

NYBG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 6, 2023

The New York Botanical Garden, in Collaboration with N.Y.C. Councilmember Rafael Salamanca, Presented the 12th Annual *Fiesta de Flores*, Featuring Music, Tours, and Community Recognition Awards

***Fiesta de Flores* is Part of NYBG's Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month Celebration of the Cultural Traditions and Botanical Heritage of the People of Latin America and the Caribbean Region**



(Left to right) Elizabeth Figueroa, Associate Vice President for Community Relations, NYBG; Dianne T. Renwick, Vice Chair, NYBG Board of Trustees; Maria Rios, President, Classico Building Maintenance, Inc.; Melissa Cebollero, Associate Vice President for Community Relations, Montefiore Medical Center; N.Y.C. Councilmember Rafael Salamanca, District 17; Miguel Angel Amadeo, musician and owner, Casa Amadeo music store; Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Representative to the United Nations; Jessenia Aponte, Bronx Borough Parks Commissioner; and Ariana Collado, Executive Director, The Bronx Democratic Party. Photo Credit: Marlon Co, The New York Botanical Garden.

Bronx, NY—On Wednesday, October 4, 2023, The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), in collaboration with New York City Councilmember Rafael Salamanca, District 17, presented the 12th annual *Fiesta de Flores*, part of its Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month celebration of the cultural traditions and botanical heritage of the people of Latin America and the Caribbean region. The evening included remarks from Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Representative to the United Nations, and recognized community members and public servants for their contributions to the Bronx.

NYBG presented the Hispanic Heritage Month Award to Jessenia Aponte, Bronx Borough Parks Commissioner, for her tireless, unwavering, and dedicated service to the people and institutions of the Bronx and for her leadership in the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. The Botanical Garden's Hispanic Heritage Month Community Service Award was presented to Melissa Cebollero, Associate Vice President for Community Relations at Montefiore Medical Center, for her outstanding community service and contributions throughout the years to the people and institutions of the Bronx.

Councilmember Salamanca also honored three other Bronx community leaders during the evening: Ariana Collado, Executive Director, The Bronx Democratic Party; Maria Rios, President, Classico Building Maintenance, Inc.; and Miguel Angel Amadeo, musician and owner, Casa Amadeo music store.

Fiesta de Flores celebration highlights included Bronx band Johnny Mambo and Friends, a Bomba ensemble performance by Bombayo under the direction of Jose Ortiz a/k/a Dr. Drum, guided tours of Caribbean plants in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, floral arranging demonstrations, 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.