Help Queens Memory Document COVID-19 in Queens!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Queens Memory COVID-19 Project, a borough-wide archiving campaign to collect first-person stories of life in the epicenter of the pandemic. We want to make a lasting record of how we are living, working, learning, and helping one another in Queens during this unprecedented time. The stories we gather today will become a testament to the struggles and resiliency of the World’s Borough!

Please help us by sharing your experience of what it’s like to be in Queens right now. You can contribute stories in any format you’d like -- audio, video, photos and writing -- at queenslib.org/covid, and tag us in your social media posts by using @queensmemory and #QueensCOVID. Submissions will become part of the Queens Memory digital collections at Queens Public Library and Queens College Library and will be shared through our tech partner, Urban Archive.

The project has already received numerous submissions from all over the borough; check out a sampling on our Instagram page and get inspired to add your own! We’ve also been featured in news stories on NY1, Univision and WNYC!

Two images recently submitted to our COVID-19 Project. Photos courtesy of Patricia Tu (left) and Pablo Jarama (right). See more of our collection on Instagram!

If you’d like to get involved by conducting remote oral history interviews, please get in touch with us through Instagram or by email at queensmemory@gmail.com. You’ll be helping us build a rich resource for future generations!

Upcoming Virtual Events

May 28, June 25 – What music is on your playlist right now? Join host EunWoo Nam for My Shelter in Place Karaoke Playlist and hear participants from all over Queens sharing their stories, singing their favorite songs and reading poetry that inspires them during this extraordinary time. Attend the event as an audience member by following this link at the start time. Want to join in with your own song or story? Email queensmemory@gmail.com to get a presenter spot in this Webex event. (4 - 6 pm)

June 13 – Queer Memoir Storytelling Series: Grief is an engaging and powerful program created in partnership with the city-wide Reimagine End of Life initiative to explore legacy and communication around end-of-life wishes. Comic, writer and genderqueer ex-nun Kelli Dunham will host this special edition of the Queer Memoir program in which storytellers will share their personal narratives about grief in the LGBTQIA community. To participate as a storyteller, please email queensmemory@gmail.com. (7 - 9 pm)

Queens Memory in the Professional Community

QM staff are frequently invited to discuss our innovative programs with our colleagues in the library and archives communities. As part of Preservation Week (April 26 - May 2), Queens Memory Director Natalie Milbrodt will lead a free webinar, "Community Archiving Strategies for Oral History," sponsored by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, a division of the American Library Association (April 29, 2 pm).