

NYBG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 15, 2021

The New York Botanical Garden Presents Hispanic Heritage Month Distinguished Leadership Award to Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. During Annual *Fiesta de Flores* Celebration



(Left to right) Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. accepts the Hispanic Heritage Month Distinguished Leadership Award, presented to him on October 13, 2021, by NYBG Trustees Joseph A. Thompson and Anthony Perez, and CEO & The William C. Steere Sr. President Jennifer Bernstein. (Photo by Jason Green)

Bronx, NY—On Wednesday, October 13, 2021, The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) presented the Hispanic Heritage Month Distinguished Leadership Award to Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. during its annual *Fiesta de Flores* event at the Botanical Garden, part of its Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month celebration of the plants and people of Latin America and the Caribbean. The award was an original modillion (an ornate architectural bracket) from the 1937 restoration of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, designed by Lord & Burnham ca. 1899, opened in 1902. It was presented to the Borough President in recognition of his outstanding leadership, commitment, and contributions to the people and the Borough of the Bronx by CEO & The William C. Steere Sr. President Jennifer Bernstein and Trustees Joseph A. Thompson and Anthony Perez, on behalf of NYBG's staff and Board of Trustees.

Fiesta de Flores, presented in collaboration with New York City Councilmember Vanessa Gibson, representing District 16 in the Bronx, honored the cultural traditions and botanical heritage of the people of Latin America and the Caribbean region through music, crafts, food, and more. Highlights included performances by Carlos Jimenez Mambo Quartet and Bombazo Dance Co. The evening also featured guided tours of Caribbean plants in the Haupt Conservatory, a floral arranging demonstration, and local vendors and artisans.

About The New York Botanical Garden

Founded in 1891, The New York Botanical Garden is the most comprehensive botanical garden in the world and an integral part of the cultural fabric of New York City, anchored in the Bronx. Visitors come to the Garden to connect with nature for joy, beauty, and respite, and for renowned plant-based exhibitions, music and dance, and poetry and lectures. Innovative children's education programs promote environmental sustainability and nutrition awareness, graduate programs educate the next generation of botanists, while engaging classes inspire adults to remain lifelong learners. The 250-acre verdant landscape—which includes a 50-acre, old-growth forest—and the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory support living collections of more than one million plants. Unparalleled resources are also held in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, the world's most important botanical and horticultural library with 11 million archival items spanning ten centuries, and William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the largest in the Western Hemisphere with 7.8 million plant and fungal specimens. Committed to protecting the planet's biodiversity and natural resources, Garden scientists work on-site in cutting-edge molecular labs and in areas worldwide where biodiversity is most at risk.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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Images available.