

Helping students chase their **boldest dreams**.

### 11.02.23



harlemlacrosse.org

#### Program

#### Start Time: 8:10pm

#### Harlem Welcome

Jeffrey Wright, Event Host

#### Welcome Remarks and Honoree Introduction

Mike Levin, CEO

Honoree Remarks Chuck Leitner

A Student's Voice Carlos McDonald, Jr.

**Women's Impact Network** Narine Galudzhyan Sukyas, Senior Director of Development

**An Alumnus' Journey** Mariama Camara

Live Appeal Jeffrey Wright and Mike Levin







New Balance Foundation is proud to support Harlem Lacrosse in their mission to help youth rise above their challenges and reach their full potential. Together, the future is bright.



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#### Dear friends,

Thank you for being with us this evening to celebrate another incredible year of impact at Harlem Lacrosse. We are thrilled to share our progress as an organization and to honor those who have contributed so much to our mission. The work we do at Harlem Lacrosse, just like tonight's celebration, would be impossible without you, and we are so deeply grateful for your partnership.

Tonight you will hear from students who have participated in our programs over the course of many years. Serving kids from middle school through high school graduation is a crucial and differentiating aspect of Harlem Lacrosse. We know that we can maximize our impact by supporting young people over the long haul, through ups and downs, and through important transitions in their lives. This approach is one of the things that makes Harlem Lacrosse unique, and it is only possible because our entire community is so deeply committed to the students, families, and communities we serve.

We are an an important inflection point, and we will see our graduating class double over the next few years. Scaling our support of these amazing students would not be possible without everyone here tonight, and those near and far who continue to believe in, and contribute to our students' success.

It is fitting that we are also celebrating an individual who has supported Harlem Lacrosse for so many years and in so many ways. Tonight's honoree, Chuck Leitner, has served on our Executive Board since 2018, providing critical strategic guidance and support through periods of significant growth. Simply put, Harlem Lacrosse would not have grown to serve 1,200 students annually without Chuck. In retirement from his notably successful career in the real estate industry, he has stepped up to support Harlem Lacrosse students in a different way, and on the field. He now supports students as an assistant coach at PS 223 in the Bronx. The depth of his commitment to our work is truly remarkable and it is our privilege to celebrate that sustained dedication this evening.

Thank you for helping to celebrate some truly inspiring people tonight, and more importantly, for standing next to them, in support of the incredible kids that we get to work with every day at Harlem Lacrosse.

With Gratitude,

Mile Zun

Mike Levin, Chief Executive Officer



#### THE CHALLENGE

#### **Opportunity Gap**

Kids in low-income, urban communities are not being given the same opportunities to reach their full potential as their more affluent peers.

#### OUR APPROACH

#### **Place Full-Time Directors**

Place full-time Program Directors in schools in highneed communities to serve as tutors, mentors, and coaches, maintaining a constant presence in the lives of the students we serve.

#### Build Relationships and Improve Success Through Long-Term Participation

Support students with comprehensive programming and strong relationships from sixth grade through high school graduation and beyond.





#### WHO WE ARE

We are coaches and connectors who use lacrosse to guide academic progress and prepare students for life after high school. We locate in cities where lacrosse is emerging and additional educational support is needed. We form mutually beneficial partnerships with schools and community leaders to empower the diverse youth we coach. We play the long game, nurturing authentic relationships with students and families from sixth grade through high school graduation. Ultimately, we use our spaces, relationships, and skills to expand educational access and opportunity and foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in lacrosse.

#### WHAT WE BELIEVE

- Systemic inequities harm our youth. Girls and children who are Black, Brown, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ are disproportionately impacted by unjust laws, policies, and cultural biases that force them to jump needless hurdles throughout childhood.
- Lacrosse builds power. Individually, lacrosse develops physical, emotional, and relational strength. Globally, lacrosse brings together people, resources, and passion. We believe this sport can be harnessed for equitable youth empowerment.
- Students deserve agency. Our students are playing the game of life. They leverage their skills, energy, and networks to score their personal goals. Our role is not to run the field for them, but to coach them toward victory.
- Progress takes time. On-time graduation is possible. Vibrant diversification of our sport is possible. D1 status is possible. Working with our students day after day, year after year through responsive programming equips them to turn their ambitions into realities.
- Diversity enriches lacrosse. The future of lacrosse depends on inclusion. Teams around the nation and world become stronger when they recruit athletes with identities that have been historically overlooked and systemically excluded.

#### OUR APPROACH



We Coach Students.



We Empower Youth Autonomy.



We Motivate Academic Success.

We Build Equitable Systems



#### **OUR IMPACT**

WE EXPAND EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY. **USING EVERYTHING ABOUT THE** SPORT WE LOVE TO HELP THE **STUDENTS WE LOVE CHASE** THEIR BOLDEST DREAMS.



#### **Playing the Long Game**

599 Harlem Lacrosse alums have now reached HS graduation age and they are outperforming their peers in key measures of post-secondary success. Our recent high school class of 2023 boasted remarkable achievements, with 35 graduates heading off to play collegiate athletics and 34 becoming first-generation college attendees. The most exciting part is these numbers are set to double in the next four years! The Harlem Lacrosse program model is built upon long-term engagement and support, and we are thrilled to be able to follow our students all the way through high school graduation and beyond.

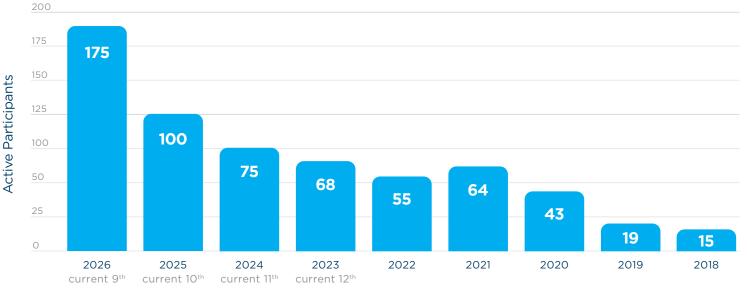
**94% HS Graduation Rate** (U.S. average is 85%)

**\$85M+** in scholarships earned (since 2011) **88% College Matriculation Rate** (U.S. average was 66% in 2019)

**89% College Persistence Rate** (national avg. was 81% in 2020)

#### The Road Ahead

Harlem Lacrosse Participation Pipeline



**Graduation Cohort** 

#### Access and Internships

Thank you to the corporate partners who opened their doors to provide summer internships to Harlem Lacrosse students.



#### Institutional Partners and Corporate Engagement

AdvicePeriod Aetos Apollo Opportunity Fund BJ's Brandywine Realty Trust Capital Group Chubb Insurance Cisco Dakota Fortress Hildene Capital KKR Kleinknecht LLR Partners McCarter & English Mizuho Newmarket Capital PIMCO Rosenberg & Parker Schroders Sixth Street Sugi Capital Take Two Interactive TD Cowen Touchpoint Trilogy Lacrosse Whiting Turner Willis Towers Watson



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#### Alumni Success



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#### Los Angeles

Benjamin O. Davis Middle School Compton High School Compton Unified School District Emerson Elementary School

#### New York

Frederick Douglas Academy Middle School Frederick Douglas Academy High School MS 223 - The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology HS 223 - The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology PS 76 - A. Philip Randolph Middle School

#### Philadelphia

Thomas K. Finletter School Olney Elementary School Olney High School



#### **Foundation Partners**





#### **Program Partners**

360 Lacrosse **3Step Sports** Arcadia University Asbury University Baltimore City Lacrosse Collaborative Baltimore City Community College Boston After School and Beyond **Boston University** Brickhouse Lacrosse **Brown University** Buffalo State University Cal State - Fullerton Camp Cedar Camp Tecumseh Center of Healing and Justice Through Sport Clark University Clark University (MA) Colby College **CollegeBound Foundation** Columbia University Commit To Improve **Training Center** Community College Baltimore County Essex

Compton Community College Concord-Carlise Lacrosse **Connecticut College CUNY Baruch** CUNY City College **Delaware State University** Drew University **Duxbury Youth Lacrosse** ECD Edinburgh University Elms University ExpandLA Franklin and Marshall College Frederick Gunn (PG) Frostburg State University Hampton University Harvard University Haverford College Men's and Women's Lacrosse Hebron Academy (PG) Heros Lacrosse HHH Lacrosse Club **High Point University** Hobart and William Smith Colleges Hopkins Women's Lacrosse Howard University

Hyde School (PG) Ithaca College Juniata College King School LA Angelano Corps La Salle University Women's Lacrosse LA Select Lehigh University Lincoln Sudbury Lacrosse Long Island Lacrosse Journal Loyola Men's and Women's Lacrosse MDLL Select Michael Haseotes Moses Brown Grounders for the Game Morehouse College Nazareth College Needham Youth Lacrosse Neumann University New Canaan Newton Youth Lacrosse





#### **Program Partners**

Northfield Mount Hermon (PG) NXT Lacrosse Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity OneLove PELA Pennridge Girls Lacrosse Pennsylvania State University Men's Lacrosse Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable Philadelphia Lacrosse Association Philadelphia Wings Philadelphia Youth Network Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative Philly Blast Premier Lacrosse League **Primetime Lacrosse Princeton University** Salem State University (MA) Santa Monica Community College Sean Fox Memorial Fund

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University of Pennsylvania University of the District of Columbia University of Virginia Up2Us **Urban Sports Rescue UrbanAlliance** Ursinus College USC Women's Lacrosse The Will Barrow Memorial Scholarship Fund Villanova University Virginia State University Warren Wilson College Westminster School (PG) William Penn Charter Lacrosse Williamson College of The Trades Men's Lacrosse Xavier Universtiv Young Quakers **Community Athletics** Youth At Works



Berkshire School Blair Academy Brewster Academy **Buckingham Browne & Nichols School** Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School Concord Academy Culver Academies **Deerfield Academy Episcopal High School Governors Academy Groton School** Hebron Academy Hyde School IMG Academy **Kimball Union Academy** McCallie School Middlesex School Millbrook School Milton Academy Miss Hall's School Noble and Greenough School Northfield Mount Hermon School Peddie School

Perkiomen School Portsmouth Abbey School Proctor Academy Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School Rectory School Rumsey Hall School St Anne's-Belfield School St. George's School St. John Bosco High School The Fessenden School The Frederick Gunn School The Masters School The Pennington School The Thacher School The White Mountain School Tilton School Virginia Episcopal School Wayland Academy Westminster School Westtown School William Penn Charter School Wooster School



#### Women's Impact Network Members

The Women's Impact Network addresses systemic and programmatic challenges, provides intentional opportunities for networking and mentorship and raises funds in support of the girls of Harlem Lacrosse.

#### **Champion Level**

**Melissa Barrett Crandall** Goldman Sachs, Harlem Lacrosse New York Advisory Board Kerry Hanson Design

**Sherry Ramsay** Harlem Lacrosse New York Advisory Board

#### **Heroine Level**

Darby Fox Darby Fox LCSW

#### **Guardian Level**

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Heather Waters Borthwick

Kristin Noto Author, Inventor and Entrepreneur

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#### Thank you

to the members of our Executive and Advisory Boards for your dedication, support, guidance and advocacy.

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"What truly sets Harlem Lacrosse apart is the dedication to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. It's a safe haven for kids; regardless of their lacrosse skills or academic achievements, they can be themselves, have fun, and thrive. Within its nurturing embrace, I've learned valuable life lessons, developed responsibility, and formed lasting bonds with mentors and teammates alike. Harlem Lacrosse offers so much more than just a sport. It provides a platform for kids to explore new horizons, travel to different places, and meet incredible people from different backgrounds. The program's emphasis on inclusivity ensures that more individuals of color can participate in this beautiful sport, fostering a sense of unity and diversity within the lacrosse community. This program has helped shape me into a confident, capable, and compassionate individual on and off the field. It has taught me that anything is possible with determination and the proper support."

> Maya Jones Harlem Lacrosse '23, Howard University '27



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### Thank you

Thank you to all who are here with us this evening and those who are with us in spirit. The support of our donors, communities, students and families, and partners makes our work and impact possible.

We look forward to another year of using the sport we love to help the students we love, **chase their boldest dreams.** 



Opportunity

Equity

Access

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