

# P.A.'L.A.N.T.E.

People Against Landlord Abuse & Tenant Exploitation

## NYC HOUSING ADVOCATE P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. HARLEM CELEBRATES 13 YEARS OF SERVICE

*The Benefit Gala will honor outstanding individuals who have joined their efforts to secure safe and affordable housing and fight homelessness and food insecurity for NYC residents*

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK** – (October 11, 2022) – P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. Harlem, Inc. will celebrate its 13<sup>th</sup> year anniversary gala on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 7 PM. The P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. Keep on Moving Annual Gala will be held at Marina del Rey in Bronx, NY. This year's theme is *Keep on Moving* because we, as New Yorkers, cannot allow the current economic conditions and the effects of the pandemic to prevent us from enjoying and celebrating life.

“As New Yorkers face the current state of emergency, the overwhelming demand for housing services continues to grow. During this crisis, P.A.'L.A.N.T.E.'s free legal services and homelessness prevention programs are increasingly vital for the safety and health of NYC residents. We would not be able to accomplish our work without your support,” said Elsie Vásquez, Founder and Executive Director of P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. Harlem.

To celebrate its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary, *Keep on Moving* will honor selfless individuals who have made significant contributions to the organization and our community. The honorees include:

- **Antonia Campos**, who volunteers her time at P.A.'L.A.N.T.E.;
- **Carolyn Johanson Marko and Janet Cardí** at 9 Million Reasons whose donations have assisted thousands of families experiencing food insecurity since March 2020;
- **Edwin Torres**, a nurse practitioner, and the President of the Hamilton Heights Tenants Association;
- **Jesse Gribben**, an attorney at Himmelstein, Gribben, Donoghue & Joseph LLP who for years has donated his time to help educate and assist renters and HDFC co-op shareholders; and
- **Ramón Morillo**, who works tirelessly, especially during this global pandemic, to support families in the communities hardest hit by COVID-19 virus.

Since its inception in 2008, P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. has been a powerful voice **in** advocating for safe and affordable housing. The organization has serviced over 9,000 families, helping to recover over \$4.2M in rent refunds for families, and helping over 2,800 families living in City-owned buildings to secure the right to succession. During the recent COVID-19 crisis, P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. distributed over 100,000 masks and sanitizers to help the community combat the coronavirus pandemic.

The Benefit Gala will provide a great opportunity to network with community leaders, government officials, senior housing commissioners, tenant's rights attorneys, and affordable housing developers. Some of our expected guests include the Hon. Keith L.T. Wright (*Gala emcee*), NYC Mayor Eric Adams, US Congressman Adriano Espaillat, US Congressman Richie Torres, NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, NYS Senator Robert Jackson, NYS Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, and NYS Homes & Community Renewal Deputy Commissioner Woody Pascal.

Attendees will be delighted with performances by music band - Joel Guzmán (percussion), Isidro Bobadilla (percussion), Óscar Portnoy (drums), Edwin Camilo (bass), Óscar Román (piano), José Luis Armengot (trumpet), Mini Mambo Sax (sax), Franco Morillo (vocal), Patty Contreras (vocal). There will also be a performance by singers/artists Burgandy Williams and Anissa Gathers.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit [palanteharlem.org](https://palanteharlem.org). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

### **About P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. Harlem, Inc.**

*Founded in 2008, P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. Harlem is a grassroots tenant advocacy organization that assists renters and low-income homeowners in New York City. P.A.'L.A.N.T.E., a 501(c)3 non-profit, is a leader in providing actionable solutions to address tenants' housing concerns. P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. helps under-represented families realize their full*

*potential providing technical assistance, training, and legal services, and connecting residents to the government and non-profit resources that enable them to remain in their homes, hold negligent property managers and landlords accountable for critical safety violations and ensure that the buildings in their neighborhoods are safe, affordable, and habitable homes. Since its inception, P.A.'L.A.N.T.E. has serviced over 9,000 families throughout New York City.*

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**MEDIA CONTACT**

Aida E. Rosario

917.701.9221

[aida.rosario@palanteharlem.org](mailto:aida.rosario@palanteharlem.org)