



For Immediate Release

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Coney Island Prep Receives \$3.5 Million From Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott

Transformational gift helps increase opportunity to young scholars in Southern Brooklyn

Brooklyn, NY - Coney Island Prep was recently awarded \$3.5 million in unrestricted grant funding by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, marking one of the single largest gifts in the organization's 13-year history. The gift will help the organization meet its goal of raising \$10 million to open their doors to hundreds more scholars from southern Brooklyn, placing them on a path to college and career.

"At our core, we are all dreamers. And Coney Island Prep scholars deserve the opportunity to fulfill their dreams; and this exceptionally generous gift from MacKenzie Scott helps make that a possibility," said **Leslie-Bernard Joseph, CEO, Coney Island Prep**. "When we put tremendous resources at the fingertips of young people from the most modest means and then give them the freedom to live out their dreams, everything is possible. And we thank MacKenzie for her gift to our scholars."

In 2019, the school announced its plans to expand the number of students it serves by 650 scholars and build a state-of-the-art high school campus. The pandemic placed these plans on hold; however, this recent gift will help Coney Island Prep get back on track, impacting the broader community for years to come.

"MacKenzie Scott's gift is one of the single largest in Coney Island Prep's 13-year history, the magnitude of which is not lost on us," said **Josh Wolfe, Chair, Coney Island Prep Board of Trustees**. "These funds will allow the school to address concerns brought on by the pandemic, continue and deepen investments, and more intentionally help build scholars' path to college and career."

Earlier this year, Scott said in a [statement](#) her team is focused on supporting the needs of those whose voices have been underrepresented, including students at racially diverse schools achieving excellent learning outcomes.

"This investment is a testament to the work of our dedicated teachers, staff, and leadership team. Even more, this investment is a testament to our incredible scholars who show up daily ready to succeed," said **Joseph**.

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About Coney Island Prep

Scholars of all backgrounds and socio-economic statuses deserve access to a quality education and community of support. Coney Island Prep (CIP), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in Brooklyn, New York, merges growth, performance, and PRIDE values to prepare scholars for the college and career of their choice. Founded in 2009, CIP serves over 1,250 scholars in grades K-12 spanning across three schools. Coney Island Prep recognizes the need to fulfill its mission given that 75 percent of its student body are first-generation and 86% are eligible for free and reduced lunch.