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BronxWorks is blooming with activity!

The May 2016 Newsletter

BronxWorks is blooming with activity and you'll find us out and about beautifying our community, getting fit in green spaces and taking our children and youth programs outdoors. Take a peek below and see what BronxWorks is up to now that the warm weather is upon us!

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Second Saturdays at St. Mary’s Park

The BronxWorks Healthy and Livable Mott Haven Partnership in cooperation with the New York Restoration Project and Healthfirst’s Randall’s Island Connector, present Second Saturdays in St. Mary’s Park, a monthly event featuring family-friendly, community activities. Second Saturday-goers can take advantage of free activities including fitness classes, health screenings, arts activities and performances, to name a few. The kickoff for Second Saturdays was held May 14th and continues to run through October.

The event aims to encourage active use of the park, improve safety, and foster community stewardship. Through collaboration with community partners, some of the numerous hosted events will include: Open Run with New York Road Runners, opportunities to learn to bike with Bike New York, fitness classes, salsa and mambo dance classes, local artist performances and health and nutrition education resources.

The Healthy and Livable Mott Haven Partnership is a BronxWorks-led collaboration made up of community-based organizations, city agencies, and other local groups aiming to increase access to, awareness of and utilization of healthy food options and opportunities for active living. The initiative also aims to strengthen the community’s capacity to collaboratively promote healthy eating and physical activity. “St. Mary’s Park was abuzz with festive energy during the inaugural Second Saturday. All of our partners brought something different to the table and the community was curious to learn about the fun and healthy programming that will continue through the summer and fall. We are looking forward to future Second Saturdays and the positive impact the event series will bring to St. Mary’s Park and the Mott Haven community,” stated BronxWorks Community Health Programs Director, Kim Wong.

BronxWorks is grateful to the collaborative partners of the Healthy and Livable Mott Haven Partnership including: Friends of St. Mary’s Park, Partnerships for Parks, New York Road Runners, New York Restoration Project, Bronx Health REACH, Bike New York, Transportation Alternatives, Harvest Home Farmers Markets, SoBRO, City Harvest, New Life with Confidence, Balanced Calorie Initiative, NYC Parks and NYC DOHMH. This partnership is made possible through generous support from the New York Community Trust and the Coca-Cola Company.

Trout Release Day with the Early Childhood Learning Centers

For more than 6 months, students in the BronxWorks Early Childhood Learning Centers (ECLC) have been patiently observing, studying and caring for what would become the newest trout population to live in Hyde Park, New York.

In an effort to provide children of the Bronx with a hands-on experience incorporating lessons in science and to support English language learning, the “Trout in the Classroom” program requires
the "Trout in the Classroom" program requires students to learn patience and understand the stages of development that the trout pass through. Children observe the trout's beginning as an egg to becoming a small fish that will be released back into its habitat. The curriculum is supported by age appropriate literature and illustration activities that use the trout as a touch point in teaching students about the river and the surrounding ecosystem.

"This project makes the river a tangible thing for the kids," states BronxWorks ECLC Program Director Marcia Lawrence. "Many of these children have never seen a river and don't know what a river actually is and if you don't take them and show them what a river is they won't make the connection. If you're not exposed, you're not going to really learn."

The opportunity to participate in this program is possible through a partnership between the Bronx Children's Museum and the Bronx River Alliance. Prior to BronxWorks implementing the program within its ECLC programs, "Trout in the Classroom" had only been offered as a project to middle school aged children. "If you understand how young children learn and scale down the information to a level that is age appropriate, children can learn anything," emphasizes Lawrence.

The children have since moved on to their next hands on learning project, growing spring vegetables!
information. He states that his favorite part about being a teacher is to support the student's growth and their eagerness to learn.

Fluent in three languages, Mr. Moray is able to bridge the gap in communication for many English language learners, both students and parents alike. BronxWorks and the children of the ECLC program are very lucky to have such a dedicated teacher.

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**Enjoy Boogie On the Boulevard All Summer!**

It's back! Once again BronxWorks joins the Bronx Museum of the Arts for Boogie on the Boulevard for four summer Sundays in the Bronx. Join us May 29th, June 26th, July 31 and August 28th. Come on out, take the streets and enjoy a car free afternoon on the Grand Concourse. Boogie will be held between 162nd street and 165th street on the Grand Concourse.

Boogie on the Boulevard is made possible by the New York City Department of Transportation's Weekend Walks program and organized by The Bronx Museum of the Arts, the South Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, BronxWorks, Bronx Health REACH, New York Road Runners, and Transportation Alternatives in partnership with a volunteer committee of Bronx residents.

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**Photo Essay: Volunteer Days at BronxWorks**

BronxWorks wants to give a special thank you to the volunteers from Assist NYC, Con Edison, Viacom, and Popular Bank for dedicating precious hours this month at BronxWorks for various projects and workshops! Check out the photos from all the events below!

Interested in helping BronxWorks with a group volunteer project with your colleagues, group or friends? Contact us at info@bronxworks.org.
Assist NYC Holds a Basketball Clinic

Assist NYC, the Dalton School and South Bronx Prep Middle School teamed up to work on basketball fundamentals, run drills, and use the court to support an active lifestyle. Students channeled their inner Steph Curry and even came away with great Assist NYC t-shirts!

Con Edison Transforms the CMCC Stairwell

Volunteers from Con Edison spent one of their May Saturdays painting the main stairwell at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center -- transforming it from an outdated neon green to a much more agreeable neutral color. Somehow they covered all four flights, floor to ceiling, in just a few hours!!
Viacom "Turns Up for Good"

For their annual Viacom Community Day, Viacom employees were all over New York City, working hard on projects to improve local communities. BronxWorks was lucky to have 16 volunteers at the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center, giving exterior walls a much-needed touch up.
Popular Community Bank Builds a Strong Team

A long-time partner of the BronxWorks Workforce Development Program, Popular Community Bank visited the BronxWorks Classic Community Center to host a team-building event. They also collected and donated 125 pieces of professional clothing for clients of Workforce Development and sponsored 4 New York Yankees tickets as prizes for the top participants!

It's not too late to join us for the 2016 Annual Gala!

For more information about the gala or to purchase tickets, journal ads, or sponsorship opportunities, please visit our [website](#), give us at call at (646) 393-4002, or send an email to trogers@bronxworks.org.

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