



press release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WX ANNOUNCES THE 2023 WOMAN OF THE YEAR HONOREE,  
YVONNE NELSON**

***Gala to Take Place on October 12, 2023 at The Plaza***

**NEW YORK – May 11, 2023 – WX New York Women Executives in Real Estate (WX)** is pleased to announce that its annual Woman of the Year gala featuring honoree Yvonne Nelson will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm at The Plaza, located at 5th Avenue, Central Park S in New York City. Yvonne Nelson spent her career in institutional real estate focusing on the pension fund experiences and investments with the NY Common Retirement Fund, Community Development Trust, and the Office of the New York City Comptroller.

“The WX Woman of the Year award honors women in New York commercial real estate who have a breadth of accomplishments in and a long-standing commitment to the industry,” said Jennifer Schwartzman, President, WX Inc.. “Over the course of her career, Yvonne and her team have strengthened the financial security of thousands of NYC public sector retirees by executing best practices in investments and governance. She has proven time-over-time to be a massive influence in the pension real estate scene.”

**Honoring a Commitment to Success for Women in Real Estate**

In 2021, Yvonne Nelson retired as Head of Real Estate on behalf of the New York City Retirement Systems, an aggregation of the city’s five primary pension plans with a total of \$250 billion in assets under management where she led a multi-billion global real estate portfolio currently valued at \$17 billion. With a fair, but firm management style, she successfully built a diversified global portfolio from \$1 billion in 2005 to \$13 billion at her retirement. Ms. Nelson’s team employed a robust diligence process, in parallel with its consultants, and achieved LP-friendly governance and fee concessions while leveraging NYC’s scale and influence. Unique among its holdings are curated investment programs responsive to board goals such as NYC workforce housing development, co-investments and emerging managers – including Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs). During her tenure, the NYC real estate program generated consistent returns above its time-weighted benchmark while utilizing modest leverage.

Post-retirement, Ms. Nelson has been invited to share her market expertise and managerial skills as an independent director/advisory board member to several real estate investment vehicles representing distinct strategies and also consults on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) matters.

Throughout her career, Ms. Nelson has been an effective mentor and recognized leader in the field of diversity and inclusion within the institutional real estate industry. She serves as an inaugural board and



grants committee member of the PREA (Pension Real Estate Association) Foundation, an organization which fosters the inclusion of under-represented groups in commercial real estate since 2017. The launch of the foundation, which raised seed pledges in excess of \$15 million, occurred during Ms. Nelson's board participation at its parent organization (PREA). The foundation's strategic alliance with several experienced career development partners has resulted in real estate internships for over 1,000 high school and college students to date. As a member of WX-NY Women Executives in Real Estate, Ms. Nelson continues to pay it forward through her involvement in WX's networking, philanthropy and DEI committees. Her career and diversity efforts have been honored by NASP Wall St. Hall of Fame, PREA and were profiled in a podcast sponsored by the Ohio State Center of Real Estate.

Yvonne Nelson graduated from New York University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Design in 1979 and earned her MBA from Rutgers University as a Ralph Bunche Fellow in 1989. As a working mother, Ms. Nelson is most proud of her children and grandchildren. She currently resides in New York City.

#### **About WX New York Women Executives in Real Estate**

WX New York Women Executives in Real Estate is an invitation-only association of executive-level women actively engaged in the commercial real estate industry in New York. The mission of WX is to promote the advancement of women in commercial real estate; to enhance public perception about the role of women in the industry; and to promote the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and integrity in the field. Through educational seminars, breakfasts with industry leaders, mentoring programs, scholarships, and special events, WX provides members with a forum for visibility and exchange, spotlights the accomplishments of individual women in the industry, and paves the way for the next generation of women in the field. For more information, please visit: [www.wxnyre.com](http://www.wxnyre.com).

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