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PROSPECT PARK ALLIANCE, BOROUGH PRESIDENT, AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SECURE \$3.7 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR PROSPECT PARK

*Funding to Restore the Oriental Pavilion and
Flatbush Avenue Perimeter on the Park's East Side*

BROOKLYN – Today, the Prospect Park Alliance announced a total of \$3.5 million in funding from Borough President Eric L. Adams and the City Council to renovate the Oriental Pavilion and Flatbush Avenue Perimeter on the Park's East Side.

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Councilmember Brad Lander and the entire Brooklyn Delegation allocated \$2 million in funding in the City Council's Fiscal Year 2016 budget to restore the Oriental Pavilion, a historic Park structure. Councilmember Laurie Cumbo and the Brooklyn Borough President also secured \$1.5 million in funding for key improvements to the Flatbush Avenue park perimeter. Additionally, Council Member Brad Lander, through the Participatory Budgeting process, secured \$200,000 to renovate a path on the Park's east side that leads from the Children's Corner (Prospect Park Zoo, Lefferts Historic House and Prospect Park Carousel) to the Zucker Natural Exploration Area, a children's play space in the northeast corner of the Park.

"It is thanks to our elected officials that we are able to accomplish important projects throughout the Park," said Alliance President Sue Donoghue. "The Alliance relies on funding from private and public sources, which is critical for restoring and maintaining the Park. The community has voiced a strong desire to see these projects come to light and we are thankful to our outstanding elected officials who have provided this support."

"Prospect Park is full of fascinating structures and design elements, like the Oriental Pavilion, that add to its rich and enchanting history. It is with deep thanks to our generous partners at the Prospect Park Alliance, dedicated local elected officials and passionate surrounding communities that we can continue to preserve and enjoy them," said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. "Bringing the pavilion back to life will restore a neighborhood gathering space that is truly special and unique. This, in addition to making crucial improvements to the Flatbush Avenue Perimeter, ensures the park is safe, inviting and accessible to all visitors for generations to come."

"Prospect Park is a valued source of open space for communities across Brooklyn, and enhancing usability and safety around its perimeter is critical to ensuring all residents benefit equally from all the park has to offer," said Borough President Eric L. Adams. "For too long, there has been a tale of two Prospect Parks, with the east side truly needing support. I am proud that my capital dollars will help the Prospect Park Alliance restore the balance and enhance the experience for parkgoers and passerbys along Flatbush Avenue, with new fencing, park entrances, and sidewalks."

"These additions and renovations to Prospect Park will benefit the community and help enhance New York City's public spaces," said Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. "This funding continues the Council's commitment to parks across the five boroughs. I thank Council Members Cumbo and Lander for their leadership."

"The Oriental Pavilion is one of Prospect Park's great spaces. People love having barbecues, parties, even weddings there -- but not when the roof is falling," said Council Member Brad Lander, who represents Prospect Park. "These funds will help restore this charming and historic structure to its former glory. Thank you to my fellow Brooklyn Council Members and Speaker Mark-Viverito for supporting the continued history and ambience of Prospect Park. I'm also pleased to support the repair of the path on the park's east side through the Participatory Budgeting process. Prospect Park is Brooklyn's backyard, and my constituents, my family and I both look forward to the repairs."

"Prospect Park is cherished by New Yorkers and tourists of all ages who utilize the grounds to engage in recreational and educational activities. The restoration of the Flatbush Avenue perimeter and the Oriental Pavilion will preserve the unique character and beauty of Prospect Park for future generations to enjoy nature, reconnect with family and friends, attend cultural events, or celebrate special occasions. I would like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, the Council's Brooklyn delegation, and Borough President Eric Adams for their continued investment of City dollars into this vital green space located in the heart of Brooklyn," said Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo.

The Oriental Pavilion is an iconic part of Prospect Park and I'm so pleased that it will finally be restored to its original pristine condition," said Council Member Mathieu Eugene. "It's wonderful to work together with my colleagues and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams to make sure Prospect Park remains a beautiful place for everyone."

The Oriental Pavilion, located near Lakeside in the Park's southeast corner, is a key element of the Park's historic design, and has served for decades as a popular spot for family gatherings and picnics. After years of slow deterioration, the Pavilion was declared unsafe and closed to the public in 2014. The \$2 million in funding will enable the Alliance to restore this historic

structure and its surrounding pathways. The Alliance will also replace the water-damaged roof, install additional lighting and repair stairways leading down from Breeze Hill.

Flatbush Avenue improvements, which include both the \$1.5 million secured in the 2016 budget as well as an additional \$900,000 secured by Borough President Adams and Council Member Cumbo in 2015, will nearly double the width of the pedestrian walkway, install new decorative fencing and add an allée of street trees along the park perimeter from Grand Army Plaza toward the Prospect Park Zoo to restore this section of the avenue to its original grandeur.

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About the Prospect Park Alliance

Founded in 1987, the Prospect Park Alliance is a nonprofit organization that partners with the City of New York to ensure the ongoing care and long-term stewardship of Prospect Park. The Alliance provides a majority of the staff and operating budget that keeps the Park green and beautiful: preserving the natural environment, restoring historic design, and providing public programs and amenities for the Park, which receives more than 10 million visits each year.

Learn more at www.prospectpark.org.