BronxWorks Receives Major Grants for Community Center Renovation

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BronxWorks has received two large grants to support renovations at its Main Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse just north of Yankee Stadium. The organization will soon draw down on a $500,000 capital grant authorized by the office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and was recently notified of a $750,000 award facilitated by Councilwoman Helen Diane Foster, in whose district the five-story, 42,500 square feet building is located.

Along with a $75,000 grant issued by the Russell Grinnell Memorial Trust and funds raised at its annual event, BronxWorks now has $1.3 million of 63 percent of the $2.1 million required for the major renovations at the Main Community Center. These upgrades will focus on the roof, pool, boiler, and elevator.

"We are very grateful for this generous funding from the city, thanks to Mr. Diaz and Ms. Foster, and from the Russell Grinnell Memorial Trust," said Eileen Torres, BronxWorks Interim Executive Director. "BronxWorks could not render the services we provide without support of our representatives and good friends. Renovating the Main Community Center means a heavily used and vital facility will function more efficiently and safely in the years ahead."
BronxWorks is immediately seeking $275,000 from other public and private sources to help support the first phase of the upgrade effort which is slated to begin later this month, says Development Director Ken Small. The funds will enable the organization to meet a match requirement for the public dollars and jump-start critical activities that relate to the renovation of the roof. Those renovations must begin quickly so that BronxWorks can take advantage of the relatively warm weather that will persist until the beginning of winter in late December.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. recently visited the Main Community Center and received a tour of the building to get a first-hand view of the much needed renovations. Torres and Tim Sarraille, the organization’s operations director, gave the borough president a tour of the facility.

BronxWorks acquired the Main Community Center in July 1993 as a result of a merger with the now-defunct Girls Club of New York. The center, which first opened in 1926, includes a gym, a kitchen, computer lab, dining areas, meeting rooms, and classrooms. Each day it is used by 350 to 500 residents from the surrounding Concourse, Melrose, and Morrisania communities.