

PAUL R. LEVY, PRESIDENT & CEO of CENTER CITY DISTRICT
2018 Recipient
Lenore Berson Service Award



Paul R. Levy is the founding chief executive of Philadelphia's Center City District (CCD), serving in that capacity since January 1991. The CCD is a \$24.5 million downtown management district, which provides security, cleaning, place marketing, promotion, planning and capital improvement services for the central business district of Philadelphia. To date, the CCD has completed \$155 million in streetscape, lighting, façade improvements and four parks in Center City that the CCD manages. In the fall of 2016, the CCD began

to construction on phase one of the Viaduct Rail Park, converting the former, derelict Reading Railroad elevated rail line into a public park, analogous to NYC's High Line.

Mr. Levy also serves as executive director of Central Philadelphia Development Corporation (CPDC), an advocacy and planning organization supported by the downtown business community.

Mr. Levy holds an MA. and Ph.D. in history from Columbia University and an undergraduate degree in history from Lafayette College. He serves on the boards of many civic organizations, including the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Committee, the Independence Visitor Center Corporation and chairs the board of the Passyunk Avenue Revitalization Corporation.

LENORA BERSON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Lenora Berson (1928-2011) loved our Center City neighborhood, and worked tirelessly to make it great right up until her death at the age of 83. She served as President of CCRA from 1999 until 2001, and she strategized about, and led, numerous CCRA activities, including opposition to the Crosstown Expressway which had been proposed to run along South Street. As noted by Representative Mark Cohen, Berson, who lived most of her life in this neighborhood, was "an impassioned advocate who could teach a class, do social work, organize testimony and demonstrations, write speeches, lobby elected officials, initiate candidacies for public office, mastermind election campaigns, write articles and books, take photographs worthy of being shown in art galleries, promote Philadelphia's hidden gems, and organize events to promote the city that no one else thought of."

There are few who can match Lenora's energy and tenacity. The Award given in her name is intended to pay tribute to Lenora and to recognize others who have had a substantial positive impact on our neighborhood.