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**IDA Presents Downtown Achievement Awards Recognizing Excellence in Urban Place Management**

Jackson Heights, NY – The International Downtown Association recognized the 82nd Street Partnership with the Downtown Achievement Award of Excellence for its resourceful approaches related to **Neighborhoods Now- Jackson Heights.** A jury of peer professionals reviewed, deliberated, and evaluated all entries in the 2022 Downtown Achievement Awards. The Award of Excellence acknowledges an excellent response to an urban place management challenge, demonstrating application of industry knowledge and exceeds the jury criteria.

Neighborhoods Now- Jackson Heights was among 21 qualified entries in the category of Public Space Management and Operations which IDA identifies as one of the seven professional urban place management practice areas. This category features unique organizational approaches and projects in the areas of clean, safe and hospitality, placemaking and activation and facilities management.

“As the leader of a small, community-based business’s improvement district, I am delighted to have our work recognized by the International Downtown Association. This initiative was possible by volunteers who believe in community service and creating an equitable City.” Leslie A. Ramos, Executive Director, 82nd Street Partnership.

Neighborhoods Now- Jackson Heights is an ongoing COVID-19 recovery initiative of the 82nd Street Partnership (BID) in collaboration with the Van Alen Institute and the Urban Design Forum. The initiative brings together NYC architects and engineers to assist small businesses to reopen and recover safely following the pandemic. The program also addresses inequitable access to services by connecting design firms with business owners and community organizations for pro-bono projects.

The initiative focused on assisting small businesses whose owners lacked the language, computer skills, and financial resources to maneuver through government regulations to participate in initiatives like the Outdoor Restaurants program. This program was uniquely able to aid them. As a result, 82nd Street is currently thriving, and preserving the area’s food and services diversity. Today, all businesses assisted by this program remain open and active.

“The 82nd Street Partnership has demonstrated skillful application of urban place management principles with their project Neighborhoods Now—Jackson Heights,” said David Downey, IDA President and CEO. “Neighborhoods Now should serve as a framework to all member communities within IDA.”

Washington, DC-based IDA is the premier organization for urban place professionals who are shaping and activating dynamic city center districts. The 82nd Street Partnership is the urban place management organization representing the interests of property and commercial owners in Jackson Heights and Elmhurst, New York.

**About 82nd Street Partnership**

Founded in 1990 and based in Jackson Heights, Queens, the 82nd Street Partnership is an award-winning neighborhood development organization governed by a board of directors comprised of property owners, commercial tenants, government officials and community leaders. A not-for-profit entity, the Partnership is responsible for managing and promoting the local business improvement district (BID), which covers four blocks and includes 44 properties, a triangle plaza, and nearly 200 businesses.

**About IDA**

The International Downtown Association is the premier organization for urban place professionals who are shaping and activating dynamic city center districts. Our members are city builders and downtown champions who bring urban centers to life, bridging the gap between the public and private sectors. We represent an industry of more than 2,500 place management organizations, employing 100,000 people throughout North America and growing rapidly around the world. Founded in 1954, IDA is a resource center for ideas and innovative best practices in urban place management. For more information, visit downtown.org.

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