Spring Celebrations
The BronxWorks Newsletter
May 2017

In this Issue:

1130 Grand Concourse 90th Anniversary Celebration
Second Saturdays Kick Off
BronxWorks 2017 Annual Staff Meeting
Staff Profile - Adriana Puello
1130 Grand Concourse
90th Anniversary Celebration

On Friday, April 28, BronxWorks celebrated the 90th anniversary of 1130 Grand Concourse, currently called the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center (CMCC), with board, staff, elected officials, law enforcement officers, and community members. The celebration included a presentation by BronxWorks Assistant Executive Director John Weed on the rich history of 1130 Grand Concourse, an inspiring speech by New York City Council Member Vanessa Gibson, and tours of the building provided by BronxWorks staff. On behalf of the Office of the Comptroller, Waheera Mardah presented an award to BronxWorks for its years of service to the community.

Built in 1926, 1130 Grand Concourse was originally home to the Bronx Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children until 1951, when it was acquired by the Bronx Young Men's and Women's Hebrew Association (YM-YWHA). In 1980, The Girls Club of New York acquired the building. Later on BronxWorks, known then as the Citizens Advice Bureau, assumed ownership of the building when the agency merged with The Girls Club in 1993. BronxWorks renamed the building the Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center in 2014 in honor of its newly retired long term former Executive Director. Audience members also shared their personal memories of 1130 Grand Concourse. "I was a kid growing up in the projects," said Detective Bobby Oviedo, "and this place saved my life," he said. "I will always keep this place in my heart."
Over the past nine decades, 1130 Grand Concourse has been expanded to include an indoor pool, gymnasium, and a rooftop playground. BronxWorks recent capital improvements include a new boiler and elevator, as well as major upgrades to the pool. The building embodies the BronxWorks mission to feed, shelter, teach, and support our neighbors to build a stronger community, and we look forward to continued service at 1130 Grand Concourse.

Second Saturdays Kick Off

Monthly beginning in May through October, the Second Saturdays event at St. Mary’s Park will bring fun and healthy activities to the Mott Haven Community.

Second Saturdays was created by the St. Mary’s Park Workgroup, a cohort of partners from the Healthy and Livable Mott Haven Partnership. “We decided that the best way to work together was to jointly plan an event that occurs on a regular basis and invite partners to do what they do best for the community,” says BronxWorks Community Health Program Director Kim Wong. “That was why we started Second Saturdays last year.”

The Healthy and Livable Mott Haven Partnership (HLMH) is led by BronxWorks and includes the Friends of St. Mary’s Park, Partnership for Parks, New York Road Runners, New York Restoration Project, Bronx Health REACH, Bike New York, Transportation Alternatives, Harvest Home Farmers Markets, SoBRO, New Life with Confidence, NYC Parks, NYC DOHMH, among others. HLMH is made possible through support from the New York Community Trust.

BronxWorks 2017 Annual Staff Meeting

On May 13, the BronxWorks Healthy and Livable Mott Haven Partnership in cooperation with the New York Restoration Project and Healthfirst’s Randall’s Island Connector, kicked off the second year of “Second Saturdays in St. Mary’s Park,” a series of 6 monthly events. Families can participate in community friendly activities, such as fitness classes, health screenings, arts activities and performances. The free events, which aim to encourage active use of the park, improve safety, and foster stewardship, run through October.

On Tuesday, April 25, over 500 BronxWorks staff members gathered at Billy’s Sports Bar to learn about the agency’s 2016 accomplishments, welcome new employees, and recognize those who have worked with BronxWorks for three years or more.

The theme of the 2017 Staff Meeting was “Creating a New
Narrative," focusing on the challenges facing the Bronx and how BronxWorks has grown to meet those challenges. Ken Small, Director of Development described how dramatically the borough has changed over the past five decades.

Eileen Torres, Executive Director, shared some exciting facts on the strides the agency has taken over the past year to help improve the communities BronxWorks serves. In 2016 BronxWorks served over 600,000 meals and fed over 2,000 persons. Also as a result of the efforts of the BronxWorks Adult Homeless Services Department, there has been a 93% decline in the number of chronic street homeless persons on Bronx streets between 2005 and 2016 as measured by the recent HOPE Count. These accomplishments were made with the dedicated service of BronxWorks staff members.

The meeting honored employees with tenures ranging from three to twenty five years and beyond as well as those who were recently promoted. And finally, no staff meeting would be complete without an appearance by BronxWorks staff Alex Soto and Yonnel Olivo, who hosted a team building game. The audience cheered on their teammates while answering BronxWorks-related trivia questions. The meeting undoubtedly ended on a high note.

Staff profile - Adriana Puello

Adriana Puello has worn many hats for BronxWorks. She has answered phones at reception, helped research the history of 1130 Grand Concourse for its 90th Anniversary Celebration, and cheered on our swimmers at swim tournaments. She also has helped out at the Annual BronxWorks 5K at St. Mary’s Park. All of these activities are well outside of her official role as Program Assistant.

Adriana started at BronxWorks as a Youth Employment Intern in the summer of 2014. In October of that year, she was hired as an Assistant Counselor and later was promoted to a Counselor. Now she maintains a dual role as Program Assistant for Summer Camp and for the BronxWorks Children and Youth Department. Adriana loves her job because she gets a chance to work with kids. "They teach you a lot," she says. "I think all of the kids provide unique insight on how they view the world and their everyday environment."
Adriana has an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development and is completing her Bachelor's in Disability Studies/Human Services at City College this summer. Adriana never seems to have enough on her plate, so BronxWorks suits her well. "It's never boring here," she says with a smile, "there's always something new or different at BronxWorks."

Photo Essay

Three members of the 2017 #TeamBronxWorks TD 5 Boro Bike tour pose for a picture in Astoria Park. The BronxWorks riders pedaled over 40 miles and raised over $14,000 to benefit children's programs at our shelters for homeless families. Pictured from left to right Sandi Maldonado, Rudy Hart and Janice Hart, Vice Chair of the BronxWorks Board of Directors.

Staff and community members alike join Bronx Yoga Hub on Wednesday mornings at 9am at the BronxWorks CMCC at 1130 Grand Concourse. BronxWorks is thrilled to collaborate with Bronx Yoga Hub to offer these popular classes for free!

Members of the Ai You Foundation traveled from China and recently visited the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center as part of a special New York Philanthropy Study Tour.

Did you know? Boogie on the Boulevard Starts Next Month

Boogie on the Boulevard starts again next month. On June 25, July 23, August 20, and September 10, you can bike, rollerblade, and boogie your way through a car-free zone 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.
For more information visit http://boogieontheboulevard.org.

**BronxWorks Events**

**The BronxWorks 5K Run/Walk**

On Saturday, June 24, join BronxWorks staff, friends, and supporters for the third annual BronxWorks 5K at St. Mary's Park. The family-friendly event will feature face painting, finisher medals, and fantastic prizes. Funds raised are critical in supporting BronxWorks programs, and each participant will help decide which program will be the recipient. You can register for the 5K by visiting [our website](http://boogieontheboulevard.org).

Proceeds from the 2016 BronxWorks 5K were used to purchase a new vehicle that delivers meals to various programs.

**The BronxWorks 2017 Sapphire Gala**

Monday, June 12 is the BronxWorks 2017 Sapphire Gala.

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Laura Behnke returns as Mistress of Ceremonies, and New York Knicks legend Walt "Clyde" Frasier will attend as the evening's Special Ambassador.

Join BronxWorks as we celebrate our 45th Anniversary and honor the accomplishments of Mutual of America, The Lemle & Wolff Companies, and Paul Lipson of Barretto Bay Strategies.

It is not too late to purchase your tickets, journal ads or sign up to become a sponsor.

Click here to RSVP today!

Thank you to the BronxWorks 2017 Sapphire Gala Sponsors
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www.bronxworks.org/2017-annual-gala
for more information about Gala tickets, journal ads and sponsorship opportunities.

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