

## **Clivner=Field Plaza Dedication**

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

25th Street Plaza

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Thank you for those kind words, Ally. It is my pleasure and honor to welcome each and every one of you to the Clivner=Field Plaza to celebrate this landmark moment in the history of Baruch College... our vibrant neighborhood—and New York City at large.

I regret that I never had the opportunity to meet Larry Field—one of the inspirational forces behind the plaza—but I am so pleased that his daughters Lisa and Robyn, and his granddaughter Iby, are here today. I am likewise honored that Dan Clivner, who shares the Plaza's name with Larry, is with us. We look forward to hearing from Dan and the Fields soon.

I am also thrilled that Mitchel Wallerstein, my predecessor as Baruch College president, is here to celebrate the fulfillment of one of his earliest visions for the College—the creation of this amazing outdoor space. I am eager to hear his first-hand account of the community collaboration... ingenuity... and tireless dedication it took to get us to this point. Mitch, we all thank you for your foundational coalition building and enduring support.

Clearly, an accomplishment as grand as this takes more than a village. It takes a devoted community.

This place where we have gathered today is grounded in the history of New York—and it also represents the future, and audacity, of Baruch College. Ours is an institution that is willing to dream big... work hard... meet challenges head-on... and go the extra mile to create transformative change.

- We do this every day in our classrooms... laboratories... performance spaces... and career centers.
- During the pandemic, this winning formula supported our success in the virtual campus environment.
- And now—looking forward—it fuels our curricular innovations as we develop online and hybrid approaches that maximize experiential learning, and support community development in our neighborhoods.

However, without a doubt, turning a city thoroughfare into a beautiful outdoor space is the most concrete example of Baruch's signature audacity!

To create this special place, we peeled back layers of New York City history, discovering century-old pipes and moving rocks and earth that had not been touched in a very long time.

I live in this neighborhood and have come to the Clivner=Field Plaza virtually every day since moving here. I have read all the pavers and am struck by how they embody the history of Baruch and the timeless success of our students.

To quote a few:

- "Baruch laid the foundation for my career"
- "My parents were welcomed from Italy to NYC in 1912 so I could attend and graduate from Baruch in 1958"
- "3 generations of Samstein Alumni: Bernhard 1948, Jordan 1974, Jason 2016"
- "Stepping onto Baruch paved all my future endeavors"

Every one of the 1,400 sentiments engraved on benches... and walkways around us tell a part of Baruch's legacy. They also offer enduring truths for future generations of students: Baruch has always—and will always—do all it can to broaden your horizons... give you the skills and opportunities you need... and set you on a path for personal and career success.

Being surrounded by so much gratitude, and so many stories of personal success, also assures our students and alumni that they are part of something that is larger than themselves. They are part of a strong community that spans generations, stretches around the world, and will go on into the future.

In this spirit, we dedicate the Clivner=Field Plaza today!

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#### PRESIDENT WU CLOSES PROGRAM

I am touched and grateful to have heard these stories of personal support and political will that made the Clivner=Field Plaza a reality. Thank you for sharing your words with us today.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to USG President Alison Lee, for serving as emcee today. You did a wonderful job!

It is now my honor to gather us together for the official ribbon cutting and dedication of the Clivner=Field Plaza.

Afterwards, I invite everyone to stay for lunch and enjoy this special place:

- Walk around,
- Take a seat,
- Catch up with old friends,
- Or introduce yourself to someone new.

In short, please experience this plaza the way our students do—every day.

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