



**City Parks Foundation Announces Honorees for
2026 Dinner & Concert Benefit
at SummerStage in Central Park**

**Joe Killian - SummerStage Icon Award
Alex Blavatnik - City Parks Foundation Icon Award**

**Evening will feature a Special Performance by
The Preservation Hall Jazz Band with Special Guests**

Save The Date - September 10, 2026

July 21, 2026 -- New York: City Parks Foundation (CPF) is pleased to announce the **2026 Dinner & Concert** benefit fundraiser will take place **Thursday, September 10** at their flagship **SummerStage** venue at Rumsey Playfield in **Central Park**. This year's event will honor visionary **SummerStage festival founder** and **executive producer Joe Killian** with the **2026 SummerStage Icon Award**, as the storied festival celebrates its **milestone 40th anniversary this season**, and **Alex Blavatnik**, Vice Chairman of Access Industries and Director of the Blavatnik Archive, with the **2026 City Parks Foundation Icon Award**.

City Parks Foundation, through its Capital One City Parks Foundation SummerStage Festival, is one of the largest presenters of free arts and cultural programs in New York City parks, and serves nearly 300,000 New Yorkers each year through arts, education, sports and community building initiatives. City Parks Foundation is dedicated to offering diverse programming to encourage New Yorkers to use and care for their local parks and green spaces, to bring these public spaces to life and to make them accessible for all.

City Parks Foundation is thrilled to present the **2026 SummerStage Icon Award** to **Joe Killian**, SummerStage's trailblazing founder and Executive Producer from 1986 to 1993. On a walk through Central Park, Joe had a daring idea that would forever change the landscape of free concerts in NYC. Four decades later, what started as a handful of summer performances has grown into an internationally renowned festival, bringing over 200,000 people into our parks each year. Before forming Killian + Company, Killian also directed concerts at Radio City Music Hall and led content and entertainment teams at Radical Media, where he was a partner, and Momentum Worldwide, as an EVP. He has worked with some of



the world's biggest talent in music and film, including Taylor Swift, Kendrick Lamar, Pharrell Williams, Ariana Grande, The Killers, Spike Lee, David Lynch, Todd Haines, Paul McCartney, The Rolling Stones, Scarlett Johansson, Olivia Rodrigo and many more. Killian's work has earned two Emmys, a Clio, an Effie, a Webby, and numerous other awards.

City Parks Foundation is also proud to present **Alex Blavatnik**, Vice Chairman of Access Industries and Senior Advisor to the Blavatnik Family Foundation, with the **2026 City Parks Foundation Icon Award**. Through his role at the Foundation, Blavatnik oversees the Blavatnik Archive, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving materials on 20th-century Jewish and world history — work that reflects a broader, civic-minded philanthropy focused on making cultural history freely accessible to the public. It's a mission that mirrors City Parks Foundation's own belief that great experiences should be open to all. Additionally, Blavatnik sits on the boards of several educational and charitable institutions, reflecting the family's broader commitment to philanthropy.

"As we celebrate SummerStage's 40th anniversary this year, we are truly honored to be presenting our trailblazing festival founder Joe Killian with this year's SummerStage Icon Award. Joe had a groundbreaking vision to bring free, world-class performing arts programming to New Yorkers, and we are so proud to be continuing his mission across the city to this day" said **Heather Lubov, Executive Director of City Parks Foundation**. "We are also equally excited to present Alex Blavatnik with the City Parks Foundation Icon Award and shine a spotlight on the longtime commitment and philanthropic support that he and his Foundation have provided to preserving cultural history and making it freely accessible to all - something we strongly believe in."

The evening will also feature a special performance by New Orleans' legendary **Preservation Hall Jazz Band**, the beloved ensemble has carried the torch of New Orleans music for more than 65 years, proving that the history they were founded to preserve is very much alive and still swinging. Expect an electrifying concert featuring special guests joining the Band for an unforgettable night of live music under the stars in Central Park. Additional special guests are to be announced.

City Parks Foundation's 2026 Dinner & Concert benefit is **co-chaired** by: Activist Artists Management, Bonnie & Steven Beer, Bill Silva Entertainment, Blavatnik Family Foundation, Suzanne Brume, Anna & Bill Cameron, Capital One, Citi, Kathy Gantz & Lary Wolf, Claire Goodman Pellegrini & Rusty Cloud, Gail Gordon, Roni Jacobson & David Feldman, Jenny Lee & Joe Killian, Live Nation Worldwide, Jennifer & Roland Merchant, Lori & David Moore, Elizabeth Sarnoff & Andy Cohen, Jeanne & Bob Savitt, Lisa & Lee Schalop, Eugene & Anna Schneur - Schneur Family Foundation, Cindy & Tom Secunda, Rebecca & Peter Shapiro, TD, Jean Troubh, Louisa & John Troubh, Warner Music Group, Katy & Greg Williamson, The Witkoff Family.

WHEN: Thursday, September 10, 2026
6:30pm: Cocktail Reception



7:30pm: Dinner

8:30pm: Awards Ceremony & Concert

WHERE: SummerStage in Central Park - Rumsey Playfield
Enter at E. 72nd Street and Fifth Ave (Rain or Shine - Tented Venue)

TICKETS: Tables and tickets for the evening are now available for purchase.
For more information, visit:
<https://cityparksfoundation.org/city-parks-foundation-gala/>

About City Parks Foundation

At City Parks Foundation, we are dedicated to invigorating and transforming parks into dynamic, vibrant centers of urban life through sports, arts, community engagement and capacity building, and environmental education programs for all New Yorkers. Our programs -- located in 330 parks, recreation centers and public schools across New York City -- reach nearly 300,000 people and organizations each year. Our ethos is simple: thriving parks mean thriving communities.

About SummerStage

Capital One City Parks Foundation SummerStage celebrates its 40th season this year as one of New York's most beloved, broadly accessible, free outdoor performing arts festivals. SummerStage presents more than 60 free and benefit performances in Central Park and 12-15 neighborhood parks each year, reaching more than 227,000 fans. With diverse artists and performances in genres that represent the cultural fabric of New York City, ranging from jazz, hip-hop, Latin, and global to indie and contemporary dance, SummerStage has filled a vital niche in our City's summer arts festival landscape for four decades, reaching more than seven million people from New York City and around the world.

For media inquiries: SummerStagePress@dkcnews.com