Dear Friends,

As we celebrated 46 years of CITYarts transforming communities, I enjoyed celebrating my 25 years of re-founding an organization that closed its doors for lack of funding. At this special event I revisited the original intentions and goals for this unique organization. First and foremost, my desire was to engage children and youth in positive, creative art projects that would motivate them to shape their futures and transform their communities for the better. I wanted to ensure that they were inspired and led by professional artists throughout the creative process of painting murals and installing mosaics on the walls of their schools and community spaces. And, through this process, enable them to
acquire new skills, develop a singular voice, and cultivate their growth into our leaders of tomorrow.

Now, after producing over 200 projects during my time at CITYarts, I was able to celebrate with about 200 friends, supporters, people who care, and of course, our exceptional Honorees, who reiterated once more how important it is to not just go with the flow but to stand up for something and make a difference. We definitely need more of their kind.

Joyce Pomeroy Schwartz, whose award designed by Donna Dennis was presented by her grandson Jonathan Schwartz, is a pioneering public art advisor who has spent her life bringing the arts to a larger public, outside of museum walls. She established Works of Art for Public Spaces, Ltd., and co-founded the Rockaway Music and Arts Council, ArtTable, and the Association of Professional Art Advisors (APAA).

Marc Gobé, whose award designed by Philippe Apeloig was accepted on his behalf by his wife Mariannick and daughter Gwenaëlle, was an award-winning author, designer, and keynote speaker who developed the boldly innovative concept of "emotional branding," a groundbreaking branding model which now spans countries and cultures. He produced This Space Available, a full-length documentary exploring the impact of visual pollution on our society.

Barbara Kopple, whose award designed by Cindy Sherman was presented by her son, Nicholas Kopple, is an Academy Award-winning filmmaker and director of documentaries, narrative television and film. Among many other films, Barbara produced and directed Harlan County USA and American Dream, both winners of the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Recently, her documentary Running from Crazy premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival.

My very special thanks to CITYarts’ Board
of Directors: Carrie H. Cohen, Chairperson; Bernadette Longford, Treasurer; Cheryl Wolf, Secretary; Vera Sung; Amnon Bar-Tur; Irene Minkoff; Demian Reidel; Kristyn Noeth; to my dedicated staff, who take every day's challenges with care, commitment, and extra thought; and to our sponsors of this Gala, especially Allianz of America, Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson, Disney, and Raison Pure NYC.

Today I believe, stronger than ever, that when kids create, they don't destroy!

It is our responsibility to open new opportunities for them and to engage them in creative, innovative, and positive ways of life.

Thank you all for your support!

Have a peaceful Memorial Day Weekend!

Tsipi

Tsipi Ben-Haim
Executive & Creative Director

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CITYarts Mission
CITYarts brings young people and professional artists together to create Public Art. Through this creative process, CITYarts empowers youth and connects children locally and around the world to become active participants in transforming communities.

To Join Us in Our Efforts Visit: www.cityarts.org
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