



50  
YEARS



The  
BronxWorks  
May 2023  
Newsletter



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## FEATURED STORY

# The BronxWorks 50th Anniversary Gala



Thanks to all of our amazing sponsors, supporters, staff, and guests, the BronxWorks 50th Anniversary Gala was a resounding success. Special thanks to our Champion sponsor of the night, Ørsted, and our Advocate sponsors, Doug & Suzanne Tween, Christian & Ting Lee, JP Morgan Chase, and Bruce Phillips & Joan Feeney. We enjoyed a wonderful evening at the beautiful New York Botanical Garden, with cocktails served outside overlooking the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and live music by Tres Gatos, followed by dinner in the Garden Terrace Room.



We could not be more thankful to our Host and Special Ambassador for the evening, the incomparable Seth Meyers, who helped us celebrate this remarkable evening with even more laughter and festivity.





Thank you as well to New York City Mayor Eric Adams and Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson for honoring the 50th Anniversary of BronxWorks and sharing our vision and mission to build a better future for the communities of the Bronx.



Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson (left) and New York City Mayor Eric Adams (right).

Huge thanks to our 50th Anniversary Gala Honorees. We were so thrilled to honor long-time member of the BronxWorks Board of Directors, Doug Tween. A partner at Linklaters, Doug has dedicated many years as a Board Member at BronxWorks providing steady guidance and support to help us focus and grow our impact. We were also so happy to honor The Monadnock Family Of Companies, an important partner in our work to improve the communities of the Bronx. Monadnock shares our vision of a borough filled with beautiful and affordable housing options and has worked with BronxWorks to bring effective support programs to their residents and households that can prevent evictions and keep people stably-housed. Thank you to

Doug and thank you to the Monadnock Family of Companies for your support in this milestone celebration!



Doug Tween (left) is a partner at Linklaters LLP and a member of the BronxWorks Board of Directors. Kirk Goodrich (right) is a partner at Monadnock Development LLC and accepted the award on behalf of the Monadnock Family of Companies.

Thank you to all of our staff and partners who worked to make this night happen. Thank you to the BronxWorks Development Department and staff volunteers, to the middle school essay writers for being our future stars, to BLB Consulting for their indispensable help putting the night together for many months, to BronxNet for their work on our video programming, to the New York Botanical Garden for the venue, food, and drinks, to the BronxWorks Board of Directors for their unyielding support and leadership, and of course, to all of the staff in the 50-year history of BronxWorks who have contributed their efforts to building this organization and to improving the lives of countless Bronx residents.

To see more pictures from this event, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

**Watch the 50th Anniversary Gala  
Video**

**Thank You To Our Gala Sponsors!**



BronxWorks sincerely thanks the following donors for their generous and continued support of our mission for the BronxWorks 50th Anniversary Gala.

as of May 18, 2023

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**Orsted**

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Thanks to our major donors who supported the  
BronxWorks 50th Anniversary Gala and the Call To Action



as of May 18, 2023

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## STAFF PROFILE

### Scott Auwarter and John Weed, Assistant Executive Directors

Here's a fun statistic: the two Assistant Executive Directors of BronxWorks, John Weed and Scott Auwarter, have over 71 years of combined experience managing and providing social services to the Bronx. Both started their careers as interns in the 1980s at BronxWorks, then known as the Citizens Advice Bureau. Both stayed on full-time after graduating as Social Workers, and both have contributed their professional lives to growing the impact of an organization that would embody the entire borough. This year, as we celebrated 50 years of providing services to the Bronx, we were continuously reminded of how much both John and Scott give to **feed, shelter, teach, and support** our neighbors to build a stronger Bronx community.

#### Scott Auwarter

Scott joined BronxWorks in 1986. He grew up in Chenango County in upstate New York, earned his Bachelor's Degree in Health Science from SUNY Cortland, and spent two years with the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, West Africa. When he came back to the U.S., Scott enrolled at the Hunter College School of Social Work for his Master's in Social

Work, and joined the Citizens Advice Bureau as a part of his field placement. In 1988, before graduating, he was hired full-time as a Program Coordinator, supervising and providing direct service, mostly in information referral. At that time, Scott estimates the organization had maybe twenty employees.



In his 37 years at BronxWorks, Scott has been a Program Coordinator, Program Director, Department Director, and, of course, Assistant Executive Director. He has worked in the areas of HIV/AIDS care and prevention, health care coordination, eviction prevention, foster care prevention, adult and family homeless services, street homeless outreach, and supportive housing.

**“I’ve always found this work to be very interesting and challenging. Working with homeless folks, severely mentally ill folks, people who have been left out, I believe it is important to have a pragmatic, thoughtful approach based on the reality of the situation to best address their needs.”**

As Assistant Executive Director of BronxWorks, Scott now oversees a large portfolio that includes vital programs like the Homeless Outreach Team, Living Room Drop-in Center, Jerome Avenue Men’s Shelter, numerous adult and family homeless services, supportive housing, and eviction prevention programs.

**“I always felt I was cut out for this kind of work. When I graduated college, I knew I wanted to be a social worker. And becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer as well – it goes back to trying to do something decent.”**

When he’s not working, Scott enjoys carpentry. He recently rebuilt a shed, and built a deck with his friend. He has two grandchildren and loves to spend time with his family. For exercise, he’s been riding his bike a lot.

## **John Weed**

John started at BronxWorks in 1989, also as an intern. He grew up in Queens and spent his college years in New Mexico. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. After graduating, John also joined the Peace Corps and spent two-and-a-half years in the Dominican Republic.



**"My Peace Corps experience was first and foremost lifechanging for me. I learned a language, learned a new culture. I was a volunteer alone in a small town and I loved every moment of it."**

After he came to the U.S., John taught a bilingual program in California for eight months before moving back to New York City and enrolling at the Hunter College School of Social Work. He came across the BronxWorks (then CAB) Immigration program and recalls meeting Scott and asking him about the organization.

**"It was because of Scott that I decided it was a good internship for me. Picture this: the agency was so small at the time, we only had the 2070 Grand Concourse office and two others. Scott and I would eventually settle into different offices."**

John, too, would stay at BronxWorks full-time after graduating with his Master's in Social Work. He helped run the Avenue St. John walk-in office, adding needed programs for the community such as a family childcare network, after-school and youth programming, and more. During his 34 years at BronxWorks, John has worked as a Program Director, Department Director, and, of course, Assistant Executive Director, overseeing all of the community programs at BronxWorks.

**"What we were able to do at Avenue St. John thrilled me. The community was tiny and there was a lot of devastation in the Bronx when I started. It looks a lot different now than back then, and we were able to make this community work through a variety of programs. I would say my professional accomplishment is to fill a need where it is and work with the community to do that."**

Outside of work, John loves to hike. He's looking forward to a once-a-year hiking trip with his Peace Corps friends in the Adirondacks. He also loves to garden and travel, and he enjoys spending time with his family and adult children.



**DID YOU KNOW**

**"Feeling Here" Art Exhibit at Boricua College**





The Boricua College Art Gallery partnered with BronxWorks for "Feeling Here", a group art exhibition featuring BronxWorks participants connected with our Supportive Housing and Adult Shelter programs. The gallery featured dozens of art pieces, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, mixed media, and decoupage. Some artists also taught classes this month in the art form of their choice. The exhibit was curated by BronxWorks Artist-In-Residence Francis Palazzolo and ran from May 4 through May 29.

[Read the full article here.](#)



**PHOTO ESSAY**



## Prom Dress Giveaway

BronxWorks Children & Youth programs hosted a Prom Dress Giveaway just in time for New York City proms! We distributed about 100 dresses to Middle & High School Seniors, and mothers were able to pick out a dress to attend graduation. Attendees also sipped on curated mocktails and were provided with gift bags filled with makeup, eyelashes, nails, and other beauty accessories.



## BronxWorks Youth Workforce Hiring Event

BronxWorks Youth Workforce programs hosted their second Hiring Event and Job Fair at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center. These hiring events were open to all ages but focused on providing job opportunities to adults ages 18-24 in the Bronx. Organizations from across New York City spoke with and in some cases hired interviewees on the spot. Events like these give adults who are just entering the workforce the chance to connect with employers in the area and get their career started.





## ESOL Heritage Day

Dozens of students from BronxWorks English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes across the agency gathered at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center to celebrate their diverse heritage. Multiple countries across the globe were represented, including the Dominican Republic, Ivory Coast, and Russia. Students gave presentations about their native countries and discussed their culture, food, flags, and government. BronxWorks offers ESOL classes in three location as well as in some of our older adult centers.



## Bronx Resource Baby Shower

BronxWorks and NYCHA came together this month to host a Bronx Resource Baby Shower! Over 200 NYCHA residents and community members were provided connection to important resources and essential items for new and expectant mothers, including doula services, strollers, portable cribs, diapers, wipes, and more! Events like these help advance maternal and infant health equity throughout New York City, something that is vastly needed, especially in the Bronx.



## Summer Saturdays Are Back!

The BronxWorks Community Health Programs are hosting Summer Saturdays again! One Saturday a month this summer, our neighbors can come to Saint Mary's Park for an eventful day of family fun! Activities include games, sports, raffles, health workshops, wellness activities like yoga, and more! This month, the pouring rain put a damper on the day but those who came were still treated to a cooking demo from our SNAP-Ed team and could take part in Participatory Budgeting voting.



## BronxWorks at AIDS Walk New York

BronxWorks continued their tradition of fielding a team and supporting AIDS Walk New York. AIDS Walk New York is the largest fundraiser for AIDS research in the world, supporting the work that Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) does to try to end AIDS and HIV. #TeamBronxWorks was comprised of a mix of BronxWorks staff from our Positive Living and The Brook programs, the BronxWorks LGBTQ+ Committee, BronxWorks program participants, and family & friends. Our team raised nearly \$1,900 for AIDS research this year. Thank you to all who contributed!!



**SPECIAL SILENT AUCTION  
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## WAYS TO SUPPORT

**Continue the Call To Action!**

There are many other ways you can support BronxWorks.

- Make a contribution. [Donate Now!](#)
- Contribute to the Call To Action of the [BronxWorks 50th Anniversary Gala!](#)
- Support #TeamBronxWorks at the [2023 TCS New York City Marathon!](#)

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