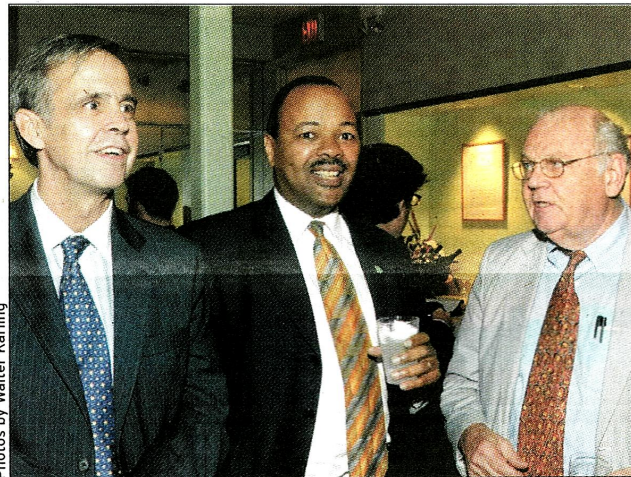


news briefs

Celebrating a new executive director

The Greater Jamaica Development Corporation hosted a well-attended community reception in Downtown Jamaica's Harvest Room for the newly-appointed executive director of the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, Philip Willis.

"I have only been here a few weeks, but I am thrilled to be at this great institution with a nearly 40-year history in the community," said Willis. "My vision is to build on JCAL's past successes with new programs, workshops, and performances to capture the attention of the Jamaica and eastern Queens communities. I want to explore new partnerships with cultural, educational, and community organizations throughout our area. At our newly refurbished Jamaica Performing Arts Center, I want to present cutting-edge performers and programs that provide a snapshot of the unique cultural mix we have flourishing here in Jamaica. Perhaps the most important role we play is introducing thousands of young people each year to the arts. My long-term goal is to make JPAC a destination point for all of New York City."



Photos by Walter Karling

The recently-appointed executive director of JCAL, Philip Willis, with GJDC Board Chair Lamont Bailey and GJDC President Carlisle Towery.



Reception attendees (seated) Borough President Helen Marshall, JCAL first vice president Juliette Hansen, JCAL board member Philippa Karteron and NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate Levin; (standing) JCAL board secretary Peter Magnani, JCAL second vice president Tonya Cantlo, JCAL board president Leilani Brown, Philip Willis, board member Michael James, Carlisle Towery, JCAL Advisory Council chair Bill Gianakos and JCAL treasurer Carl Fields.