



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact, Civic Builders: David Umansky, 212.571.7260, ext.17
Contact, MSDF: Lory Pilchick, 512-698-2363

Civic Builders is Awarded \$4 Million from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation for the Construction of Charter School Facilities in NYC

New York, NY – Civic Builders is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$4 million from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation to construct nine facilities for high quality charter schools to be opened in chronically underperforming school districts in New York City. Civic launches this initiative with phenomenal support from the Dell family foundation, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, NYC Schools Chancellor Joel Klein, and the NYC Department of Education. The new facilities will be made available to charter schools at rents well below market value or completely rent free.

“We believe that all children, regardless of their ethnicity or economic situation, are capable of learning and achieving at high levels and deserve a high-quality, public education,” said Lory Pilchik, education program director at the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. “Civic Builders is helping to place charter schools in the heart of NYC’s most disadvantaged school districts to reach the most at-risk kids. These students will soon have access to exceptional, focused learning environments designed to expand their minds, inspire their dreams and better prepare them for college and the workforce.”

In recent years, New York City has embraced the creation of charter schools as a central pillar of its larger educational strategy. Building on the successes of charter schools in New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and NYC School's Chancellor Joel Klein announced an initiative in 2003 to create fifty new charter schools in the city over five years, and pledged to make New York "the most charter friendly city" in the country.

About Civic Builders

Established in 2002, Civic Builders (www.civicbuilders.org) is a non-profit facilities developer that provides turnkey solutions for New York charter school real estate needs. By assuming responsibility for building acquisition, design, and construction activities, Civic relieves charter schools of the burden of navigating an extremely complex and competitive real estate marketplace, enabling school administrators to focus time and resources on the important work of educating children.

Civic believes that charter schools play a critical role in pioneering educational innovations and ensuring that children in underserved communities receive the levels of quality instruction, attention, and resources they deserve. Civic works towards the day that equal educational opportunities exist for all New York City school children.

About Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (www.msdf.org) was established in 1999 by the Dell family to improve outcomes for under-served children in a measurable way. Based in Austin, Texas, the Foundation funds programs that foster and improve education, health and safety for children around the world. With an endowment of more than \$1 billion, the Foundation has committed more than \$220 million to global children’s issues and Central Texas community initiatives to date. *NOTE to media: The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation is separate and distinct from the Dell Foundation. In first reference, please use 'The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.' For second references, 'the Dell family foundation' or 'MSDF' is correct.*