

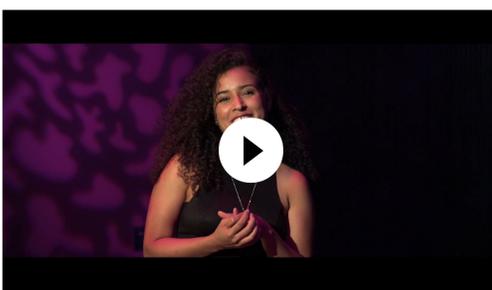
QUEENS MEMORY

NEWS FROM QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT

New Theatrical Work Uses Queens Memory Submissions to Tell Pandemic Stories

On April 22, Queens Theatre hosts the digital premiere of "[I See You and You See Me](#)," a filmed theatrical event featuring monologues based on oral histories and source material submitted to Queens Memory.

Directed by Harris Doran and produced by Queens Theatre's Dominic D'Andrea, the work features 11 actors presenting the accounts of Queens residents who shared stories about their lives last year through our COVID-19 Project. Our Community Coordinator Meral Agish will participate in a virtual post-screening conversation along with a number of the Queens Memory contributors, including Hector Biaggi, Seo-Young Chu, Karen Fisher, Emily Hepding, Sto Len, Douglas Lyons, Demetries Morrow and Sarah Pousty. You can see some of the source material featured in the performance on our [Urban Archive page](#), and watch the trailer here:



Now on display at the Yeh Art Gallery at St. John's University is textile artist Azikiwe Mohammed's "[11439 - 39202](#)," featuring works that explore the narratives of the black, brown, and marginalized peoples living between the zip codes for which the exhibit takes its name: Queens, N.Y. and Jackson, Miss. In creating the works, Mohammed used Queens Memory materials in his research and talks about the stories behind them in the [exhibition guide](#). The exhibit will be open through April 30.



Queens Memory Featured on Curbed



We were delighted to see our COVID-19 Project highlighted last week in the Curbed article, [What the Museum of 2020 May Look Like](#). The story particularly cited our mission of inclusiveness so that "any resident of Queens can visit the site and feel as though their experience is represented." Community Coordinator Meral Agish was interviewed for the piece, which was accompanied by a photo contributed to our project by Josephine Lew (see above). We are honored to be included alongside our esteemed colleagues at organizations including the Museum of the City of New York, the Center for Brooklyn History, and the Smithsonian!

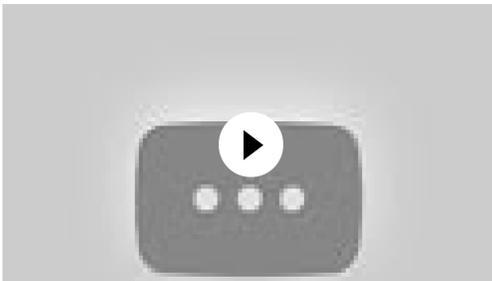
Workshops With Job and Business Academy Aim to Reinvigorate Participants

Queens Memory and the Queens Public Library's [Job and Business Academy](#) (JBA) have begun conducting our "Reinvigorating Wise Lives" workshops, aimed at adults age 60 and up.

Participants in the six-week series of virtual workshops are split into two tracks, depending on their objectives: the Creative Aging track focuses on personal finance and volunteering and mentoring opportunities, while the Encore Career track offers preparation for a next stage of paid employment. Attendees meet twice a week as a group and also have sessions with a JBA career coach for individualized assistance.

Queens Memory will help participants in both tracks engage in a thoughtful exploration of their professional work history and a vision for their future goals. This will culminate in oral history interviews that will be preserved in our collection and made available to the public. The program is being funded by the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation.

Although registration for the spring series is now closed, we are planning a summer series as well -- check our [Facebook page](#) later in the spring for more information about signing up, and view our promotional video below!



Upcoming Virtual Events

April 27 – During the 2019-20 academic year, a group of English and photography students at LaGuardia Community College contributed to the archives by documenting their experiences during the COVID-19 lockdown. Showing remarkable dedication and resilience, the students have created a powerful collection of photographs and writing that explore the internal lives of New Yorkers during the pandemic. Come to the [Queens Memory Facebook page](#) for [Portraits of an Epicenter: A Student's Perspective](#), at which we will be joined by several of the students as we showcase their work and reflect on these tumultuous times (4 pm EDT). To view the students' work, go to the [LaGuardia & Wagner Archives](#) site and/or follow on Twitter: @LaGuardiaWagner or Instagram: laguardiaandwagner

April 28 – In our [Family Arts Workshop](#), parents and children can collaborate creatively while also sharing family stories. Using objects from their homes, participants will explore observational drawing techniques, as well as their memory and imagination, to create colorful, detailed works of art. The workshop will be led by Magin Schantz of Supermoon Art Space. Please email molson@queenslibrary.org to register for this program. Free supplies are available for pickup at the Ridgewood Library! (6:30 pm EDT)

May 1, 8 and 15 – We are happy to sponsor a new program, [Creating Life Stories Through Photographs: South Asian American Experience](#), with photographer Mahnoor Nasir Khan. Humans are storytelling creatures: joy, beauty, pain and grief are part of everyone's experience, but our individual stories are all different. Join us on this three-week journey to create photographs as a means of creative expression -- to explore and examine your own life, your identity, family history, connection to your origin country, memories and home. Learn how to express visually what your words can't. Requirements are a smartphone and access to the Apple or Android app store. No prior photography experience is needed. Sessions will be held on three consecutive Saturdays, May 1, 8 and 15, at 2 - 3:30 pm EDT; email Qk-programs@queenslibrary.org to receive a link to the sessions.

Queens Memory is pleased to offer an ongoing series of facilitated [Expressive Arts Workshops](#). Community members will gather in a virtual circle twice a month to tell stories. We will celebrate our stories of resilience and challenges during this historic year by engaging our creativity and drawing from our intuition, for our own self-care and joy. Please bring pencil and paper and, if you can, some art supplies. Facilitated by visual artist and Bardo voyerager Noah Phillips and librarian and poet Vijay R. Nathan. Register for upcoming dates (all at 1 pm EDT):

Thursday, **May 13**: <https://bit.ly/ExpArtsMay13>
Thursday, **May 27**: <https://bit.ly/ExpArtsMay27>

May 18 – Join Queens native and Licensed Tour Guide Adrienne Onofri on the second of three virtual walking tours, "[Jackson Heights & COVID-19: Diverse Experiences in a Diverse Community](#)," as she explores how the pandemic is affecting the community. Ms. Onofri will escort us virtually through the neighborhood to show us how the community is adjusting. Watch live at 4 pm EDT on the [Queens Memory Facebook page](#).

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. At the upcoming [LACUNY Institute](#) virtual conference, [Annie Tummino](#), head of Special Collections and Archives at Queens College; [Obden Mondesir](#), outreach archivist at Queens College; and Queens Public Library librarian [Jo-Ann Wong](#) will present a panel discussion, "Uplifting Diverse and Marginalized Voices Through Community Archives and Public Programming" (May 6, 1 - 2 pm EDT).

Eight members of the [Queens Memory team](#) will virtually present "Be the Octopus: How a Community Coordinated a COVID-19 Documentation Project," a discussion of how we worked remotely and individually yet in close coordination to launch our COVID-19 Project in April 2020, at the [New York Archives Conference](#) (June 11).

On June 25, Queens Memory Community Coordinator [Meral Agish](#) will speak about our programs as part of the panel, "Community Voices: Libraries Involved in the Multimedia Gathering, Sharing or Preservation of Stories Lived in Their own Neighborhoods, Towns, Cities and Counties," at the virtual [American Library Association Annual Conference](#).