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INAUGURAL GOLD WOMEN'S HEALTH & BUSINESS AWARDS GALA
Draws Standing-Room Crowd of Leaders, Elected Officials
& Community Changemakers

Light of Gold PR Marks 20 Years of MWBE Excellence — Already Planning 2027 Gala



NEW YORK, NY — June 16, 2026 —



Light of Gold PR Marketing & Consulting LLC, a certified Minority Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) founded by **Debra Dixon-Anderson**, celebrated its **20th Anniversary** in landmark fashion as the **2026 Gold Women's Health & Business Awards Gala** drew a capacity crowd of leaders, entrepreneurs, advocates, and elected officials to **Mercy University's Manhattan Campus** on May 14, 2026. The evening — already generating demand for a 2027 edition — honored seven extraordinary women whose work is transforming communities across New York City and beyond.

A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION, INSPIRATION & CIVIC IMPACT

The Gala's centerpiece was a powerful surprise moment: **Manhattan Deputy Borough President Miesha Smith** — attending as the evening's distinguished civic guest — presented **official Certificates of Citation** to all seven honorees on behalf of **Manhattan Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal's office**. In a second surprise, she honored **Light of Gold PR** itself with a Special Certificate of Recognition celebrating the firm's two decades of service, leadership, and community impact.

“This room is why we do what we do. We're here to uplift the voices, expertise, and leadership of the women who help make Manhattan fantastic. Thank you for the work that you do — it is what makes the city run.”

— Miesha Smith, Manhattan Deputy Borough President

“We wanted to give an appreciation to Light of Gold PR as an institution. Thank you for this room of amazing women that you helped celebrate. Debra Dixon-Anderson, as the Founder of Light of Gold PR, you are a beacon of light here, a supporter, and a leader here in Manhattan.”

— Miesha Smith, Manhattan Deputy Borough President



Deputy Manhattan Borough President Miesha Smith presents Debra Dixon-Anderson with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Manhattan Borough President's Office.

2026 HONOREES

Seven distinguished women leaders were celebrated across business, health, law, media, advocacy, and entrepreneurship:

HONOREE	ORGANIZATION	AWARD
Allison Cohen	<i>Blue Shore Human Resources</i>	Rising Star in Business Award
Athenia Rodney	<i>Umoja Events</i>	Community Architect Award
Rachel Kaylie	<i>Law Offices of Rachel Kaylie</i>	Legal Excellence Award
Nakisha Smith	<i>Always Fit 4 Lyfe</i>	Community Health Leadership Award
S. Mitra Kalita	<i>URL Media & Epicenter NYC</i>	Innovation in Media & Community Connection Award
Maria Davis	<i>Can't Be Silenced, Inc.</i>	Voice of Impact Award
Emelyn Stuart	<i>Stuart Cinema & Café</i>	Perseverance Award

In one of the evening's most heartfelt moments, **Athenia Rodney's mother, Anita Fischer**, accepted the Community Architect Award on her daughter's behalf, reflecting the deep spirit of family and community woven throughout the Gala.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

RECIPIENT	RECOGNITION	AWARD
Lawrence Miles	<i>NY Women's Chamber of Commerce / BOC</i>	Special Citation — Men Who Advocate for Women in Business
Katanni Grey	<i>The K District Creative Event Consultancy</i>	Light of Gold Best Event Partner
Tyisha Eason	<i>Gold Women's Awards Gala Committee</i>	Gala Committee Chair Recognition

THE FOUNDER'S VOICE

"Our Gala was a spectacular success and a powerful testament to what happens when a community comes together to uplift women leaders. Looking out at the room and sharing the stage with truly extraordinary honorees, I was overwhelmed by the sheer energy, resilience, and brilliance in attendance. We created this Gala not just to celebrate Light of Gold PR's 20-year journey, but to establish a dedicated space that honors those who dare to show up, speak up, and lead even when the journey is full of challenges. The success of this first Awards Gala proves how vital that mission is. This is the beginning of an incredible new tradition for us — and we are just getting started."

— Debra Dixon-Anderson, Founder & CEO, Light of Gold PR Marketing & Consulting LLC

HONOREES & COMMUNITY VOICES

"Being recognized at the Gala was truly meaningful, and I'm deeply grateful to Light of Gold PR for such a beautiful honor. Although my mother accepted the recognition on my behalf, I felt incredibly supported and inspired knowing I was celebrated among so many powerful women leaders making an impact in their communities."

— **Athenia Rodney, Community Advocate, Founder of Juneteenth NYC, Executive Director of Umoja Events**

"Being in a room with people making a difference in the community is truly amazing. It's inspiring to see women supporting one another and creating real impact."

— **Tiara Martin, Gala Attendee**

"This event was very exciting. I always enjoy seeing fellow business owners recognized for their accomplishments. I was able to connect with fellow business owners, and Debra is great at making sure people connect at events like these. I look forward to the next one!"

— **Juan Pedrozo, Vendor, President of The MoneyMan Business Solutions**

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION

The Gala featured a vibrant **red carpet experience** hosted by **Coco Mitchell**, a soulful live performance by Soul, Jazz, and Gospel singer **Ruth Kendall**, and music by DJ Fleetwood (**Carl Fleetwood**). The evening was professionally livestreamed for audiences unable to attend in person, and the full video recap is now available for public viewing.

COMMUNITY IMPACT & FUNDRAISING

The Gala served as a fundraiser for **Gold Wellness Circle**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit co-founded by Light of Gold PR. Fifteen percent of all event proceeds directly support community health programs including **Breast Cancer Awareness, Alzheimer's Caregiver Support and Advocacy, Food Insecurity Support for Schools where 40% plus of the Kids come from Homeless Circumstances, Summer Wellness Program, the Annual Backpack Drive and more!** The **Gold Women's Health & Business Awards Gala** reflects **Light of Gold PR's** foundational belief that business success and community wellness are inseparable.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The **2026 Gold Women's Health & Business Awards Gala** was featured by **World Liberty TV**, highlighting the evening's honorees, community leaders, and the celebration of women's achievement in New York City.

World Liberty TV Feature: worldlibertytv.org/gold-womens-health-and-business-awards-gala-by-light-of-gold-pr-nyc-2026

Official Gala Livestream Recap: youtu.be/ZUi0HA5AbzY

Full Photo Gallery & Event Page: lightofgoldpr.com/2026-gold-womens-gala

ABOUT LIGHT OF GOLD PR


Light of Gold PR Marketing & Consulting LLC is a certified MWBE firm founded in 2006 by Debra Dixon-Anderson. For 20 years, the firm has provided comprehensive Marketing, Branding, PR Strategy, Digital Marketing, Event Management, Coaching, Training, and Consulting services to clients and professionals across New York City, New Jersey, Atlanta, GA and beyond. Light of Gold PR is the proud producer of the annual **Gold Women's Health & Business Awards Gala**, and a founding partner of **Gold Wellness Circle**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Learn more at lightofgoldpr.com


ABOUT GOLD WELLNESS CIRCLE

Gold Wellness Circle is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering women's health, wellness, and community in New York City. Programs include Alzheimer's awareness, Breast Cancer advocacy, Summer Wellness initiatives, the Backpack Drive and more. Learn more at goldwellnesscircle.com


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