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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 6, 2014

**APICHA Community Health Center Announces Gala Honorees**

New York, NY – APICHA Community Health Center (APICHA) is proud to announce the honorees for its 24th Anniversary Benefit Gala, *A Thousand and One Champions*. The awards ceremony will be presented on Thursday, May 22, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., at the Manhattan Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

This year’s honorees are:

** Dr. Jean Lobell**

Dr. Jean Lobell is the Senior Managing Director of Community Resource Exchange. She plays a key role in making New York City’s nonprofit organizations stronger and more effective in fighting poverty and advancing social justice. With her years of experience in leadership and organizational development, executive coaching, strategic planning, human resources management, and change management, she has effectively partnered with clients to ensure successful organizational transitions, improve leadership and management competencies, develop governance boards and build high performing teams. Before joining CRE, Dr. Lobell led an independent consulting practice, AcXEL International, Ltd., was Vice President and Director of Corporate Training and Executive Development at Deutsche Bank, and was Human Resources Manager for an international division at JPMorganChase. She served on the Board of Directors of several non-profit organizations, including United Way of NYC and the Asian American Federation, which she chaired, and APICHA Community Health Center.

**Alec Mapa**

Alec Mapa is an award winning actor, comedian, playwright, and journalist whose career on Broadway, television, and movies spans more than twenty years. Alec’s professional career started shortly after graduating from NYU when he starred in the Tony Award winning Broadway show “M. Butterfly”. He performed in the Broadway production for nearly a year opposite Tony Randall, before hitting the road with the first national touring company. Alec was certain the minute the tour landed in Los Angeles the worlds of movies and television would all come to the theater, discover a brand new talent , and make him a big fat star. He was wrong. Alec was unemployed for nearly three years in Los Angeles, was flat broke, had a nervous breakdown and had to start all over again. He turned his career crises into a hilarious one man show called “I Remember Mapa” produced by the Mark Taper Forum. Alec’s tragic-comic monologue of triumph and loss won the LA Weekly award for Best Solo show, enjoyed a successful run in Los Angeles and has since played to sold out houses in San Francisco, New York, Toronto and Seattle. As an out gay actor of Filipino descent, Alec Mapa has long been a worker for causes benefiting AIDS and the gay, lesbian and Asian-American communities.

**Patrick McGovern**

Patrick McGovern joined Gilead Sciences’ Government Affairs unit as a Director in September of 2010. He is responsible for the development of FOCUS, a fifteen city initiative to reduce the number of undiagnosed persons living with HIV & HCV and link them to care. FOCUS seeks to promote the creation and dissemination of best practices to make routine screening a standard of care within health care settings and normalize attitudes towards screening for stigmatized diseases. Formerly the Chief Executive Officer of Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc. and its affiliates from 1999 -2010, Mr. McGovern has been a leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS for the past twenty years. Under Mr. McGovern’s leadership, Harlem United underwent dramatic financial, programmatic and management improvements. In addition to his affiliation with Harlem United, Mr. McGovern participated in the creation of AmidaCare, Inc., a special needs insurance plan for people with HIV/AIDS. While his active involvement dated back almost a decade, Mr. McGovern served as Chairman of AmidaCare from 2004 - 2010. In that capacity, he oversaw the start-up and development of a model managed care plan for effective, efficient care for people with HIV/AIDS who also suffer from co-morbidities.

**Jane D. Schwartz**



Jane D. Schwartz is the Executive Director of the Paul Rapoport Foundation (PRF), a position she has held since 1987, the year when the foundation was established as the first staffed, independent LGBT foundation in the nation. She has shepherded the foundation to its current position as one of the top grantmakers to LGBT communities of color in the country. Jane has guided the Foundation through its planning for and implementation of its current spend-out strategy. She served on the original board of Funders for LGBTQ Issues; is a member of the grantmaking committee of the NYC AIDS Fund; and of the steering committee of the Spend-Down Working Group of foundations. The Paul Rapoport Foundation is an independent private foundation established in 1987 to serve the lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual communities of the metropolitan New York area, with a particular focus on the nexus between racial and economic justice. Our vision is a world free of discrimination toward any group or individual. In this context the Foundation’s mission is the achievement of full quality for the lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual community in all of its diversity. Beginning in 1992 with the TOFU Project, the Foundation has awarded over $600,000 to APICHA, most recently providing a three-year grant to create the Transgender Health Clinic.

WPIX-TV Reporter **Arthur Chi’en** and MSNBC News anchor **Richard Lui** will co-emcee the program.

Guests will enjoy an evening of dinner and cocktails, entertainment, and a Silent Auction. Individual tickets are $350 each, which can be purchased at [www.apicha.org/events](http://www.apicha.org/events). Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Proceeds from the benefit event will help support APICHA Community Health Center’s vital programs and services targeted to the LGBT community, People Living with HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable people who experience serious barriers to accessing medical and other healthcare services. For more information, please visit [www.apicha.org](http://www.apicha.org) or contact Rhina Torres- Development Coordinator at (646) 884-5385, email: rtorres@apicha.org.

ABOUT APICHA

Since 1989, APICHA has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to bring awareness and care to New Yorkers. APICHA has grown from an HIV/AIDS coalition for Asian & Pacific Islanders (APIs) to a community health center that provides health care to all.  Now a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike, we provide general and HIV-specialty primary care, mental health and support services to the underserved communities in Chinatown and the Lower East Side, particularly APIs and other individuals of color, people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and those who identify as LGBT.