



## *Honorees of the Year*

### **David L. Picket**

CEO, The Gotham Organization

David L. Picket is the Chief Executive Officer of Gotham Organization, a vertically integrated real estate development company providing services throughout concept, financing, design, building, lease-up and ongoing management phases. Since joining the company in 1991, David has led Gotham's new project development business through a period of unprecedented growth. He became responsible for Gotham's development and property operations businesses in 1998, and served as President of Gotham Development until 2020. David represents the fourth generation of Picket leadership in Gotham's 110-year history, continuing the firm's dedication to multifamily housing in New York City and beyond.

Under David's direction, Gotham has developed over 5,000 housing units and over 1.7 million square feet of urban retail. The majority of the firm's developments have utilized public/private partnerships, combining public funds, tax benefits and/or reduced land prices in exchange for the creation of affordable housing, schools, community facilities, job programs and other public benefits.

David was one of the first developers to capitalize on the resurgence of the multi-family housing market in New York in the mid-1990s and to recognize the untapped potential of the Midtown West neighborhood. In addition to Gotham West, which transformed an entire block in Hell's Kitchen and includes the celebrated Gotham West Market, he is responsible for the development of several award-winning properties, including The Maybury, The Suffolk, Gotham Point, The Nicole, Atlas New York, The Ashland, The Foundry, New Gotham and The Corner, and retail projects that include Harlem USA and DC USA. Harlem USA was the first development to utilize funds generated by the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone and, at the time, represented the largest private investment ever made in Harlem. Prior to joining Gotham, David was a banker in the real estate division of Citicorp and a real estate attorney for what is now Bryan Cave LLP.

David holds a law degree from Columbia and a bachelor's degree from Cornell University. David is a member of or affiliated with a number of boards and organizations, including the Citizen's Budget Commission, Brooklyn Academy of Music (Member, Board of Trustees), Breaking Ground (Member, Board of Directors), Cornell University (Member, College of Arts & Sciences Advisory Board), the Real Estate Board of New York (Member, Board of Governors; Member, Executive Committee), Jewish National Fund (Tree of Life Award, 2007) and UJA- Federation of New York (Honoree, 2011). David is also a founding member of Project Parachute, a coalition of owners of market-rate and affordable apartment buildings, housing nonprofits, and service providers that have helped thousands of vulnerable New Yorkers impacted by the COVID pandemic to remain safely housed by delivering rental assistance and other much-needed supportive services for New York City tenants.

In 2016, David received the Celebrating Home & Community Award from Breaking Ground for his work and support of affordable housing. In 2022, David was awarded the The Harry B. Helmsley Distinguished New Yorker Award by REBNY for his civic-minded ingenuity in conceiving the Project Parachute initiative.