for Parks Director Sabina Saragoussi

Amanda Foster and Sara Healey, Social Impact, TD Bank; and Steven Beer, trustee, City Parks Foundation, presenting awards

Seven local community groups taking the podium to accept their awards

200 local NYC parks volunteers networking and enjoying refreshments

PARTNERSHIPS *for* PARKS

A joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks.

About Partnerships for Parks: Partnerships for Parks is a unique public-private partnership between City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks that supports and champions neighborhood volunteers by giving them the tools they need to advocate and care for their neighborhood parks and green spaces. More information about Partnership for Parks is available [here](#).

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