SiEDC Newsletter
December 2019

Staten Island Gets a $10 Million Grant

SiEDC Annual Awards Gala is Event of the Year

NYC Lantern Festival

Integration Charter Schools

Si Works Readiness Program

Spotlight Members
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Dear SIEDC Members & Sponsors,

In this, our fourth quarter newsletter of 2019, we are pleased to feature articles submitted by SIEDC members, highlight the SIEDC incubator participants, and announce the future plans for the $10 million Downtown Revitalization grant.

Enclosed you will also find highlights from the SIEDC Annual Awards & Great Gatsby Gala, as well as exciting announcements of new initiatives taking place in the merchant groups and Business Improvement Districts we manage.

It is a priority of the SIEDC to provide valuable content for the local business community and foster initiatives that cultivate economic development on Staten Island. Your Membership allows us to continue this work, so please renew your SIEDC membership by January 1st by visiting www.siedc.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Cesar J. Claro
SIEDC President & CEO
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Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul announced that Staten Island will be the recipient of a $10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant for improvements in St. George, Tompkinsville and Stapleton.

**Funding will be distributed for public projects including:**

- Roadway and lighting improvements
- Corridor beautification efforts
- Transportation enhancements
- Pedestrian & bicycle access
- District-wide marketing & promotions
- Development and Cultural projects

The Staten Island Economic Development Corporation teamed with the Staten Island Borough President’s Office and Staten Island Chamber of Commerce to apply for the fourth round of funding provided by the Governor’s Office, the New York State Regional Economic Development Council and the New York State Department of State.
Richmond Road

5th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting & Holiday Festival

Sunday, December 15, 2019

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Holiday Festival will take place in the parking lot of Santander Bank at 1630 Richmond Road.

Festivities Include

Free family Photo with Santa • Trackless Train • Christmas Carolers
Free Refreshments • Giveaways and Raffles • Dance Demonstrations • Live Reindeer

For more information contact Niles French at 718.477.1400 ext. 828 or niles@siedc.org

Sponsored By

Richmond Road Merchants Association

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Corey Johnson
The SIEDC Annual Awards & Great Gatsby Gala was the event of the year! The SIEDC took its annual awards ceremony to new heights adding the theme of Great Gatsby and also raising the festivities to a Gala status. Guests dressed in 1920’s black-tie attire, stilts walkers roamed the dance floor, and newsies distributed Gatsby themed custom newspapers provided by the Staten Island Advance.

Each year, SIEDC honors partners in economic development at its Annual Awards Ceremony. At this event, many of Staten Island’s business and community leaders met and joined SIEDC in acknowledging the outstanding work of the borough’s economic advocates.

This year’s honorees included New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Joe Torres of Merrill Lynch, David Fazio of Deville Auto Collision, Lenore Schwartz of Total Electric, and Integration Charter Schools.

The night began with a cocktail reception featuring several local Staten Island restaurants, followed by the awards presentation, several themed interactive competitions, raffle prizes and more! The People’s Choice award for Best Dressed Dapper Dan & Daisy was awarded to Aileen Fuchs of Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Mike Montalbano of TeamLogic IT. The People’s Choice Award for Best Dish was presented to Sofia’s Taqueria. In the judged Competition, Aunt Butchies of Brooklyn won for outstanding dish. Special thank you to the judges Dom Tesoriero, Eric Eremita, Pamela Silvestri, Shane Dimaio, Terri Côté, and Corey Schifter for Donating the Awards.

The party didn’t stop there... the SIEDC hosted an exclusive speak-easy after-party for those who received the secret password needed to enter. The SIEDC is excited to continue the tradition of a Gala in 2020 and will be reaching out for suggestions for the next theme.

extra extra read all about it! SIEDC ANNUAL AWARDS & FIRST GREAT GATSBY GALA a Great Success!
The SIEDC is proud to spotlight these community leaders who are members and sponsors of the organization. We thank them for their continued support of the borough’s economic growth and SIEDC mission. The SIEDC is proud to partner with these pillars of the Staten Island community.

To join and learn more about the SIEDC network visit www.SIEDC.org

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NEW YORK CITY'S LARGEST HOLIDAY EVENT HAS A NEW ATTRACTION IN 2019

NYC Winter Lantern Festival now has a Holiday Skating Rink

This year’s highly anticipated NYC Winter Lantern Festival is back bigger and better than it was before! With last year’s amazing attendance of 150,000 people, the NYC Winter Lantern Festival is now opening a new attraction for visitors of all ages: The new holiday skating rink! The holiday skating rink will be open on:

- **Wednesdays & Thursdays**
  from 5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- **Fridays from 5:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.**
- **Saturdays & Sundays from 3:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.**

Skate rental fees are separate from the entrance festival ticket price. For skaters over 12 years old, tickets will be $15. Youth tickets for children 3-12 will be $10. Any children under 5 are required to be accompanied by an adult. The holiday skating rink will also have heated seating and watching areas for those who wish to admire from the side. Skating time is not limited.

"Spectrum News NY1 is proud to be part of this year’s NYC Winter Lantern Festival as it marks the second year of providing New Yorkers with interactive exhibits and culturally rich art installations for people of all ages," said Dan Ronayne, Senior Vice President of Spectrum News NY1.

“We were proud to bring this inaugural event back to New York City. Our goal was to take a classic Chinese tradition and transform it into an unforgettable event in the United States. Our team is excited to bring the event back to the beautiful grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden. The new addition of the holiday skating rink will allow guests to stay on the grounds and enjoy the magic of the NYC Winter Lantern Festival,” Haokun Liu and Conglin Miao, NYC Winter Lantern Festival Producers.

“NYC’s most magical holiday event —just got better! The holiday skating rink experience, nestled among our historic cottages, adds another element of family fun and holiday cheer to the lantern festival at Snug Harbor,” Aileen Fuchs, CEO & President of Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden. For more information and tickets to the actual festival please visit, [www.nycwinterlanternfestival.com](http://www.nycwinterlanternfestival.com).
ABOUT NYC WINTER LANTERN FESTIVAL

The NYC Winter Lantern Festival showcases enormous, beautiful LED lanterns around Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden on Staten Island that embellish the Chinese tradition of lantern making. In the gift shop tents, local artists and craftsmen have unique holiday souvenirs and other one-of-a-kind goodies to bring back as a memoir for this special experience. The NYC Winter Lantern Festival will also feature amazing cultural performances and cuisine that make it an ideal destination for family holidays. Lantern making has been a Chinese tradition since the Eastern Han Dynasty in 25 AD. Today, these lanterns have been altered in various shapes and given LED lights to bring them to life. Artisans use small pieces of traditional Chinese silk cloth to cover the frames which gives a lavish, textured look to the lantern. Each piece of silk cloth is designed to perfectly fit between the steel wires. Ending with painted details, every lantern is provided with a unique, magical presence.
By September 2020, Staten Island will have eight operating charter schools. And yet, many people do not fully understand exactly what a charter school is.

There are, unfortunately, many misconceptions around the realm of charter schools within our city, state and country. We’re here to help clear things up.

As a proud family of four charter schools on the island, Integration Charter Schools believes it is imperative that all families fully understand what a charter school is, and why/how they exist. There is a myriad of ways that charters differ from public schools, and there are also many similarities. Here are some of the top questions we often hear.

**Do charter schools charge tuition? How do you “get in”?**

No. Charter schools are the same as public schools in that they are open to all children, do not charge tuition, and are held to the same state testing and federal accountability standards.

All students must apply first to then enter a charter school lottery, but there are no entrance examinations or fees associated with a charter school education. Every student has a fair chance at acceptance.

**So then how are charter schools funded?**

Charter schools are funded quite similarly to public schools, in that they receive public funds from per-pupil funding. Charters are also open to receive private funding as well through donors, fundraising, etc.

**Do charter schools serve students with IEPs?**

Yes. All charter schools serve students with IEPs, and all students with IEPs have the right to a charter school education that meets their needs and requirements.

Charter schools work with their local district offices to ensure compliance. In Staten Island, charter schools partner with the CSE, for all special education evaluations, IEP planning and IEP meetings.

What is a charter? The charter is the legally binding document that outlines exactly how the school will run, its mission statement, performance standards and other rules of operation. It is the governing document behind all charter schools. Think of it as a performance contract.
Who “runs” a charter school?

Instead of being operated by New York State, charter schools are supervised and run by a group or organization - - in many cases, a private board.

Why should I send my child to a charter school?

One of the most distinguishable traits of all charter schools is that they have more flexibility in their programming and curricula as opposed to public schools. Charters are often driven by a unique mission statement or creed that is a central focus of their operations.

Charter schools are also held to higher performance standards than neighborhood schools — as they are audited and evaluated every time their original charter is up for renewal. Here in New York, schools are granted operating periods of one, three or five years following every renewal.

Often, but not always, charter schools provide smaller class sizes and a more personalized education experience, too.

The bottom line?

Charter schools provide opportunities for students that might not exist within current public school offerings.

The driving force behind all charter schools is choice. Charters believe in the power of school choice, and that parents and their children deserve a say in the type of education they receive.

Erin Celletti is the Director of Communications at Integration Charter Schools (ICS). ICS is proud to offer our family of four charter schools (Lavelle Prep, Nicotra Charter, New Ventures and Richmond Prep) to the Staten Island community, and each of our schools operates with a unique mission — but all with the ultimate goal of embracing integration and ensuring our students are prepared to succeed college, career, and life.

If you have any questions about whether a charter school education may be a right fit for your child, please contact Integration Charter Schools at (347)855-2238 or visit us at www.integrationcharterschools.org.
SI WORKS
INDUSTRIAL JOB READINESS TRAINING

- Interested in learning more about available Industrial positions available on Staten Island?
- Unsure about applying to positions?
- Need help creating a resume?

Join the SI Works Employment Program for a free training to prepare for interviews with local companies

2134 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10302
December 16, 2019 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
January 27, 2019 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
February 24, 2019 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

4 Hour Session includes:
- Free Job Readiness Training
- Resume Workshop
- Interview Prep & Mock Interviews
- Understanding the application process
- Opportunity to make contacts with local hiring managers

To register for training, please contact Jenniferyacca@siedc.org or call (718)-477-1400 ext. 819

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The Staten Island Economic Corporation is an island-wide non profit organization that provides support and guidance to help businesses succeed.

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