

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sean-Michael Fleming  
tel. 646-393-9305  
sean@woodbinegarden.org

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BUSHWICK'S "SECRET GARDEN"

BUSHWICK - A small but intrepid group of organizers, led by community activist Mr. Cyril Joseph, is inviting all interested in a brighter, *greener* future for Brooklyn and Bushwick to join them for "Make A Difference Day in Bushwick!"

The event will be held on **Saturday, October 27**, from 10:00am to 6:00pm, at the Linden-Bushwick Block Association Garden (located at the corner of Linden St. and Broadway).

The project: polishing up a hidden gem - a 19,000 square foot garden, hidden in the middle of a city block. The protected lot, hidden from view from the street and once reputedly the site of horse stables, has gone underused for far too long, the organizers feel, and this event will mark the beginning of the reclamation of the land for public use as gardens and much-needed, open green space.

"This wasted space should be put to good use - a place for gardens and children and the entire community to grow together," says Joseph, who serves on the local community board and is executive director of the local development group, OBUSTY, among other civic-minded pursuits.

Some find the challenge of taming the overgrown lot irresistible. "When I saw the vast interior garden space, I was blown away. There's just so much potential there. It's a huge project, but I know we're up to the challenge," says local resident and fellow event organizer Sean-Michael Fleming, who also heads up the nearby Woodbine Street Block Association Garden.

Future plans for the site include wildflower and butterfly gardens, public meeting areas, and space for outdoor classrooms for use by local schools.

Volunteers need not pre-register to participate: "Just show up ready to work and get dirty!" the poster announces. Area groups are also being encouraged to join in and are urged to contact the organizers. Participants will help clear weeds and trash from the site; protective gloves and refreshments will be provided.

Make A Difference Day, now in its 17th year, is the nation's largest day of volunteerism. It is sponsored by USA Weekend Magazine and its 600 carriers nationwide. Make A Difference Day is held in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation and is also supported by the Newman's Own Foundation.