# Rambling Rose Gala

## Queens Botanical Garden

## Wednesday, June 9, 2021

*Honoring*

# Dime Community Bank

DIME

# Dear Rambling Rose Gala Friend,

On behalf of the Rambling Rose Gala Committee and Board of Trustees, welcome to Queens Botanical Garden's Rambling Rose Gala! We are beyond thrilled to be able to convene once again in the Garden to celebrate this annual event and are happily embracing our new "rambling" event format. Tradition with a twist!

This year, we are incredibly excited to honor **Dime Community Bank** with the Rambling Rose Gala Award. Queens Botanical Garden (QBG) remains deeply grateful for Dime Community Bank's work to secure us a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in spring 2020. During one of the Garden's most trying moments, Dime was there to help us navigate through the uncertainty, and in record time! The PPP loan was critical for our organization. It enabled us to keep and bring back many of our diverse and talented staff members, who then went on to create new digital content and prepare the Garden to reopen again after our temporary closure. As *the place where people, plants, and culture meet*, our main goal was to reopen the Garden as soon as possible to provide a safe place of healing, beauty, and joy for all. This would not have been possible without Dime's support! Dime truly exemplifies the meaning of community.

Our new short film, *Queens Botanical Garden: Surviving the Pandemic* tells this important story and highlights our wonderful colleagues, visitors, and friends. When I reflect on this year, I feel delighted by the special community we have built here at Queens Botanical Garden and all that we have accomplished together during the pandemic. Since reopening on July 21, 2020, we have welcomed over 117,00 visitors to the Garden to breathe in the fresh air, admire the changing colors, practice Tai Chi, learn about plants and insects, and spend time with family and friends. The pandemic has further revealed how precious the Garden is to so many people. We are excited to look forward to brighter days ahead!

On behalf of the Board and staff of Queens Botanical Garden, thank you for joining us tonight and for all your support – it makes all that we do possible!

**Raymond Jasen**
Chair, Board of Trustees

**Susan Lacerte**
Executive Director

# 2021 Rose Gala Award

Dime Community Bank is delighted to be honored at the 2021 Rambling Rose Gala. Queens Botanical Garden represents so many of the qualities of Queens, and Dime is a truly proud partner and supporter of this wonderful and diverse borough.

As we take the time to celebrate and enjoy the annual season of the rose, we also want to take this time and celebrate another reemergence. As our economy begins to bloom back to life, it's a welcome sight, much like the rose. Dime was fortunate to be able to help our communities like Queens with PPP loans and grants to the business community during this difficult and unsure time. Now, as this borough and the others that make up this fantastic city begin to once again bloom, we are here as your partner, as we have been through so many tough times together.

We invite you all to share in the celebration of the rose, and this spectacular gala that Queens Botanical Garden presents every year. It's truly a thrill and an honor to partner with such an institution of this community. We are humbled at the resilience of the rose itself, and especially at such a unique time that we trust the amazing story of resilience of this precious flower is not lost on any of us.

As this year's honoree, we are humbled and appreciative beyond words. Thank you for allowing Dime to be a sponsor, partner, and a friend of Queens Botanical Garden, and to all of you who will enjoy this gala.

Sincerely,

*Kevin O'Connor*

Kevin O'Connor
CEO

**The Board of Trustees and staff of Queens Botanical Garden express deep gratitude and appreciation to**

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The Queens Borough President and Queens elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding. Corporations, foundations and individuals provide additional support.

## We extend our gratitude to the following elected officials and government bodies for their support:

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## We are pleased to thank the following corporations and foundations for their major support of QBG's botanical displays, programs, and operations:

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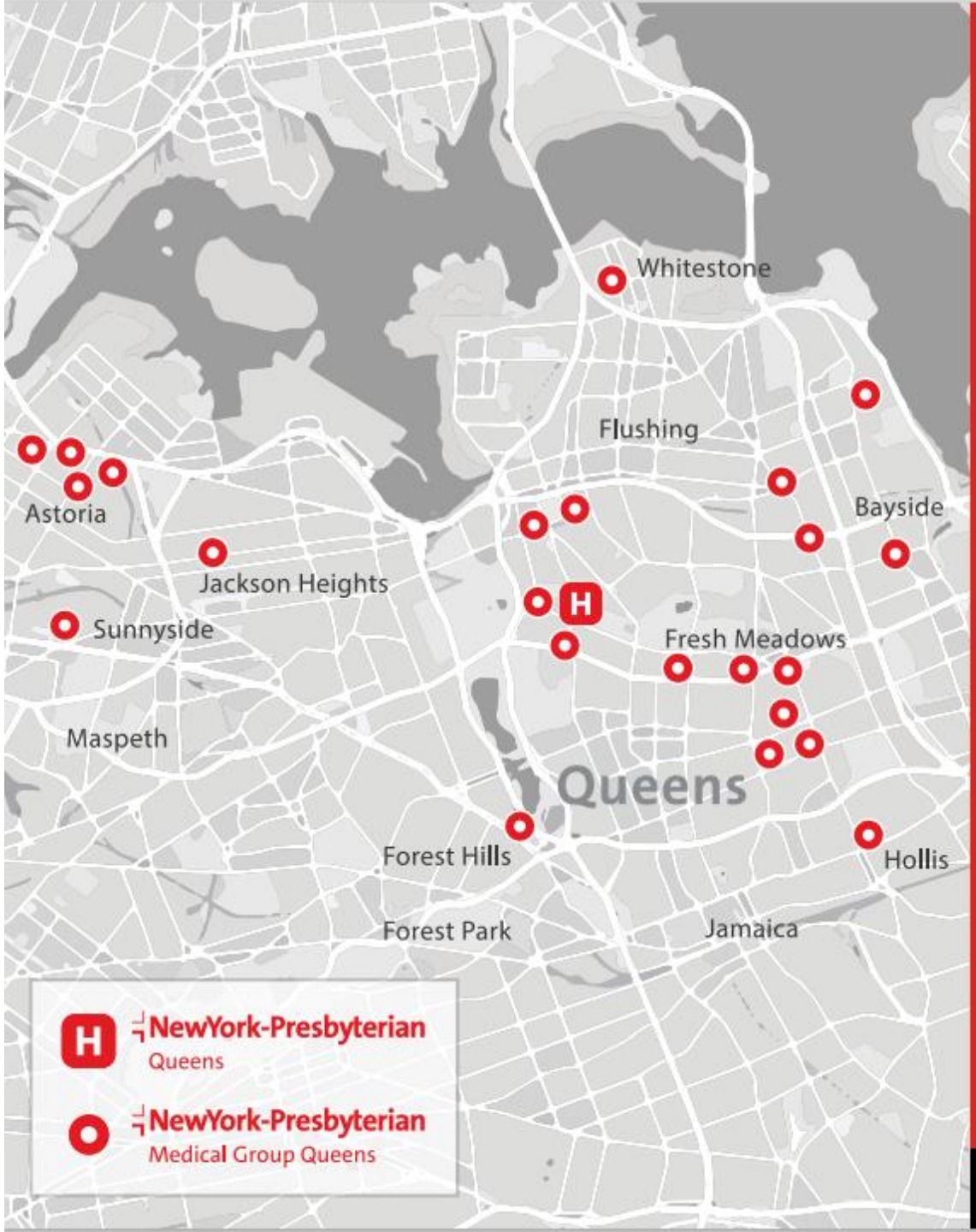


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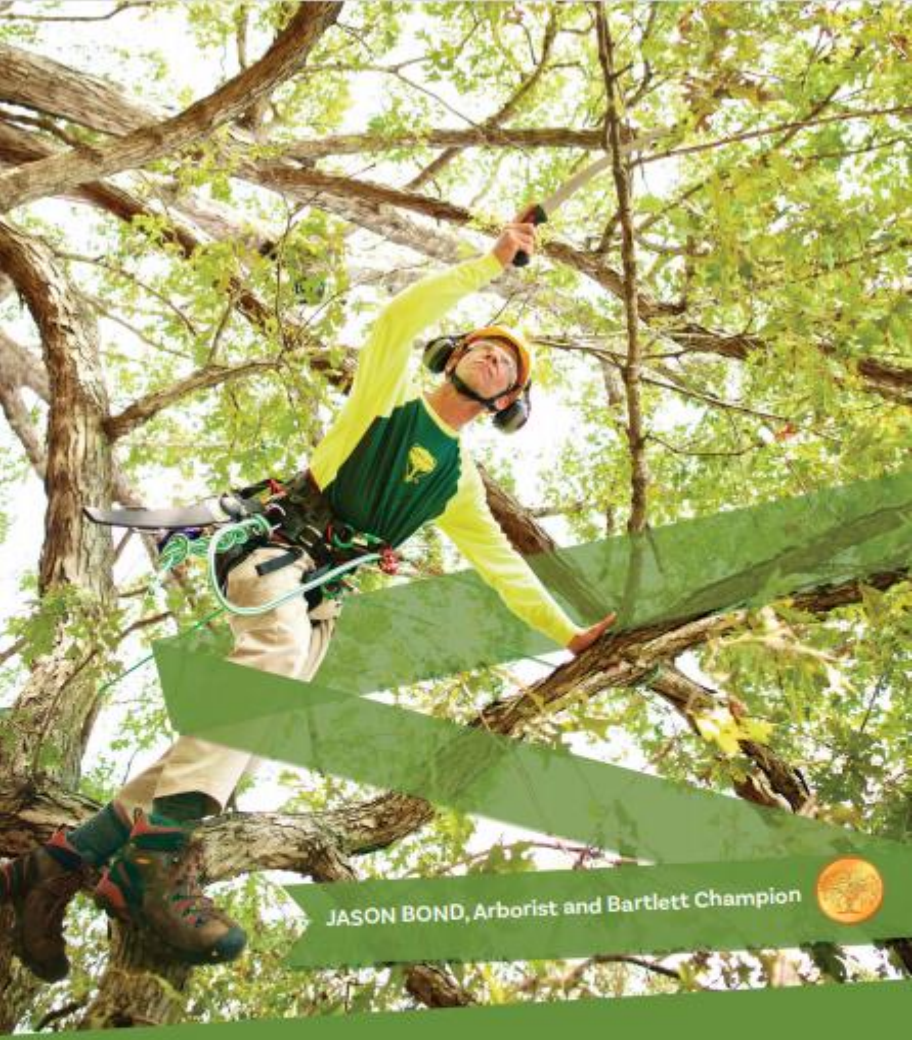


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