For Immediate Release:
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The Benefit For Public Space Honors Dattner Architects and Fred Cerullo of Grand Central Partnership

Design Trust for Public Space awards an inspirational civic leader and an exemplary NYC private sector organization at annual benefit on June 15th, 2022

New York, NY June 13, 2022 – The Design Trust for Public Space will be holding its annual benefit at Tribeca Rooftop on Wednesday, June 15th, 2022, supporting the nonprofit organization’s catalytic work in making NYC’s public realm more dynamic, equitable, and accessible for all. The inaugural Benefit for Public Space will honor the 2022 Public Space Leadership Award recipients, who are instrumental in the positive transformation of the city’s shared landscape.

“Public space is guiding the future of New York City,” said Matthew Clarke, Executive Director of the Design Trust. “This year’s Public Space Leadership Award Honorees are visionaries contributing to our mission to improve the cultural and democratic life of NYC through the design of our public spaces.”

Alfred “Fred” Cerullo III, President and CEO of the Grand Central Partnership (GCP) and a Commissioner on the New York City Planning Commission, will be recognized for a lifetime dedicated to public service in New York City. Over the course of his career, Cerullo has been an elected and an appointed official, as well as a board member of many non-profit organizations. Cerullo began his career as Counsel to the Minority Leader of the New York City Council. He became one of the youngest ever New York City Council Members after winning his first of four consecutive elections to the New York City Council.

Dattner Architects is being honored for its six-decade legacy of civic infrastructure and their extraordinary impact on NYC’s built environment. Dattner’s work focuses on civic spaces and the urban experience, transforming environments and strengthening communities through engaged collaboration, thoughtful programming, and creative design. Its designs for transit, schools, libraries, housing, healthcare, parks and recreation facilities, and community centers enrich the urban fabric with distinctive, innovative, and inspiring buildings—positively impacting countless residents.
“Given the long time leadership and vision of the Design Trust and its focus on public spaces and our communities, I am honored to be recognized for my civic work over the years,” said Fred Cerullo, President and CEO of the Grand Central Partnership. “New York City’s future is now directly linked to the development and cultivation of public spaces, and while this honor is a bit of a look back upon my career, I can’t help but look ahead with great excitement on building that future together.”

“We are incredibly proud to be recognized by the inspiring Design Trust for Public Space for our legacy of and commitment to design spaces and places for all New Yorkers,” said Kirsten Sibilia, Managing Principal, Dattner Architects. “The social equity, environmental justice, and the quality of civic spaces we all seek requires creativity and rigor; it demands outreach, engagement, and collaboration. The work that the Design Trust does to accelerate the dialogue is invaluable.”

The celebration will also consist of an evening of cocktails, live music performed by musicians from the Hire Juilliard Performers Program, and a paddle raise hosted by Erin Ward of Inspire Hearts. Proceeds help fund important current Design Trust projects including Turnout NYC, an initiative to expand arts access across the five boroughs; Neighborhood Commons, a partnership with NYC’s Small Business Services to enhance public spaces that support local and neighborhood economies; the Equitable Public Space Fellowship Program, our ongoing program empowering the next generation of design professionals; and The Restorative City, our current RFP dedicated to exploring how public space can be used as a tool to advance health equity.

Learn more about this event and ticket sales here.

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About the Design Trust for Public Space

The Design Trust for Public Space is a nationally recognized incubator that catalyzes change and transforms New York City’s shared civic spaces—streets, plazas, parks, public buildings, transportation, and housing developments—to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable city. Established in 1995 by Andrea Woodner, the nonprofit brings design expertise and systems thinking to the public realm to make a lasting impact. Founded on the tenet that New York City’s cultural and democratic life depends on viable public space, the Design Trust focuses on social justice and equity, environmental sustainability, design excellence, and public engagement. Its innovative model brings together government agencies, community groups, and private-sector experts, utilizing cross-sector partnerships to deliver creative solutions that shape the city’s landscape.