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## **Red Hook Initiative (RHI) to Host Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Street Seats**

**Brooklyn, NY** – Red Hook Initiative (RHI) is excited to announce the official ribbon cutting ceremony for our new NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) "Street Seats" area, set to take place at RHI, 767 Hicks Street, on Thursday, September 12th, 2024, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. This event marks the celebration of a vital addition to the Red Hook community, developed with the generous support of the Beyer Blinder Belle Foundation, the space is maintained by the Horticultural Society of New York with support from NYC-DOT.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will welcome members of the press, local community members, RHI staff, project partners, and representatives from city agencies. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the newly completed Street Seats in a space that was formerly street parking and learn about its numerous benefits, particularly the importance of creating and maintaining open public spaces in urban environments.

### **Event Highlights:**

- **Celebrating Open Spaces:** The Street Seats project provides much-needed open space for the Red Hook community, which has faced significant reductions in public amenities due to ongoing construction at Red Hook Houses. This project addresses the loss of benches, playgrounds, and trees, offering a new place for residents to gather and enjoy the outdoors.
- **RHI as a Public Space Activator:** RHI has long been committed to enhancing the public spaces in Red Hook. This project is another step forward in our mission to activate and preserve spaces that foster community connection.

RHI is proud to spearhead initiatives that improve the quality of life in Red Hook, and the Street Seats project is a testament to the power of community collaboration. We are grateful to NYC Department of Transportation for this partnership. We invite all interested parties to join us for this significant event.

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*“At Red Hook Initiative, we believe in creating opportunities that bring our community together, and this public seating project is an important step in that direction at a time when construction and environmental hazards have greatly reduced public space in the community.”*

**Michael Partis, Executive Director, Red Hook Initiative (RHI)**

*“I’m thrilled to see a key community organization in RHI collaborate with DOT to activate street seats for Red Hook residents. These types of activations directly benefit the health and wellness of our neighbors. I’m excited to see you out there!”* **City Council Member for District 38, Alexa Aviles**

*“With just movable furniture and planters, we can turn an underutilized street into a dynamic, social space to bring neighbors and loved ones together. Our StreetSeats program helps public spaces come alive by supporting seating and amenities that encourage social interaction and fosters community engagement. We’re proud to collaborate with the Red Hook Initiative to enhance the Red Hook community with much-needed seating and enhancements to the public realm,”* said **New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner, Ydanis Rodriguez.**

*We thank the Red Hook Initiative for including us in the celebration of the launch of RHI Street Seats! We are grateful for DOT’s partnership with The Hort, which allows us to provide horticultural and operational services for this important new public space. The Hort is proud to play a continuing role in transforming public spaces throughout the city into activated green hubs for the vibrant communities they serve.”* - **Sara Hobel, Executive Director of The Horticultural Society of New York**

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### **About Red Hook Initiative (RHI)**

*Red Hook Initiative (RHI) is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth and residents in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Through programs focused on leadership development, education, and community building, RHI works to create a more equitable and sustainable neighborhood for all.*

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