**Wagner Free Institute of Science**

**A Sip of Science**

**2021 Benefit Cocktail Party**

**HONORING DR. KENNETH SCOTT**

*President & CEO of Beech Companies*

Ken Scott is well-known throughout the region for his extraordinary commitment to community service and his achievements in North Philadelphia as the leader of the Beech Companies. Beech is an umbrella for a group of non-profits—real estate development, community services, media broadcasting, and grant-making—committed to revitalizing North Central Philadelphia. It provides expertise, grants, small business loans, scholarships, and practical support to improve life for people in its community. Launched in 1990 by the William Penn Foundation, over the past three decades Beech has leveraged more than $2 Billion towards economic development in North Philadelphia, creating 6,000 jobs, awarding millions of dollars in grants, and adding 2,000 units of affordable housing. Located three blocks from the Wagner, Beech is a mainspring for growth in the area and for the people who live and work here.

Ken joined Beech in 1995 after a career as an engineer at PECO. He took the helm at Beech in 2005 after Floyd Alston, its founding President, retired. In addition to being a regular guest lecturer and panelist at conferences and universities, Ken has spoken about his community development work at the United Nations and the U.S. Department of State. He has been recognized for his efforts by the White House, the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Mayor of Philadelphia, from whom he received the prestigious Liberty Bell Award in 2007. Ken is an alumnus and Executive Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania and Oxford University (UK). Lincoln University awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2017.

Trained as an engineer, Ken is passionate about science. He serves on the research committee for private equity firms in technology and is a member of the White House Advisory Board for Technology in Education. He sees understanding science and technology as critical to our future and is a key supporter of Wagner’s programs that engage children in hands-on science learning with the goal of inspiring the next generation of groundbreaking makers and thinkers. GeoKids—Wagner’s intensive science program for children in its community—was launched in 1992 with seed funding from Beech. Ken and Beech have fostered the program’s continuous growth: it now serves five schools in North Philadelphia and this fall will begin its 30th year.

*The Wagner will honor Ken Scott, and the Beech Companies, for unparalleled commitment and service to the people and places in our community on November 12, 2021*