



CREATE NYC: Rockaway Arts & Culture Roundtable
Queens Library for Teens
Jan. 26, 2017

CONCERNS

- ✚ What are the arts activities in schools
- ✚ Are there activities in schools not for kids
- ✚ Culture Caravan in Jamaica!
- ✚ No movie theater! Affordable
- ✚ Transportation is the biggest issue to get to culture outside the Red
- ✚ Brooklyn is closer
- ✚ What's happening are empty pockets. Mostly residential
- ✚ Not things that outsiders go to
- ✚ Most things in the Red are happening outdoors, so all is seasonal; only about 6 months of the year – not much to do in the winter; nothing for kids to do when it is not summertime
- ✚ Need more bike lanes; easy way to get around
- ✚ What about having cultural spaces in every 10 blocks, like parks want to have
- ✚ Where is the history of the area? What connects you to places out here – only the 9/11 Memorial – need to know about its hard to get to
- ✚ Want a historical museum lost after Sandy - remainder went to Queens Library Central – should bring back when the new library is finished
- ✚ Recognition of the Women's Industrial Service League – House – over 14 black women 1931 to provide economic support to seasonal female workers; have that become a more well-known landmark – how to engage the homeowner? Pivotal in development of Redfern Houses
- ✚ So much hidden history in people lives; people just don't know what is going on; aren't familiar with the Rockaway Theater Group; need a cultural newsletter or other way of distributing information

Arts + STEAM Education

- ✚ Kids are at a disadvantage, arts and culture have been stripped from schools
- ✚ Wish recognized artists would come back and talk to kids about what they've done and opportunities
- ✚ Not enough programs
- ✚ Can't rely on schools for everything; make connections with people who have skills, teach piano, etc. with kid – doing affordable work
- ✚ DOE has a huge budget but art is the first thing to go – almost always the first to go
- ✚ Becomes an equity issue – neither schools, parents can fund it themselves
- ✚ Buyer disparities
- ✚ What about when school is out

Solutions

- ✚ There are artists who can give back and want to give back
- ✚ Create a mechanism to make that happen
- ✚ FR alumni network
- ✚ Should be highlighted the successful people who came from here, sign posts, streetscapes, etc. for young people to see – again elevating history
- ✚ Food festivals from different cultures
- ✚ Have art in schools reflect the cultures that of people that live here
- ✚ Have block parties – like Atlantic Antics – a great way to utilize the new plazas
- ✚ Development of flux spaces – utilizing shattered storefronts as pop-up shops – help revitalize streets
- ✚ Make sure everything is connected and inclusive
- ✚ NEED CITIBIKES!!!
- ✚ Arts can be a powerful way to connect the east and west sides of the Red – very big racial and economic divide
- ✚ Programming that addresses mental illness, health fitness, the arts
- ✚ People don't think of the Red as part of Queens or the City
- ✚ Be mindful of the unique challenges and need a unique approach why can't we have Shape Up NY
- ✚ Need public art space and finding ways to help people gain knowledge so people can participate in arts programs, i.e. that Rockaways Artist Alliance is only open during the day so adults can't go and seniors can't afford it or able to access it
- ✚ Need to raise awareness about what is free (Met and AMNH); people don't know it's their museum
- ✚ Big institutions don't feel welcoming but goes back to transportation

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- ✚ Have a network of discounts similar to IDNYC – hard to even acquire in Red – only temp pop-ups – closest location is in Jamaica
- ✚ Do more cross-promoting; more free opportunities
- ✚ People can't afford the leases to open businesses; cost sharing, engaging commercial space owners – have the talent and the interest but not the money
- ✚ Have famous/successful artists (and residents) come back to talk to kids about opportunities
- ✚ Have arts and culture reflect the cultures of the communities that live here in schools and out of schools
- ✚ More food/arts festivals, street fairs
- ✚ *Development of flexible spaces and/or utilizing empty storefronts as pop-ups
- ✚ Elevating the history of the area – landmark Women's Industrial Service League House – have a history "museum" or exhibition at the new Queens Library
- ✚ *Having year around programming – not just spring or summer; need indoor spaces
- ✚ *Using art for social purpose (like mental illness) and to link both sides of the island

Top Three Takeaways

1. Year round programming especially STEAM, but affordable for everyone by utilizing empty spaces, etc. to be indoors
2. Historical representations – Queens Library exhibit – ties to bringing back former residents
3. Using art for social purposes, mental illness, health as well as the economic development, etc. and affordability to link the two sides of the island

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*Documenting the neighborhood's change, e.g. Bed-Stuy, Schomburg, Brownsville

This is history being made

- need to share with outsiders
- want to address negative image
- project what community is today
- re-identify ourselves
- pride of place

Made a record

Bungalows – outside developers

Playland

Family attraction

Movie, bowling, skating park

Places to hangout

Youth that are creative, need more opportunities

Accessible Brooklyn Camp Building

Virtual arts space

- Podcast
- YouTube videos
- entrepreneurs

Equity to make things sustainable

Policies (provides a foundation)

units, places where youth, adults could be involved in STEAM, arts

Talent

- tapping into
- acknowledgement
- support the talent
- awareness

Lifetime creatives

- need to be able to teach

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– Intergenerational

Document

Prioritize issue areas

Important for intergenerational conversations – don't make anyone left out or forgotten –
provide opportunities for everyone (e.g retirees)
Combat internal isolation

Appreciate and preserve what you have before it's gone

Historical representation of notable FRers and buildings