



WHEDco executive director Davon Russell said that the late fashion design Kate Spade was a welcome philanthropic presence. | Shutterstock

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By ZACH WILLIAMS

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**WHEDco executive director Davon Russell has something to say** about the suicide of fashion designer Kate Spade, who died this week. He issued a statement on June 6 with thoughts about the person he came to know through the philanthropic efforts she contributed to the Bronx-based nonprofit community development organization.

“Kate had a generosity of spirit that has gone under-recognized in the publicity of her untimely death,” Russell said in the statement. “Among her many philanthropic efforts, she was a close and generous friend of WHEDco, since touring our housing developments and programs in 2013. We will never forget how welcoming she was to our staff, alumni of our youth programs and donors when she hosted an event in her home to benefit WHEDco in 2015 - quite literally opening her door to strangers as a way to promote our work.”

*Send your memories of Kate Spade and other press releases, photos, and word of your latest happenings to reporter Zach Williams at [zwilliams@nynmedia.com](mailto:zwilliams@nynmedia.com).*

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