

Douglas Blonsky—President and CEO, *Central Park Conservancy*.

Overseeing a staff of more than 380 and more than 3,000 volunteers, Blonsky has been directly responsible for the effective management of some \$800-million-worth of Central Park restoration projects. In 2013, he established the Central Park Conservancy Institute for Urban Parks to ensure the sustainability of the Conservancy and Central Park, which receives 42 million visitors a year. The Institute provides direct assistance, advice, formal training and on-site support to current and aspiring park professionals. Blonsky, a graduate of the University of Delaware and Cook College at Rutgers, is also registered landscape architect.

Dr. Lindsay K. Campbell—Research Social Scientist, *USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station*.

Campbell's current research explores the dynamics of urban politics, natural resource stewardship and policymaking. She is working on several long-term, interdisciplinary research projects including the Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP), which charts the social networks and territory of the various civic, governmental and private groups working on environmental stewardship in New York City. The author of *City of Forests*, *City of Farms: Constructing Nature in New York City*, (Cornell University Press), Campbell has her Ph.D. in Geography from Rutgers University.

Emily A. Fano—Senior Manager, NYC Eco-Schools, *National Wildlife Federation*.

Fano's job is developing, delivering and managing environment-based education programs for teachers. These courses focus on real-world problem solving and on connecting students to nature. Among them is "Growing a Wild NYC," a pollinator recovery and habitat restoration program in partnership with the National Park Service. Prior to joining the NWF, she helped to launch a food and waste recycling project in eight New York City public schools that became a model for the citywide implementation currently underway. She has a Master's Degree in Urban and Environmental Policy from Tufts University and is a trained presenter with Al Gore's Climate Reality Leadership Corps.

Sara Hobel—Executive Director, *The Horticultural Society of New York*.

The 117-year-old Hort that Hobel oversees has a very up-to-date mission: It sustains a connection between people and plants through social service and public education programs. Hobel, with degrees from Columbia University and its business school, brings a combination of for-profit business experience together with a passion for animals and nature to her organization. Before joining The Hort in 2009, she was Vice President of the Wildlife Conservation Society, where she oversaw a broad portfolio of environmental education programs at New York City's aquarium and zoos, and before that she was Director of The Urban Park Rangers.

Dr. Mary Leou—Professor of Environmental Education, *New York University*.

Leou is committed to environmental education and in the past 16 years has received more than \$1.5 million in grants and gifts to develop programs for teachers. She is founding Director of the Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education and the Director of the Environmental Conservation Education Graduate Program in the Department of Teaching and Learning at NYU. She was instrumental in starting and developing the Environmental Education Advisory Council of New York City, which promotes and supports outstanding environmental education in city schools, and for which she received The City Gardens Club's Melville Award in 2015. Leou earned her Ed.D. from Columbia University Teachers College.

Ann Pedtke—Marketing and Events Manager, *Student Conservation Association*.

Pedtke has seven years of experience engaging young people with the outdoors in New York City. She first came to SCA's attention as an AmeriCorps member, working with urban youngsters in the Hudson Valley. Then the Kenyon College graduate moved on to Phipps Community Development, The Horticultural Society of New York and the Queens Botanical Garden, overseeing environmental education and volunteer programming. In 2013 she came back to SCA full time to pilot SCA's ConSERVE service model in New York City. Now she manages the organization's events initiatives nationwide. Pedtke has a graduate certificate in non-profit development from NYU.

Fatima Shama—Executive Director, *The Fresh Air fund*.

Most New Yorkers are familiar with the Fresh Air Fund, which sends underprivileged urban children to summer camp and provides them with year-round academic enrichment. Shama brings an impressive mix of work experiences to her job running this organization. She has been vice president of strategic development and external affairs at Brooklyn's Maimonides Medical Center and commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs under Michael Bloomberg for whom she was also a senior education policy advisor. Shama, who has a Master's Degree in public administration from the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College, is the daughter of a Brazilian mother and a Palestinian father and speaks five languages.