

# The 2024 Inclusion Legacy Awards



**The Awardees- Front Row L-R: Luis Lopez, George Gallego, Host Edward Funches, Jeffrey Lorenzo Williams and Matthew Castelluccio.**

**Back Row L-R: Kieran Duggins, Victor Rodriguez, Michael Schweinsburg, Kingsley Grainger, Leslie James, and Ben Tallerson.**

## *Hello and Welcome*

### *Inclusion, A Growing Movement*

We aim to highlight the pressing issues and solution strategies facing those who operate in the challenging economic region here in New York.

In 2025, Inclusion plans to play a pivotal role with the leadership needed to result in real tangible changes that lead to legislative policy and business practices that can improve the lives of those with physical disabilities and are underserved in our communities.

## *A Message from Inclusion Founder*



My journey is one that many of you may find familiar, a story woven with mistakes, challenges, and ultimately, redemption. As a young man, and later in life, I made choices that led me down a path where my freedom was lost behind bars. It was during this time that a tragic accident confined me to a wheelchair, altering the course of my life.

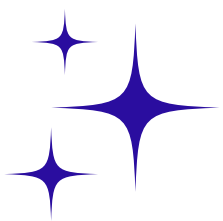
From the depths of these hardships, I embarked on a profound journey of self-reflection, seeking forgiveness, redemption, and a renewed commitment to God. This path was fraught with obstacles and setbacks, but it was also illuminated by transformative encounters with mentors, inspirers, and thought leaders. With their support, new opportunities emerged, second chances materialized, and I found a purpose-driven life dedicated to uplifting others.

My mission evolved into a commitment to include others in this journey of empowerment. "Inclusion The Movement" became my vehicle for change, a platform where I could extend help to those navigating re-entry and second chances, much like individuals overcoming physical disabilities. Through this journey, I know firsthand that those transitioning from incarceration face challenges akin to those confronting physical disabilities. In "Inclusion The Movement," I've found my calling to make a difference.

Join me in this journey of inclusion and empowerment. Together, we can forge a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and contribute positively to our communities.



**EDWARD FUNCHES, CEO  
INCLUSION the MOVEMENT**



# Inclusion Legacy Awards

*When We Come Together, We Succeed*



**Inclusion Awardee, Michael Schweinsburg, was honored by Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, Council Members Gale Brewer and Linda Lee.**

**Michael Schweinsburg** proudly accepted the Proclamation from New York City Council at the Inclusion Legacy Awards Celebration, in recognition of his long-standing commitment to advancing Equity and Inclusion for the disabled community. Gale Brewer and Linda Lee interchangeably read every single word of the Proclamation, honoring Michael as one of the foremost champions for the disabled community over the past 25 years."



**The Inclusion Legacy Awards Gala recognized those leaders who excel despite disabilities and physical challenges was celebrated on Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, at the luxurious W Rooftop in Brooklyn, NY.**

*Special Thanks to  
Assemblyman Al Taylor*



**Assemblyman Al Taylor**, representing the 71st Assembly District of Upper Manhattan, has long been a dedicated champion for the rights of individuals with disabilities and other underserved communities. With over two decades of leadership and advocacy in his community, Assemblyman Taylor continues to make a significant impact.

We are thrilled to announce that Assemblyman Taylor recently collaborated with "Inclusion the Movement" to honor Legacy Awardees with a Citation from his office.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS OUTREACH

It will "take a village" to reach our goals to help ex-offenders looking for Second Chance and a return to a dignified and positive life experience. Only through the exchange of ideas within our communities can we hope to make a difference.

## CAPSTONE EVENTS

Our daily challenge to meet our goals and objectives will culminate in a series of 2025 events that bring together like minds to offer both strategies and solutions.

## LISTENING SESSIONS

We invite your participation and support in our mission of Inclusivity. Let's engage in conversations with our neighbors, legislators, and thought leaders. Together, Inclusion welcomes all interested parties to join our movement."



## Inclusion Legacy Awards Night



December 13, 2024: Some of the awardees at the Inclusion Legacy Awards are seated left to right: Luis Lopez, George Gallego, **Host Ed Funches**, Jeffrey L. Williams, & Matthew Castelluccio. Standing: Awardee Michael Schweinsburg is joined by Committee Members and Friends.

## Oh! What a Night!!



**GALA HOST  
EDWARD FUNCHES**



**AWARDEE  
GEORGE GALLEGO**



**AWARDEE  
MICHAEL  
SCHWEINSBURG**



**GALA EMCEE  
CARL EVANS**



# Inclusion Legacy Awards Night

## *A Night to Remember*

Inclusion Founder, Ed Funches, hosted an exciting evening of Inclusion and Appreciation



**KINGSLEY GRAINGER, VICTOR RODRIGUEZ, KIERAN DUGGINS & HOST ED FUNCHES**



**JEFFREY WILLIAMS, MARK RILEY & HOST ED FUNCHES**



**INCLUSION AWARDEE JOSEPH SOTO**



**HOST ED FUNCHES & FAMILY**



**BEN TALLERSON & GUEST HOST ED FUNCHES**



**GEORGE GALLEGO & GUEST HOST ED FUNCHES**



**INCLUSION LEGACY AWARDS NIGHT**



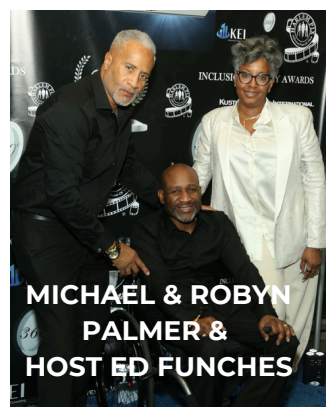
**INCLUSION DREAM TEAM**



**CARL & EVY EVANS  
HOST ED FUNCHES**



**KIMBERLY WALCOTT  
DYNEESHA &  
ED FUNCHES**



**MICHAEL & ROBYN  
PALMER &  
HOST ED FUNCHES**



2024 INCLUSION LEGACY AWARDS  
EDWARD FUNCHES PRESENTS  
**CELEBRATION AWARDS NIGHT**  
Join us for an unforgettable evening of celebration, recognition, and inspiration at Inclusion's inaugural Awards event  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 13 2024  
6:30 - 11:00 PM  
THE W LOFT  
240 KENT AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11211  
RSVP <https://invite.me/InclusionLegacyAwards>

For more information:  
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Attrix: Semi-Formal, Cocktail Attire