MISSION

The Bronx River Alliance serves as a coordinated voice for the river and works in harmonious partnership to protect, improve and restore the Bronx River corridor so that it can be a healthy ecological, recreational, educational and economic resource for the communities through which the river flows.

The Alliance works in close partnership with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) as well as dozens of community-based partners, regional nonprofits, businesses and all levels of government.

VALUES

The Bronx River Alliance is committed to practicing and upholding the values of inclusion, collaboration, environmental justice, responsiveness, communication, ecological restoration, innovation, respect, integrity and public access.
Over 20 years ago, a band of passionate community leaders joined together to realize their vision of a Bronx River that would be a force for environmental reclamation and community development in the heart of the Bronx.

The river, once a neglected, shunned eyesore, is now a source of community pride, where people come to canoe, bike, picnic, and learn. Today, parks and trails line the river, where weeds, vacant factories, and trash-strewn lots existed before. Thousands of people paddle, row and sail every year on a river that not too long ago was choked with cars and invasive species. The river is getting cleaner and more beautiful year by year, and above all, the communities along the river are making it more and more their own.

Together with our partners, we have:

- Removed 725+ tons of garbage and debris from the river, including 20,000+ tires and 89 cars
- Opened 22 new acres of waterfront parkland in the South Bronx
- Led 26,000+ people on paddling adventures
- Empowered 22,000+ volunteers to donate 120,000+ hours to the river and its parks
- Enabled 3,900+ educators & 21,500 students to use the river as an outdoor classroom
- Planted 136,000+ native trees and plants & removed 4 million cubic yards of choking, invasive vegetation

The transformation has been remarkable, thanks to this unique partnership powered equally by community and government resources, including NYC Parks. Once an abandoned, trash-filled river, today the Bronx River is a healthy community resource and source of pride.
Greetings from the Bronx River!

As the COVID-19 pandemic stretched into 2021 and 2022, we salute the Bronx River staff who demonstrated tremendous tenacity and resiliency during the second and third years of the pandemic to serve the river, our parks, and the people who flocked to them.

Not only did our essential staff do the hard work of keeping our riverfront parks clean and safe, we moved into River House, a new NYC Parks-owned environmental classroom, boathouse, and community gathering space in 2021. We were thrilled to begin opening River House slowly to the public. We launched an annual Open House celebration in 2021 to celebrate Earth Day and this new center of learning, stewardship and activism for the river.

In addition, staff launched new programs and coalitions:

- **The EELS environmental justice internship**: a 14-month internship program in partnership with Lehman College. Students earn a $4000 stipend, gain college credit in environmental science, and conduct hands-on research project mentored by experts in the field.

- **RAIN (Rain garden Action in Neighborhoods) Coalition**: in 2021, the Bronx River Alliance, along with Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Newtown Creek Alliance, and the HOPE Program formed RAIN to pilot and advocate for green infrastructure stewardship across NYC that provides high quality maintenance, as well as career ladders into sustainable jobs for communities most affected by historic environmental harms.

The disproportionate health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on low-income communities already burdened by environmental and social injustices will be felt for years to come. Bronx River communities were some of the most affected in the nation. The Bronx River and its parks were one of the few places where people who could not flee the city could go for recreation, safe gathering with family and friends, and health and healing.

The Bronx River Alliance’s work to restore the river so that it can be a healthy resource for the communities through which it flows is therefore as urgent as ever. It takes a community of people to bring back a river--thank you for your steadfast support. And if you haven’t had a chance to see our work for yourself, please join us at the river!

Elena Conte  
Interim Executive Director

Nilka Martell  
Chair

July 2023
HIGHLIGHTS 2021–2022

Bronx River By the Numbers (2021–2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✖️</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>Paddlers led on water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✍️</td>
<td>2800</td>
<td>Students engaged in outdoor learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🧑‍⚕️</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>Educators supported in using the river as an outdoor classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🍍️</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Tons of garbage removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🌿</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>Native trees and plants installed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>💐</td>
<td>1,000,000 cubic yards</td>
<td>of choking, invasive plants removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🕵️‍♀️</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>Volunteers engaged</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Growth and Learning at the Bronx River Foodway
The Bronx River Foodway at Concrete Plant Park is NYC’s only edible food forest on public land. At the Foodway, we communicate traditional knowledge and cultural practices; reconnect historically marginalized communities back to the land; and teach about plant-based medicines for a healthy body, mind, and spirit.

New Parks and Trails Along the River
In 2022, two significant missing links were completed in the Bronx River Greenway: a bike lane on E 233rd St and Webster Ave and a tunnel underneath the Bruckner Expressway that now connects Concrete Plant Park and Garrison Park.

Wildlife Returning to the Bronx River
After not seeing a bald eagle on the river in decades, in 2022 we were blessed to spot this magnificent creature 5 times on the river! We can’t say for sure that the eagle has a nest on the river but because they are visiting so often, it means that the Bronx River is a hospitable spot for this once endangered species.

EELS – a new paid environmental science internship
Our Education Program opens doors for youth from historically excluded communities who face disproportionate environmental health and safety hazards to authentically engage in science, environmental policy, education, and advocacy. The Alliance Education Program provides hands-on opportunities for youth and educators to use the Bronx River as an outdoor classroom.
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Carolyn McLaughlin, Co-Vice Chair  
Ethan Strell, Secretary  
Jonathan Rook, Treasurer  
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Joan Byron  
Elizabeth Figueroa  
Vivian Vázquez Irizarry  
Maarten de Kadt  
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David Shuffler  

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Veronica Vanterpool  
Kellie Terry  
Dart Westphal  

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Nancy Wallace  

**Ex Officio Board Members**

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Jessenia Aponte, Borough Commissioner (Bronx), NYC Parks  
Vanessa Gibson, Bronx Borough President  
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Eric Dinowitz, NYC Council Member, District 11  
Amanda Farias, NYC Council Member, District 18  
Oswald Feliz, NYC Council Member, District 15  

**STAFF**

Kevin Riley, NYC Council Member, District 12  

**Journei Bimwala, Artist-in-Residence**  
Pamela Brown, Administrative and Office Coordinator  
Penny Brown, Conservation Crew Leader  
Elena Conte, Interim Executive Director  
Yisel De Jesus, Highline Intern  
Ja’Juan Gibson, Horticultural Steward  
Kendra Guzman, Greenway and Outreach Intern  
Elaine Feliciano, Conservation Crew Leader  
Jason Fernandez, Recreation Assistant  
Julia Hitz, Grants Manager  
Nathan Hunter, Foodway Coordinator  
Mailah Medina, Development Coordinator  
Michael Mendez, Conservation Manager  
Siddharth Motwani, Greenway Coordinator  
Christian Murphy, Ecology Coordinator  
Diogomaye Ndiaye, Director of Development and Communications  

**Alyssa Perez, Communications and Development Assistant**  
**Johnathan Perez, Conservation Crew Member**  
**Daniel Ranells, Director of Programs and Operations**  
**Jasmine Robles, Conservation Crew Member**  
**Isabella Romano, Ecology Assistant**  
**Nick Scaglione, Recreation Coordinator**  
**Jennifer Seda, Volunteer Program Assistant**  
**Victoria Toro, Community Outreach Coordinator**  

**CORE VOLUNTEERS**

Ecology Team Co-chairs  
Rebecca Swadek  
Elliot Nagle  

Foodway Co-chairs  
Raiissa Dally-Bakalis  
Robin Rollan  

Greenway Team Chair  
Edmundo Martinez  

Outreach Volunteer  
Christina Mahle  

**PRO BONO COUNSEL**

Latham & Watkins, LLC
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Banana Kelly CIA  
Bharati Foundation  
Big Reuse  
Bike New York  
Bronx Children's Museum  
Bronx Council for Environmental Quality  
Bronx Health REACH  
Bronx Park East Community Association  
Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy  
Bronx River Art Center  
Bronx River Senior Center  
Bronx Sole  
BX Girl Bike Gang  
BuildOn  
Central Park Conservancy, Institute for Urban Parks  
Children's Aid Society  
Christodora  
City Parks Foundation  
The Climate Museum  
Concrete Friends  
Cyclopedia  
Deep Routes  
Destination Tomorrow  
Discover Outdoors Foundation  
Dreamyard  
Drew Gardens  
East Bronx History Forum  
East Coast Greenway Alliance  
Federated Conservationists of Westchester  
Five Borough Bicycle Club  
Forest For All NYC  
Friends of Inwood Hill Park  
Friends of Soundview Park  
Greenburgh Nature Center  
Green Girls  
Green Thumb  
Groundwork Hudson Valley  
Guardians of Flushing Bay  
Gowanus Canal Conservancy  
Henry Street Settlement  
Here to Here  
High Line Network  
Hudson River Watershed Alliance  
Intervine  
Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club  
Long Island Sound Study  
Loving the Bronx  
Lower Hudson PRISM  
LYFE Coalition  
Mary Mitchell Community Center  
The Mission Continues  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Mount Vernon Youth Bureau  
Natural Areas Conservancy  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Newtown Creek Alliance  
New Settlement Apartments  
New York Botanical Garden  
NYC Audubon  
NYC H2O  
NYC Water Trail Association  
NY/NJ Baykeeper  
NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program  
NY Public Library  
The Osborne Association  
Partnerships for Parks  
Patagonia  
Phipps Community Development Corporation  
RAIN (Rain garden Action In Neighborhoods)  
REI  
Riders Alliance  
Riverkeeper  
Rocking the Boat  
Sarah Lawrence College, Center for the Urban River at Beczak  
Save the Sound  
Sebago Canoe Club  
Solar One  
SWALE  
S.W.I.M Coalition (Storm Water Infrastructure Matters)  
Sustainable South Bronx / The Hope Program  
THE POINT CDC  
Tools of War  
Transportation Alternatives, Bronx and Uptown Committee  
Transportation Alternatives TOPSoccer  
United By Blue  
Uptown & Boogie Cycling Advocacy  
Urban Health Plan  
Van Cortlandt Park Alliance  
Waterfront Alliance  
Westchester Parks Foundation  
Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx Zoo  
Women of Woodlawn  
Woodlawn Collective  
Yoga 4 the Bronx  
Yonkers Paddle and Recreation Club  
Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
National Parks Service
Office of Congressman Jamal Bowman
Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Office of Congressman Ritchie Torres
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey
Urban Waters Federal Partnership

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson
Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice
Mayor’s Office of Sustainability
Mayor’s Office of Recovery & Resiliency
New York City Bronx Community Boards: 2, 6, 9, 11, 12
New York City Council Member Eric Dinowitz
New York City Council Member Amanda Farias
New York City Council Member Oswald Feliz
New York City Council Member Kevin Riley
New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca
New York City Department of Design & Construction
New York City Department of Education
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
New York City Department of Transportation
New York City Soil & Water Conservation District
New York State Office of the Attorney General
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Department of Transportation
Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation
Westchester County Department of Planning

SCHOOLS
American Dream School
Bronxdale High School
Bronx Center for Science & Math High School
Bronx Community Charter School
Bronx Green Middle School
Bronx Helpers
Bronx International High School
Bronx Park Middle School
City As School
City College, CUNY
Columbia University
Community School for Social Justice
Cornell University
Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School
Fordham University
Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE), Queens College
Hostos Community College
Institution for Special Education
Lehman College, CUNY
Marymount Manhattan College
Manhattan College
One To World
Pace University
Queens College, CUNY
Riverdale Country School
Samara Community School
South Bronx Classical Charter School
Van Nest Academy
Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School
## AUDITED FINANCIALS 21–22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total 12/31/22</th>
<th>Total 12/31/21</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public support and revenue:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$340,341</td>
<td>$706,636</td>
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<td>Government grants</td>
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<td>Forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program loan</td>
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<td>$132,500</td>
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<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>$821,778</td>
<td>$821,778</td>
<td>$747,218</td>
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<td>Special event income (net of expenses with a direct benefit to donors)</td>
<td>$140,854</td>
<td>$140,854</td>
<td>$155,295</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment return</td>
<td>$(17,029)</td>
<td>$(17,029)</td>
<td>$4,315</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>$65,490</td>
<td>$65,490</td>
<td>$38,109</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>$606,797</td>
<td>$(606,797)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td><strong>Total public support and revenue</strong></td>
<td>$2,382,863</td>
<td>$99,839</td>
<td>$2,482,702</td>
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<td><strong>Expenses:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$1,691,754</td>
<td>$1,691,754</td>
<td>$1,393,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting services:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$357,842</td>
<td>$357,842</td>
<td>$229,515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$226,280</td>
<td>$226,280</td>
<td>$194,884</td>
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<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td>$584,122</td>
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<td>$584,122</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$2,275,876</td>
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<td>$2,275,876</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets - beginning of year</td>
<td>$824,872</td>
<td>$815,289</td>
<td>$1,640,161</td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$106,987</td>
<td>$99,839</td>
<td>$206,826</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets - end of year</td>
<td>$931,859</td>
<td>$915,128</td>
<td>$1,846,987</td>
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DONORS

**Estuary $2,500+**
Elizabeth L. Bennett
Elizabeth Brody
Joan Byron
Frances Beinecke and Paul Elston
Maura Denigris
Mary Elston
Linda Cox and John Robinson
Jacqueline Elias and Ethan Strell
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Joshua Ginsberg
Maggie and Jeremy Greenfield
Kathryn and Vincent Heintz
Jonathan Rook and Lisa Jackson
Raji Kalra
Nilka Martell
Liz Neumark
Julia Robbins
Linda Cox and John Robinson
Marit Larson and Adam Sobel
Christopher B. Snow

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Kent Worcester

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Ann Hartenstein
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Kendra Sibley and Sasha Wilson
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Pablo Guerra and Emily Williamson

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Vincenza Madonia
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Vivalyn Meyerhoff
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Guerra Oriol
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Jacqueline Perez
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Hector Soto
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Lee Stuart
Greg Strub
John Thomas
Alphie Toro
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Lew Wunderlich
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Frank Alagia
Heather Aspegren
Stephen Backer
Sue and Dick Baldwin
Christopher Barbieri
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Eileen Barrett
Adrienne Beard
John Beckelman
Julieta Bell-Ellis
Andrew Belton
Nadine and Joe Berg
Brad Berger
Theodora Bernstein
Dawn Berry
Stephen Betts
Anthony Blackler
Jennifer Blaser
Allison Bleece
Molly Bobek
Aimee Boden
Diane Borradaile
Jeff Bradach
Therese Bradick
Gunther Bram
Thomas Brande
Irene Branche
Clay Hagland and Tom Brennan
James Byrne
Peg Byron
Barbara and Fernando Camacho
Aileen Capozzi
Mary Capozzi
Stephanie Cataquet
Arben Celaj
Peter Chaitkin
Angela Chan
Senait Checole
Frank Chiodi
Eugene Clark
Carol Clary
Janet and Ara Guzelimian
Clough
Bernard Cokeley
Paula and Bill Cordes
Lindsey Cormack
Candice Corbett
Paula Cordes
Matt and Lindsey Cormack
Ysabel Coss
Alexander Craig
Miquela Craytor
Anthony and Judi D’Annunzio
Michaela Daniel
Christine Datz-Romero
Jace Day
Mary O. Devers
Joanne Devine
Resa Dimino
Maria Dimopoulos
Erika Dionisio
Joshua Dimarzo
Constanze Doerr
Jennifer Doherty
Tara Doherty
Maureen Doss
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Jack Doyle
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Adriana Aquino Gerard
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Erik Gonzalez
Lizbeth Gonzalez
Emily Goss
Alan Gottlieb
Carolyn Gray
Kevin F. Graham
David Haase
Marilyn Halstead
Miranda Hambro
David Hamby
Elizabeth Hamby and Hatuey Ramos-Fermin
Kevin M. Haney
Martha Harbinson
Jeffrey and Sarah Harris
Jeff Harte
Shelley Haven
Geraldine and Roger Hayes
Peter Heiman
Cindy Helfman
Marie Hermitte
Jenny Hoffner
Georgina Hofmann
Lisa Houde
Alix W. Hopkins
Brian Hynes
Anjelica Irizarry
Laura Jack
Mark Johnson
Alice Jung
Kamau Karanja
Caitlin Keeton
Liselotte Keogh
Kevin Kennedy
Umair Khakoo
Mahdiyeh Khodaparastan
Daniel Kirsch
Jeffery Klier and Aislinn Weidele
Jacqueline Klopp
Charles Kloth
Ken Kobland
Sarah Kolodny
Christinna Rooney Kopec
Natasha Kurchanova
David Kvinge
Adrian Lafond
Susan A. Lally
Deborah Landey  
Gillian Langdon  
Lawrence Laurion  
Jonathan Lee  
Dave Leis  
Ira Charles Levenberg Engel  
Rebecca Lish  
Charles Lesnick  
Yona Lunken  
Gavin Linder  
Marjorie Lipson  
Matthew Lopez-Jensen  
Robert Lupo  
Evelyn Mendez-St Louis  
Heather Lubov  
Edgar Lugo  
Ted Lynn  
Holly Makin  
Christina Mahle  
Jared Mancuso  
Mike Manos  
Leo Manuelian  
James Marker  
Miladis Flores Martir  
Justin A. Mashia  
David Marks  
Emily Menlo Marks  
Adrienne Maroselli  
Edmundo Martinez  
Lynette Mathis  
Mona McAlarney  
Edith McBean  
Patrick McCann  
Jean McCarroll  
Caleb McClennen  
Ana McCreight  
Melinda McCulloch  
Amanda and Steve McDevitt  
Tommy McDonagh  
Rory McGovern  
Jennifer McGregor  
Lorna McGregor  
Holmes McHenry  
Kerry McKibbin and Tom Lynch  
John McLaughlin  
Katherine McMahon  
Karen Meara  
Rohit Menezes  
Stephen Meyer  
Katie Michel  
Ron Miller  
Sharmistha Mohapatra  
Adan Morales  
Laura Mosquera  
Conor Muirhead  
Catherine Mulhern  
Devin Murphy  
Jarrett Murphy and Eileen Markey  
Octavio Morales  
Elliot Nagele  
Mark Naison  
Sarai Narvaez  
Margaret Nelson  
Scarlet Nunez  
Frederick Ochavo  
O’Donnell Family  
Kate Ohri  
Gayle O’Neil  
Guerra Oriol  
Carmel Paleski  
Allison Palmer  
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Calvin Parker  
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Sonali Patel  
Ross Patten  
Josephine Perrella  
Nicole Perrino  
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Ian Rathie  
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Hector Romero  
Brooke Ross  
Karen Ross  
Dan Rowe  
Mira Rubens  
Emily Rubenstein  
Judith Saltzman  
Carol Samol  
Eric Sanderson and Han Yu  
Hung  
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