

A Queens College School of Arts & an NYC Parks Partnership

"ARTS IN THE PARKS"

IMPACT REPORT





PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

In May 2024, the Queens College School of Arts (QC SoA) partnered with NYC Parks to bring vibrant arts and cultural programming to public spaces across Queens.

An initiative designed by QC School of Arts **Associate Dean Julia del Palacio** and implemented by **Program & Communications Manager Neophytos Ioannou**, the five-month partnership consisted of dance workshops, arts trail nature walks, Jazz and World Music concerts, and more to enhance the lives of New Yorkers, promote well-being, and provide invaluable professional opportunities for SoA students and graduates. This initiative took place at eight Queens Parks in its inaugural year.

KEY PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES

- Expand access to arts and culture for diverse communities throughout Queens.
- Foster collaboration among SoA students, alumni, staff, and NYC Parks to deliver free programming.
- Transform public spaces into hubs of creative expression, learning, and connection.
- Strengthen community well-being through accessible cultural experiences to engage and inspire.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

As we celebrate the inaugural partnership, here is a snapshot of our activities and achievements:



**13 VISUAL ART
ACTIVITIES**



**21 MUSIC
ACTIVITIES**



**17 DANCE
ACTIVITIES**



20 PERFORMANCES



20 WORKSHOPS



**11 ARTS TRAIL
NATURE WALKS**

PARK BREAKDOWN



**Flushing Meadows Corona Park:
8 Events**



**Forest Park & Highland Park:
10 Events**



**Rockaway Parks:
7 Events**



**Roy Wilkins Park:
18 Events**



**District 7A (Crocheron Park,
Alley Pond Park, & Little Bay Park):
8 Events**



**51 Total
Events**

Activities ranged from performances, workshops, and interactive trails and included Arts Trail Nature Walks, Visual Art Workshops, Percussion Workshops, World Music Concerts, Jazz Concerts, Dance Performances, Salsa Dance Workshops, Hip Hop Dance Workshops, and Afro-Caribbean Dance Workshops.

ENGAGEMENT

500+ Queens Residents Reached

Engaged diverse communities across New York City, bringing creativity and culture directly to neighborhoods and fostering a sense of belonging through shared cultural experiences.

36 Artist Opportunities

SoA students and recent graduates taught and performed across all artistic mediums.

5 School of Arts Internships

Trained **students and recent graduates** with hands-on learning in administration, curation, operations, and outreach, bridging the gap between academic study and professional practice.

13 Park-Based Workshops

Integrated outdoor and park-based learning into **13 workshops**, connecting environmental awareness and the arts.



IMPACT

Benefiting community residents and Queens College students and graduates, we have transformed public spaces across Queens into vibrant cultural hubs and provided valuable hands-on experience for artists.

TESTIMONIALS



Artist Reflections:

"Thank you for entrusting my company, CarNYval Dancers, to partner with your organization on the summer dance class initiative. From week to week, we've had so much fun connecting with the community and watching the class capacity grow!"

- Kiara Ross Paige, Founder of CarNYval Dancers

"Thank you for the opportunity to not only teach art, but to get out into the beautiful parks, and meet the park rangers. They are quite a crew! In addition, the 'students' were very compelling, who showed real talent, and a genuine motivation to learn more."

- Michal Shapiro, Visual Art Teaching Artist

Student Reflections:

"Working as a School of Arts coordinator for the NYC Parks partnership was a real joy, and interacting with Queens artists and locals was the highlight of my week this summer."

- Chloe Dickens, School of Arts Coordinator

"As a theater and media studies major, being a part of a program where I can coordinate events taught me invaluable lessons for my career, and I loved how broad this is in its arts disciplines. I've gained so many insights that I can now apply to my future. Overall, I'm grateful for an opportunity such as this one and hope more SoA students and alumni can partake in this initiative!"

- Alysa Asencio, School of Arts Coordinator



Community Reflections:

"Thank you for bringing rhythm and creativity to our park!"

- Afro-Caribbean Dance Workshop Participant

"A great program to foster community and a sense of belonging in Queens!"

- Percussion Workshop Participant



"I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Queens College School of Arts for their Jazz Quartet Ensemble. What a delightful performance they presented at our event. Their presence made our event so much more special and the music they performed was excellent, to the point various community members have been inquiring about them!"

- Jackie Rogers, President of The Garden by the Bay

2024 BUDGET

Budget

Expenses

Performing Artist fees (music)	\$8,000.00
Performing Artist fees (dance)	\$800.00
Teaching Artist fees (visual art, dance, & music)	\$6,100.00
Materials	\$304.52
Transportation Stipends	\$150.00
Marketing	\$730.00
Promotional Video	\$3,500.00
Curatorial Expenses	\$3,500.00
Operations/Coordination	\$3,223.75
Insurance	\$5,000.00

TOTAL BUDGET

\$31,308.27

Income

New York City Department of Parks & Recreation	\$29,740.00
Kupferberg Center for the Arts	\$892.50
Queens College School of Arts	\$675.77

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$31,308.27

Flushing Meadows Corona Park

All expenses were covered by the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Expenses

Artist fees	\$6,400.00
Tech expenses	\$3,000.00
Administrative staff (School of Arts staff)	\$1,500.00
Operations staff (School of Arts staff)	\$1,000.00
Contingency	\$500.00

TOTAL BUDGET

\$12,400.00

VISION

NEXT STEPS

- **Program Expansion:** We hope to expand our programming to more NYC Parks in 2025 to ensure greater access to the arts for all residents.
- **Diverse Offerings:** We are committed to offer a wider range of programs that reflect the unique cultural identities and interests of local communities, ensuring our initiatives resonate with diverse audiences.
- **Deeper Community Engagement:** We will ensure that we increase outreach efforts, **engage more local partners**, and **create additional leadership opportunities for SoA students and alumni**.



2025 OFFERINGS

Activity	Discipline	Style	Cost*
Expenses			
Workshop	Dance	Hip Hop	\$600
Workshop	Dance	Afro-Caribbean	\$600
Workshop	Dance	Salsa	\$600
Performance	Dance	Contemporary	\$800
Performance	Dance	Hip Hop	\$800
Workshop	Visual Art	Sketching	\$700
Workshop	Visual Art	Painting	\$700
Workshop	Visual Art	Ceramics	\$700
Workshop	Visual Art	Crafting	\$700
Arts Trail	Visual Art	Arts Trail Nature Walk	\$700
Workshop	Music	Percussion	\$700
Concert	Music	World Music	\$1,200
Concert	Music	Classical Music	\$1,200
Concert	Music	Jazz Music	\$1,200

Cost includes the teaching artist fees, arts materials, operation fees, administrative and curatorial fees, and the marketing and graphic design expenses.



IN CLOSING

Our vision is to create a **long-lasting partnership** that serves as a model for public engagement in the city. Through multi-year initiatives, we will continue to bring creativity to new spaces, enriching New Yorkers' lives, and fostering a vibrant cultural landscape citywide. We aim to **expand the initiative** to include interdisciplinary projects that connect the arts through various artistic mediums and fields. By integrating these disciplines, we will create impactful programs that address both social and environmental challenges through creative solutions. We seek to **attract future funding, foster new connections, and inspire other organizations** to join us in our mission to bring cultural enrichment and empowerment to every corner of New York City.

The Queens College School of Arts & NYC Parks partnership has set a new standard for community engagement through the arts, demonstrating the **transformative power of creative collaboration**. Building on this year's successes, we are committed to deepening our impact, **continuing to enrich public spaces, and fostering creativity**. Our ongoing efforts aim to sustain and expand this meaningful initiative, ensuring a **lasting impact** on New York City's cultural landscape.

Report created by Neophytos Ioannou
and designed by Sara Restrepo.

