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PENCIL to Celebrate 20 Years of Transforming New York City Public Schools  

Business Leader Seth Pinsky to be honored at October 1st gala  
for his commitment to the City’s public school students  

New York, NY, October 1 — PENCIL, one of New York’s premier education nonprofits, will celebrate 20 years of creating partnerships between the City’s business and education communities at its October 1st gala at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers. Hundreds of business leaders, educators, and civic leaders will celebrate the organization’s work and honor those who have contributed to its success over the past two decades.  

“The 20th Anniversary Gala is a glorious milestone for an organization that has helped the business community transform the student experience at countless New York City public schools,” said David Weiner, President of PENCIL. “We’re not just celebrating the past, but also the future of our students, who will be far better equipped for college and careers because of PENCIL and its partners.”  

Seth Pinsky, Executive Vice President at RXR Realty, will be honored for his commitment to many important causes that improve New York City, including PENCIL’s work at the intersection of business and education. Mr. Pinsky - a former president of the New York City Economic Development Corporation in the Bloomberg administration - and the RXR Realty team hosted students during PENCIL’s first annual city-wide BOSS FOR A DAY event, which gave students the opportunity to experience a real work environment and speak with business leaders to hear about how to make the most of a summer internship.  

“PENCIL provides countless opportunities for young New Yorkers, especially those from low-income families, to gain exposure to the business world—an environment to which too many kids do not have access,” Mr. Pinsky said. “PENCIL has done remarkable things for our city’s kids over the past 20 years and I’m honored to support them.”  

Christina Park, news anchor on WNYW/Fox 5 and previously CNN Headline News and CNN.com Live, will emcee the event. The gala will also feature a performance by New York City’s widely-acclaimed PS 22 Chorus.
PENCIL was created in 1995 as a vehicle for the business community to get involved with the public schools. For years, it was best known for its iconic Principal for a Day event, an awareness campaign that brought hundreds of business and community leaders into New York City’s public schools. Over the past 20 years, the organization has adapted to the changing landscape of the business and education communities by creating impactful models of collaboration that address the needs of the businesses, schools, and students involved. This includes programs such as PENCIL Fellows, an intensive career training program that gives hundreds of public high school students the chance to take part in 30+ hours of work skills training sessions and a six-week paid internship at a company in New York City.

PENCIL is proud to partner with businesses including Bloomberg, BNY Mellon, CA Technologies, Deloitte, Himmel + Meringoff Properties LLC, JetBlue, JP Morgan Chase & Co., LinkedIn, and PwC.

The Gala committee is chaired by PENCIL Board Member and Taconic Investment Partners Co-Chief Executive Officer Charles R. Bendit, and co-chaired by C-III Capital Partners’ Executive Managing Director Robert C. Lieber, and Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP Partners Ross F. Moskowitz and Karen Scanna.

PENCIL’s Gala Dinner Committee includes Robert Arning of KPMG LLP; Louis Briskman; PENCIL Board Member Susan Cosgrove of the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation; Neil Clark of Fidelity National Title Insurance; Stephen D’Antonio of Morgan Stanley; Gretchen Dowling of Elizabeth Arden, Inc.; Jeffrey Gural of Newmark Grubb Knight Frank; Douglas L. Harmon of Eastdil Secured; Peter Malkin of the Malkin Fund; Jean Manas of Foros, and Stephen J. Meringoff of Meringoff Properties.

About PENCIL
Founded in 1995, PENCIL is the leader in creating innovative and impactful models of collaboration between the business and education communities. PENCIL works at the intersection of school needs and business expertise to bring together the best ideas, talent, and resources across sectors to improve public student and school performance and enhance workforce pathways. Visit PENCIL.org for more information.

About Seth Pinsky
Seth Pinsky is an Executive Vice President at RXR Realty, where he is helping to lead RXR’s efforts to invest in “emerging opportunities” in the New York region. He focuses on areas with significant growth potential, particularly in the Outer Boroughs and suburban downtowns.

Prior to RXR, Mr. Pinsky was Director of Mayor Bloomberg’s Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency, which developed a $20 billion plan to protect the City from climate change impacts. Mr. Pinsky also served at the New York City Economic Development Corporation, where he was President from 2008 to 2013.

While at NYCEDC, Mr. Pinsky was lead negotiator for projects such as Yankee Stadium, Citifield, the World Trade Center, and the acquisition of Hunters Point South in Queens. Other initiatives advanced under Mr. Pinsky’s
leadership were developments in Willets Point, Coney Island, Homeport in Staten Island, Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx, and the Alexandria Center for Life Sciences. Under Mr. Pinsky, NYCEDC also managed the construction of the High Line, launched the East River Ferry, and announced plans for the world’s largest observation wheel in Staten Island.

In the area of economic modernization, under Mr. Pinsky, NYCEDC launched business incubators across the City and oversaw the international Applied Sciences NYC competition, which will result in a new Carnegie-Mellon program in the Navy Yard, a significant expansion of Columbia’s engineering school, and the creation of a new engineering institute in Downtown Brooklyn led by NYU. It will also result in a $2 billion engineering campus on Roosevelt Island launched by Cornell and the Technion of Israel.

Prior to NYCEDC, Mr. Pinsky was an associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton and a financial analyst at James D. Wolfensohn Inc. He is a graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School, and is an Adjunct Senior Research Scholar at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs. Mr. Pinsky lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Angela and their children, Theo and Amelia.

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