

What's your vision?

Business leaders weigh in on what they think of the Island's future

Business Trends

Staten Island is prepping for a different future – times ahead that may or may not look similar to what they look like now. Recent overhauls in staff and philosophy at the Staten Island Chamber of



Commerce and the Staten Island Economic Development Corp. have triggered philosophical discussions on what Staten Island is now and what it should be for the future.

Should the Island redevelop and revitalize in order to attract new business, new visitors and new residents?

Should a light rail transportation system be erected to bring more people to the Island – people willing to spend money on services on the Island?

Or should the Island serve as New York City's "bedroom borough?"

No matter what his or her opinion is on the subject, each person Business Trends has talked to re-

RICHARD NICOTRA
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STATEN ISLAND BUSINESS TRENDS

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Cream of the crop

Economic development executive, developer, media guru comprise top three of Business Trends' first-annual 'Inner Circle'

Business Trends

Business Trends has released its complete list of Staten Island business people included in our first-ever Inner Circle. As voted by a panel of area business leaders and readers of the paper, the three "Movers" of Staten Island's Inner Circle are: SIEDC President & CEO Cesar Claro, Staten Island Advance Editor Brian Laline and Developer/SIEDC Chairman Randy Lee.

Four months ago, Business Trends asked its readers to help recognize the most influential members of the Staten Island business community.

After reader responses and feedback from a panel of Staten Island's leading business people, Business Trends has identified the 15 people who make Staten Island business move: What we are calling Staten Island's Inner Circle.

From education to finance, chambers of commerce to economic development, government to non-profit, Staten Island's Inner Circle represents the individuals who make business move each day in the borough.

Each member of the Inner Circle was mentioned on reader nominations and en-



Claro



Laline



Lee

dorsed by the panel of leaders.

The Inner Circle has been broken into two sections based on response from the panel: "Movers" and "Shakers." Last month, Business Trends profiled the "Shakers" – 12 individuals who work to create change and growth in the business community through their relationships and professional achievements.

And this month, we bring you the "Movers" – three people who move the Staten Island community toward continued growth.

This subdivision of The Inner Circle includes the people who everyone thinks of when mentioning Staten Island business.

Inclusion in the Inner Circle is unique in that those on the list are selected by their

peers and Business Trends' readers. There are many more individuals who were nominated by both our readers and our panel.

After reading our Inner Circle coverage, feel free to submit letters to the editor or columns to Business Trends detailing who in Staten Island gets it done for you.

Business Trends will print those letters and columns as part of our continuing Inner Circle coverage over the next several months.

To submit your thoughts, suggestions and ideas, send us an e-mail at news@sibiztrends.com. Fax us at 718-556-5700. To send it via snail mail, our address is 66

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The richest woman on Staten Island

Cindi Garner's life has a lesson for each of us

By **DAN McDONOUGH, JR.**
Business Trends

If the maxim is true that wealth is measured in love and friendships and not by how swollen one's wallet may be, then Cindi Garner was the real Bill Gates. Money doesn't miss you when you're gone, and yet hundreds of people and organiza-

tions on Staten Island just cannot cope with the fact that Cindi no longer is with us.

Cindi passed away the last weekend in February after a two-month battle against a horrible infection. Staten Island's omnipresent businesswoman and friend was taken from us at the vibrant age of 46.

To me, Cindi's passing represents the



Garner

loss of a wonderful friend. I wasn't one of her closest friends, yet the pain was still powerful when I started to reflect on her life. Many knew her as the networking-minded insurance agent from the Allen C. Bentson Insurance Agency,

or the driven executive from the Gerri G. employment agency, or the volunteer who was profoundly involved in all sorts of Island-based groups ranging from non-profits such as the Boy Scouts to business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce.

I knew her as the thoughtful golf mate

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St. George Ferry Terminal

City's EDC announces plans to redevelop waterfront land.

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MEMBER
BUCKS
business
network

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