PENCIL Raises $1.7 Million at 20th Anniversary Gala

New York, NY, October 2 — PENCIL, one of New York’s premier education nonprofits, celebrated 20 years of creating partnerships between the City’s business and education communities last night at its 20th Anniversary Gala at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers. New York City’s business community raised $1.7 million to support the organization’s efforts to continue transforming public education.

Fox 5 Anchor Christina Park served as the emcee for the event and was joined by 600 guests including hundreds of leaders in the business, education, and nonprofit spaces. The gala also featured a performance by New York City’s widely-acclaimed PS 22 Chorus.

“PENCIL is proud to partner with organizations that put the needs of New York City’s students first,” said David Weiner, President of PENCIL. “By connecting the business community with the City’s public schools, we are able to expose students to a world of career opportunities and put them on the path to success.”

Seth Pinsky, Executive Vice President at RXR Realty, received the Champion of New York City Award 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.

The Gala committee was 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 included 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.

Major sponsors of the event included Karyn and Charles R. Bendit and Taconic Investment Partners LLC, CA Technologies, Citi, PwC, and Stephen J. Meringoff.
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.

Photos from PENCIL’s 20th Anniversary Gala

From left to right: PENCIL President David Weiner, PENCIL Founder Lisa Belzberg, and PENCIL Board of Directors Chair Howard Chatzinoff

New York City’s PS 22 Chorus performing Nights in White Satin by Moody Blues

From left to right: Charles R. Bendit (Gala Dinner Chair, Vice Chair, Board of Directors), Howard Chatzinoff (Chair, Board of Directors), Wilde Diaz (Speaker, PENCIL Fellows Alum), Seth Pinsky (Honoree), Lidia Eugenio (Speaker, PENCIL Partnership Student), Jerrod Keith (Speaker, PENCIL Principal for a Day Alum), Scott Beattie (Board Member), Elliott Wahle (Board Member), Jack Stephenson (Board Member), David Barger (Board Member)
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.

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