

Queens Memory

News from Queens Memory Project

Queens Memory's COVID-19 Project Enters Phase 2

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteers and staff and the amazing generosity of the people of Queens, our [Queens Memory COVID-19 Project](#) is an overwhelming success! Our borough-wide archiving campaign to collect first-person stories of life in the epicenter of the pandemic has been collecting an amazing variety of photos, videos, interviews, written texts and artwork testifying to the struggles and resiliency of our communities.

More than 340 items are now viewable through our tech partner, Urban Archive, with more being uploaded regularly. See some of our most recent submissions [here](#), explore the full collection [here](#), and contribute your own stories [here](#). We also have 29 (and counting) video and audio interviews freely available on [our Aviary page](#). You can find even more images on [our Instagram site!](#)



Submissions to our COVID-19 Project by Sto Len (above) and Alexis Ward (right). These and many more are featured on our [Urban Archive project page](#).



Coming up next will be the premiere of our 10-episode **Queens Memory Podcast**. To start off the series, Queens neighbors share their stories of living in quarantine -- the fear, isolation, adjustment and loss that have touched everyone since the beginning of COVID-19. Ann Hepperman of Jackson Heights contracted the virus in March and shares her story of strength in the face of uncertainty, while Ridgewood resident Hendel Leiva speaks of his friend who was lost to COVID-19. Residents of Elmhurst and Astoria share what it's like to live near hospitals during a pandemic, while others tell stories of managing at home. Host Meral Agish guides listeners through first-hand accounts of Queens residents who each have their own experience to tell, while also sharing a common trait -- resilience.

Episode 1 will premiere on [our Aviary page](#) on Thursday, August 6, at 4 pm EST, with future episodes planned for each following Thursday. We will also hold several live-streamed "talk-back sessions" with speakers featured in the episodes -- check [our Facebook page](#) for more details soon!

See "Snapshots of Queens: Family" and the rest of our growing roster of video compilations and audio interviews on [our Aviary page!](#)



Now Coming to a TV Near You: QM's COVID-19 Project!

In collaboration with QPTV (Queens Public Television), Queens Memory is presenting episode one of "The COVID-19 Project: Navigating a Pandemic," a two-part series highlighting our frontline workers and local communities that are working to uplift one another during this tumultuous time. The 30-minute episode will air on Sunday, July 26, at 1 pm on Spectrum channels 34/1995, RCN channel 82 and Verizon channel 34. At the same time, it will also stream on the [Queens Memory Facebook page](#).

The episode will be re-broadcast by QPTV the evening of July 26 at 10 pm on Spectrum channel 1997, RCN channel 85 and Verizon channel 37.



Photo courtesy of Megan Green, Astoria.

Upcoming Virtual Events

July 24 – End your week with a few rounds of challenging questions at [Trivia Night: Do You Know Queens?](#), where we will test your knowledge about our favorite borough! Space is limited, so be sure to register for the Webex event [here](#). And, have this [Google Form](#) up and ready, on the side! This will be your answer sheet for the night. (7 - 8:30 pm EST)

Every Tuesday at 4 pm EST, we will present a new video in our series, **What Shapes Our Communities: Talks with Local Businesses, Organizations, and Artists**. The following discussions will stream on the [Queens Memory Facebook page](#):

July 28 – We will talk to [Jaime Sunwoo](#), an Artist Commissioning Program Awardee in Playwriting, from the Queens Council on the Arts. Her most recent work, "Specially Processed American Me," is an autobiographical performance that explores how SPAM, the "American" canned meat, has influenced Asian culture and cuisine.

August 11 – We will talk to [Edjo Wheeler](#), Executive Director of the newly established Culture Lab LIC and a member of LIC-A's Board of Directors. Located at the Plaxal Gallery in Long Island City, [Culture Lab LIC](#) is focused on supporting the development and growth of artists, musicians, actors and their local community. (This video was pre-recorded on July 10, 2020.)

August 18 – We will talk to [Loycent Gordon](#), the owner of Neir's Tavern. Opened in Woodhaven in 1829, Neir's Tavern is one of the oldest bars in NYC and has become a center of community for its neighbors. Having faced potential shutdowns before, this bar's community has rallied together to ensure that Neir's Tavern lives on to see its 200th anniversary, and beyond.

July 30, August 27, September 24 – What music is on your playlist right now? What keeps you going and inspires you? Join host EunWoo Nam for one of our [International Open Mic](#) sessions and hear performers from all over the world sharing their stories, singing their favorite songs and reading poetry that inspires them during this extraordinary time. Attend the Facebook Live event as an audience member by going to [our Facebook page](#) at the start time. Want to join in with your own song or story? Email us at queensmemory@gmail.com to get a presenter spot. Please note that if you are between the ages of 14 and 18, you must have your guardian's consent to perform in this program. Children aged 13 or younger may not participate as performers. (4 - 5:30 pm EST)

August 4 – Join us for an important panel discussion, [NYC's Immigrants in Crisis: The Effects of COVID-19 on Immigrant Communities](#). The Center for an Urban Future and NY Immigration Coalition recently released a report titled "Under Threat and Left Out: NYC's Immigrants and the Coronavirus Crisis," which explores how immigrant communities have been shut out from government assistance programs during COVID-19, which has led to financial, food, educational and health instability. As the report notes, immigrants comprise almost half of the city's essential workers, but their voices are often not added to the discussion. Our conversation will talk about what conditions prior to COVID-19 have led to these instabilities for immigrant communities during the pandemic, what has been the effect of COVID-19 on immigrant communities, what have been the barriers to receiving assistance, and what policies should be employed to better assist our immigrant communities. The panel will be moderated by Ana Chapman, Director of Adult Learning at Queens Public Library, and will feature Anu Joshi of the New York Immigration Coalition as well as Jonathan Bowles and Eli Dvorkin of the Center for an Urban Future.

This event, which is co-sponsored with the New Americans Program at Queens Public Library and Center for an Urban Future, will be streamed via Facebook Live on the [Queens Memory Facebook page](#). (4 - 5:30 pm EST)

Queens Memory in the Press

We were honored to be featured in the Museum Association of New York's recent roundup of COVID-19 projects around the state. [History in Front of Us: Documenting and Collecting Current Events Like](#) describes several important "rapid response" collecting efforts like our own, including those of the New York Historical Society, the Museum of the City of New York and similar organizations upstate. Collaborating with and learning from our colleagues is essential to strengthening all of our projects.