



united for justice and opportunity

BUILDERS 2011 AWARDS CELEBRATION: Local Heroes, Laughter, Dancing, and Moving our Agenda Forward!

A big hug of gratitude to the four hundred friends who attended and the countless others who supported the New York Immigration Coalition's annual Builders of the *New New York Awards Celebration* on June 2nd!



A big thank you to all those who signed on to our [Stroke of a Pen Campaign](#) to end unjust deportations.

A shout-out to our formidable honorees: The Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi, former County Executive of Nassau County; **Marcos A. Rodriguez**, Managing Member, Palladium Equity Partners; and **Joseph J. Salvo**, Director, and his team at the Population Division, New York City Department of City Planning.



An appreciative nod to our co-chairs— Hector Figueroa, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 32BJ SEIU; **Betsy Gotbaum**, former NYC Public Advocate; **Jay Hershenson**, Vice Chancellor, City University of New York; **Grace Lyu-Volckhausen**, President, Tiger Baron Foundation; **Merryl Tisch**, Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents; **Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez**; and **Kathy Wylde**, President, Partnership for New York City—who helped ensure the night's success!



Cheers to NYC Comptroller John Liu, NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera and NYS Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights Alphonso David for their remarks. We were especially thrilled to have Deputy Secretary David with us, as he was instrumental in the Cuomo Administration announcement the day before that New York would suspend its participation in the Department of Homeland Security's Secure Communities program—a huge victory for New Yorkers, for public safety, and for maintaining the trust between local police and the communities they serve.

And hats off to Richard Barth, executive director of the NYC Department of City Planning; NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation chair **Michael Stocker** and president **Alan Aviles**; **Fatima Shama**, NYC Immigrant Affairs commissioner; **Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez**, commissioner of the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services; and all the elected and public officials who joined us for the evening!



A well-deserved round of applause to our formidable entertainers: [Red Baraat](#), who got us dancing, and [Hari Kondabolu](#) ([@harithecomic](#)), who got us thinking and laughing at the same time!





Our eternal devotion to the NYIC board members, who had 100% participation in the event! A big thank you to **Grace Heymann, for getting the evening started, and standing ovations for our board fundraising committee chairs: **Caroline Katz**, who once again went above and beyond in promoting Builders and supporting the NYIC staff; and **Guillermo Chacon**, who served double duty, spreading his joy and enthusiasm and emceeding the event with gusto.**

A big debt of gratitude to all the evening's major sponsors. Thanks to your crucial support, we met our fundraising goal!

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And to all our other friends and supporters who help to make all of our work possible: We can't do it without you!

Finally, a bow of respect and appreciation for our 200 member organizations: you are the heart and soul of the New York Immigration Coalition, and judging by the moves on the dance floor, the rhythm, too!



*For more pictures, please click
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Till the next time, thank you!

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