



## Media Release

### **AVIATION DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL & AIRLINES CREATE BUZZ BY SPONSORING BEE GARDEN EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Aviation Development Council (ADC), a bridge organization between the regional aviation industry and the communities it serves, is proud to announce its partnership with its airline partners, the Port Authority of NY & NJ, and the Queens Botanical Garden, as the first & continuing sponsor of the Bee Garden at Queens Botanical Garden. ADC's support of this important working beehive garden and its valuable youth education program for our local schoolchildren came as a result of some dialogue with Council Member John Liu's office, the community affairs office of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and the airline board members of ADC.

"Aviation Development Council, with the support of its member airlines, has formulated a community outreach program which is focused on youth education, youth leadership development, and youth wellness. We were looking for a worthwhile initiative in the Flushing area and began discussions with our industry partners, like American Airlines, Air Canada, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and the Port Authority. The Queens Botanical Garden's 'Bee Garden' and its youth education programs became a natural choice for our local outreach efforts", states Bill Huisman, the Director of the Aviation Development Council. "We are demonstrating the regional aviation industry's concern for the youth of the communities it serves through our community outreach program and appreciate the support we receive from the Port Authority and our airline board members. We are pleased to be continuing this collaboration with the Queens Botanical Garden on this exciting program which helps to educate young people throughout Queens and our city schools about the wonders of nature and our environment. The fact that it involves one of nature's finest aviators – bees, makes this a perfect partnership!" continued Mr. Huisman.

"The bee garden is one of the few places in the New York metropolitan area where people can observe working beehives. The collection serves as an educational tool to schoolchildren on field trips and our other many visitors", said Susan Lacerte, Executive Director of Queens Botanical Garden. "What better way for ADC to express its mission of flight and outreach to the community than with support for a teaching collection featuring some of nature's finest aviators", added Ms. Lacerte.

The Aviation Development Council (ADC) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to be a positive agent for the advancement of aviation in the New York metropolitan area by promoting a business-minded, community-friendly agenda for both the region's aviation industry and the communities it serves. ADC is funded by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the airlines that operate at all four Port-Authority managed airports in our region.

The ADC will be celebrating its support of the Queens Botanical Garden '*Bee Garden*' with a check presentation and media event on Friday, May 2nd, at 10:00 in the morning at Queens Botanical Garden. Those expected to be present for this occasion are, Councilmember James Gennaro (invited – yet to be confirmed); Councilmember John Liu (invited – yet to be confirmed); Ralph Tragale, Manager of Government and Community Affairs, Port Authority of NY & NJ; Susan Lacerte, Executive Director – Queens Botanical Garden; Bill Huisman, Director of ADC, and other esteemed guests.

### **ADC, Port Authority of NY & NJ & Queens Botanical Garden Event Overview**

**What:** Check presentation & media event to celebrate support of Queens Botanical Garden's '*Bee Garden*' by the Aviation Development Council and the Port Authority of NY & NJ

**When:** Friday, May 2nd, at 11:00 A.M.

**Where:** Bee Garden, Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355. We plan to first meet at the Administration Offices, near the main entrance off Main Street, before going to the Bee Garden

**Who:** Shang Liu, representing City Councilmember John Liu; City Councilmember James Gennaro (invited – not yet confirmed); Ralph Tragale, Manager of Government and Community Affairs – Port Authority of NY & NJ; Frank Mirovsky, Manager – Airport Operations – Port Authority of NY & NJ; Susan Lacerte, Executive Director – Queens Botanical Garden; Bill Huisman, Director – ADC; and other esteemed guests.

**More info:** For further information, please contact the Aviation Development Council at (718) 746-0212.