



FAR ROCKAWAY QUEENS

Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Inventory



Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Tom Finkelpearl
Commissioner



Rockaway Waterfront Alliance
Rockaway Artists Alliance
Far Rockaway Arverne
Nonprofit Coalition



BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Building Community Capacity (BCC), takes a collaborative and comprehensive approach to building cultural capacity in targeted low-income neighborhoods. This multi-year program strives to ensure both that culture is included as part of the City's interagency efforts around neighborhood planning, affordable housing, and economic development; and that local cultural stakeholders have ownership and voice in their own community's development efforts.

IN THIS REPORT

The research data and analysis outlined in the following sections express the voices of 523 Far Rockaway community members representing

NEIGHBORHOOD BACKGROUND

The Rockaway Peninsula is a New York City gem with over 25 miles of shoreline. Situated between the Atlantic Ocean and Jamaica Bay in southeast Queens, the eastern end encompasses seven neighborhoods—Far Rockaway, Bayswater, Wave Crest, Edgemere, Arverne, Hammels, and Rockaway Beach—and is home to an estimated 93,000 individuals. It is a diverse community, racially, culturally, and in its urban form. About 44% of residents identify as Black/African American, 27% as Latino/Hispanic, and 22% as White. Communities from the Caribbean, Central America, Eastern Europe, and Africa are nestled in with earlier settlers from Ireland, Italy, and the American South. The urban character is composed of inner city and suburban elements. High- and low-rise towers and elevated subway tracks are intermingled with one- and two-family homes and expansive beaches. This melding is reflective of the area's history as a summer resort and as site to Robert Moses' ambitious top-down planning.

This part of the Rockaway Peninsula is home to a growing arts and cultural community. Local artists and culture makers reflect the diversity

of the local population and work across art mediums and professional levels. Many artists in the area appreciate the area's relative affordability, tight-knit community, proximity to the city and nature, and ability to impart on a relatively unrecognized cultural footprint. There are a growing number of local cultural organizations and a few anchor institutions, such as the Queens Library and Rockaway Waterfront Alliance. However, many artists who live in the area work and showcase their talents off the peninsula. Meanwhile, local residents seek out arts and culture experiences and recognize that arts and culture make a valuable contribution to the Rockaways, impacting quality of life, economic and business development, and community resilience.

The peninsula's peripheral position to the rest of New York City can make travel to and from the area a challenge. Travel times to work are some of the longest in the city, though the area is served by multiple modes of public transportation including the MTA A-subway line, LIRR, express and local bus service, a robust (though unregulated) dollar van system, and a new ferry service to downtown Manhattan just outside the study area. In 2018, the City piloted a bike share program locally.

a broad cross-section of people who live, work, and visit the neighborhood.

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STUDY AREA

This study focuses on the eastern end of the Rockaway Peninsula from Beach 94th Street to the Nassau County boundary. This areas distinctive neighborhoods include Far Rockaway, Bayswater, Wave Crest, Edgemere, Arverne, Hammels, and Rockaway Beach. For the purpose of brevity the study will refer to the extent of this area as Far Rockaway.

Front cover photos (clockwise from top left): Joshua Simpson, 2018; Joshua Simpson, 2018; Giles Ashford; Ben Martin, 2018; Ben Martin, 2018

Though recent estimates date the formation of the peninsula just 400 years ago, the Lenape, from whose language the area takes its name, were believed to be the first to populate the area. Their land was subsequently bought and sold by the Dutch, then English, then capitalizing New Yorkers, who reshaped the area into a fashionable summer resort. At its peak, the Rockaway Peninsula as a whole drew 48 million summer visitors and had a summer population of 225,000.

The mid-19th century also brought significant change reflective of city, state, and federal policies. Robert Moses altered the landscape through road and rail infrastructure and opened Jacob Riis Park. The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) redlined Hammels and Arverne from investment. A number of low- and middle-income public housing developments were planned and constructed. The City moved many poor families to scantily winterized summer homes with little investment in transportation, education, or economic opportunity. As a result of these and other policies, the Rockaway Peninsula today remains divided along lines of race, socioeconomics, and politics while the public realm is deeply



fragmented. There is an estimated 270 acres of vacant land. It is a recognized environmental justice impact area and disproportionality carries the burden of poor health outcomes in obesity, diabetes, asthma, and mental health. Local arts and culture play an important role in recognizing and grappling with these legacies.

Superstorm Sandy devastated the Rockaway Peninsula in October 2012, and many residents are still recovering from the damage. Sandy compounded the neighborhood's already vulnerable housing market still recovering from the 2008 recession. In Edgemere alone roughly 10% of all 1–4 family homes were in the foreclosure process in 2017.¹ Many small businesses, which make up the majority of commercial activity on the peninsula, closed after the storm, and some never reopened.

In spite of the area's environmental vulnerabilities, locals remain devoted to the area's natural beauty and enjoy engaging in outdoor activities that abound during warm weather. A perennially popular summer destination, the area attracts several million visitors each year, including a growing number of surfers. With the long-term health of the community in mind, Rockaway residents, civic leaders, and artists are working toward addressing long-term resilience in transportation, climate-resiliency, civic space, and cultural access.

¹ New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). 2017. *Resilient Edgemere Community Plan*.

NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT AND DEMOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

SOURCE:
AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
2014-2016, US CENSUS BUREAU

TOTAL POPULATION

FAR ROCKAWAY	QUEENS	NEW YORK CITY
93,267	2,310,011	8,461,961

AGE

MEDIAN AGE

QUEENS 37.9	FAR ROCKAWAY 33.3	NEW YORK CITY 35.9
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UNDER 5 YEARS	9.7% 6.3% 6.6%	25 TO 44 YEARS	24.9% 30.6% 31.6%
5 TO 14 YEARS	15.5% 10.9% 11.3%	45 TO 64 YEARS	24.0% 26.5% 24.6%
15 TO 24 YEARS	13.7% 12.2% 13.0%	65+ YEARS	12.1% 13.7% 13.0%

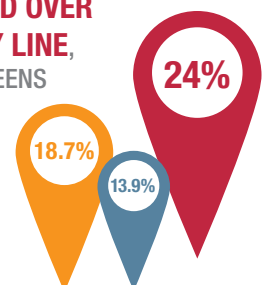
29.5% OF FAR ROCKAWAY RESIDENTS ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 18

INCOME

MEDIAN INCOME
\$41,822
\$59,758
\$55,191

UNDER \$15,000	21.9% 11.4% 16.2%	\$75,000 TO \$99,999	9.9% 13.1% 10.9%
\$15,000 TO \$34,999	21.9% 18.8% 18.9%	\$100,000 TO \$149,999	10.7% 15.1% 13.1%
\$35,000 TO \$49,999	13.6% 12.3% 11.1%	\$150,000 TO \$199,999	3.7% 6.6% 6.1%
\$50,000 TO \$74,999	15.7% 17.9% 15.3%	\$200,000+	2.6% 4.9% 8.3%

24% OF RESIDENTS 65 AND OVER LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE, AS COMPARED TO 13.9% IN QUEENS AND 18.7% IN NEW YORK CITY



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

26.7%
19.3%
19.2%

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE/
SOME COLLEGE

43%
42.1%
28.2%

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE
OR HIGHER

30.4%
38.6%
42.6%

HOUSEHOLDS

29,736

HOUSEHOLDS IN FAR ROCKAWAY

46.2%
ARE RENT BURDENED
(PAY 30% OR MORE OF
INCOME IN RENT)

11%
OF RESIDENTS LIVE IN NYCHA
HOUSING, ACCOUNTING FOR
14% OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS

41.9%
32.1%
30.1%
HOUSEHOLDS WITH
CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

51.8%
33.8%
36.7%
RESIDENTS 65 AND OVER
WITH A DISABILITY

LANGUAGE



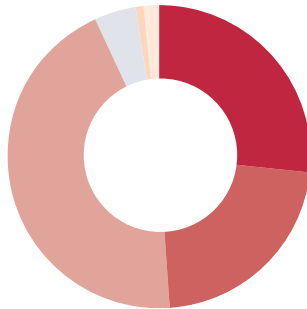
36.4%
OF RESIDENTS
SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER
THAN ENGLISH AT HOME.

16.3%
OF ALL RESIDENTS
SPEAK ENGLISH LESS
THAN "VERY WELL."

SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
2011-2015, US CENSUS BUREAU.

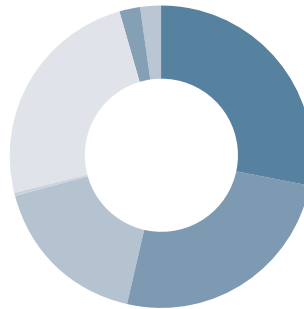
RACE/ETHNICITY

FAR ROCKAWAY



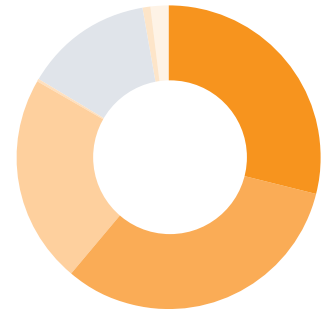
	%
Two or More Races	1.6
Some Other Race	0.7
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	0.1
Asian Alone	4.3
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	0.1
Black or African American Alone	44.2
White Alone	22.0
Hispanic or Latino	26.9

QUEENS



	%
Two or More Races	2.2
Some Other Race	2.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	0
Asian Alone	24.6
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	0.2
Black or African American Alone	17.3
White Alone	25.6
Hispanic or Latino	28.0

NEW YORK CITY



	%
Two or More Races	1.8
Some Other Race	0.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	0
Asian Alone	13.6
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	0.2
Black or African American Alone	22.2
White Alone	32.3
Hispanic or Latino	29.0

NYC Population FactFinder <https://popfactfinder.planning.nyc.gov/#12.25/40.724/-73.9868>, retrieved June 7, 2018

KEY FINDINGS

Forces and Trends

The eastern end of the Rockaway Peninsula—particularly the neighborhoods of Far Rockaway, Edgemere, and Arverne—is currently the subject of a growing number of planning initiatives and community investments. The NYC Economic Development Corporation’s (EDC) *Downtown Far Rockaway Neighborhood Development Project* aims to completely rethink the future of the downtown area to bring more housing and density to the area while substantially improving the public realm. NYC Housing Preservation and Development’s (HPD) *Resilient Edgemere Planning Initiative* aims to plan for the future of the area’s communities and coastline in the face of sea level rise. NYC Department of Transportation’s (DOT) *Access to Opportunity: Transportation and Housing Study in the Eastern Rockaways* aims to improve multimodal transportation in the area. These various initiatives are much needed after decades of institutional disinvestment and neglect. In light of these plans and investments, supporting and building the existing arts and cultural infrastructure of the eastern end is not just a strategy to preserve the integrity of the community, but vital to the health, safety, and educational outcomes of local residents.



Strengths

- A diverse range of artists, dancers, musicians, and filmmakers come from many different backgrounds, ethnic, and religious affiliations. Residents come from West Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe.
- An abundance of underutilized privately- and publically-owned outdoor spaces.
- The area is surrounded by ecologically rich and scenic landscapes including Jamaica Bay, the Atlantic Ocean, and their shorelines.
- A close-knit and passionate community with a strong history of volunteerism and sweat-equity, including the recent Sandy recovery efforts and the volunteer-run Far Rockaway Arverne Nonprofit Coalition.
- Art played an important role in healing the community after Superstorm Sandy.
- Engaged local politicians are committed to growing the capacity of the community's arts and culture.
- Real estate developers working in the neighborhood have a track record of supporting local organizations and a willingness to provide community benefits in incoming developments.
- Millions of visitors flock to the area during the warm season every year.

“Fort Tilden might as well as be Florida. We need cultural spaces and programs on the east end.”

– Business Owner



Challenges

- Improved cultural access requires more opportunities to address financial, physical, marketing, and geographic barriers.
- Arts and cultural programming flourishes in the summer, but wanes in the winter.
- There is a lack of ongoing programs (although there are many one-offs) and few central and inclusive community-accessible arts and cultural spaces.
- Rockaway schools are under-resourced and there is limited capacity in existing after-school programs.
- Local artists and cultural organizations have low capacity in staff, funding, and marketing.



SPOTLIGHT ON EXPO 1: NEW YORK

VW DOME 2, ROCKAWAY BEACH
MARCH – JUNE 30, 2013

Superstorm Sandy in October 2012 underlined the importance of social connectivity for resilience. As the community recovered, MoMA PS1 constructed a temporary geodesic dome in collaboration with Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, Rockaway Artists Alliance, and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, to serve as a center for culture, education, and community. The flexible space, located at Beach 94th Street and the boardwalk, was a



venue for lectures and conversations, rotating art exhibitions, film and video screenings, performances, youth programming, and community events that helped reimagine the future of a resilient Rockaway.

The Dome included a café, security, and a designated coordinator who worked with community members to schedule the space.

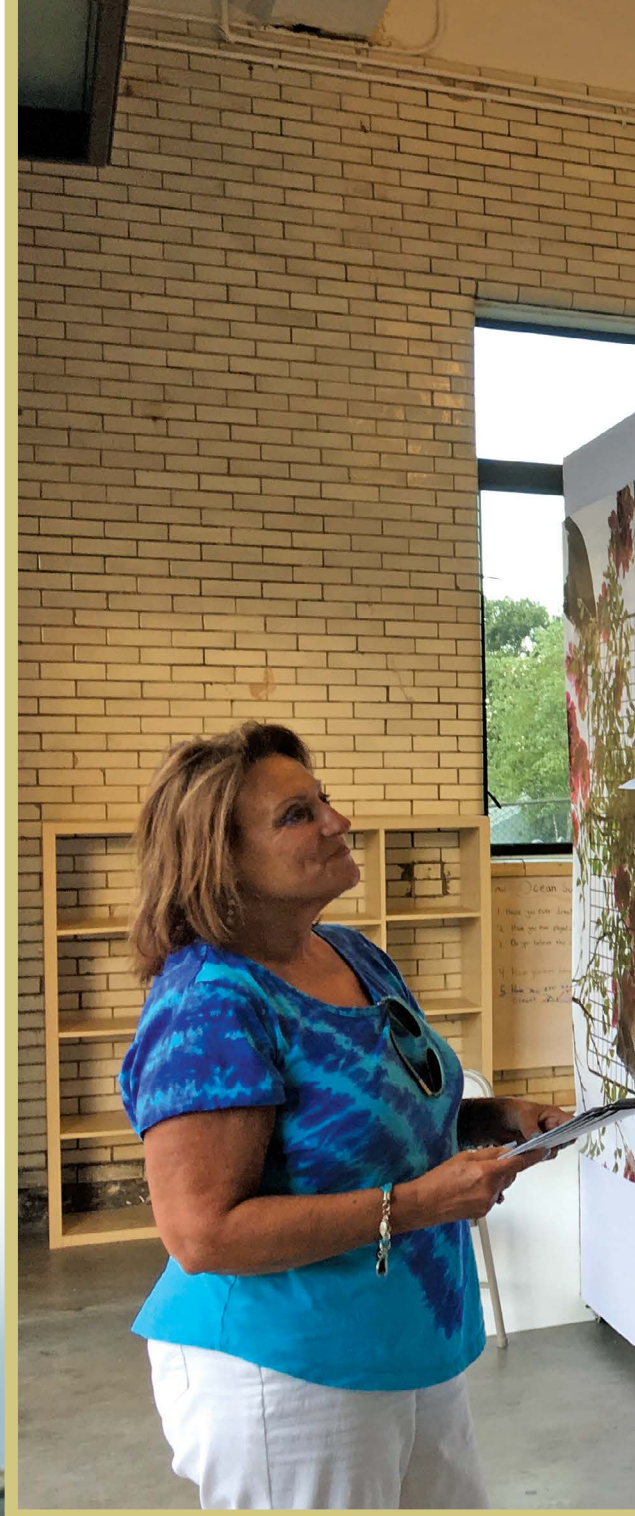
Ongoing maintenance and management was a challenge, but the Dome was a vivid example of the power and potential for local community space. Currently, local spaces like Dred Surfer, Rockaway Brewing Co., the Queens Libraries, and NYC Parks' Open Air Auditorium at O'Donohue Park play a similar role in providing space for community-initiated programs.

- Artists have few resources in place and experience difficulty finding local economic and exhibition opportunities.
- Community members do not know where to find information about local arts activities.
- Lack of programming for youth that targets their needs and interests.
- There are difficulties in bringing together populations from the peninsula's east and west ends due to existing community divisions along socio-economic, racial, and political lines.
- Many existing arts programs are not easily accessible to local families. For example, Rockaway Artists Alliance's popular sTudio 6 and 7 Galleries, and the Rockaway Theatre Company are on average a 5–10 mile distance from the study area.
- Negative perceptions of Far Rockaway as an unsafe place persist, deterring visitors and contributing to local isolation.

Opportunities

- Build awareness and increase local engagement in local arts activity by mapping and marketing existing arts and cultural assets.
- Create processes for arts and culture to activate underutilized spaces in a way that connects the local communities.
- Establish public spaces as vital places for creative expression and community building and connection.
- Consistently engage the existing local talent in Rockaway and strengthen the cultural community's ability to identify cultural resources, preserve a sense of cultural heritage, and forge cross-sector relationships.
- Capitalize on incoming development to build out the soft and hard infrastructure for existing arts and culture.
- Explore strategies and resources to bring diverse and accessible arts and culture activity to the broader community.
- Encourage community members and businesses to support arts and culture through the City's Participatory Budgeting and other processes.

- Support the many artistically and creatively talented residents and young people through arenas to showcase their work.
- Engage community members who are interested in experiencing arts and cultural activities closer to home.
- Advance arts and culture’s ability to attract more of the Rockaways’ millions of visitors to the east end.
- Increase art’s role in developing social cohesion, civic engagement, and knowledge of community history.





“Families have been here for generations. But as we grow more diverse, arts and culture are paramount. They allow people to share in culture, in commonality, and to harmonize the community.”

– Local Elected Official



INSIGHTS

The following central themes emerged through conversations with community stakeholders during town halls, focus groups, and individual interviews:

Community Connection through the Arts

- More inclusive arts spaces would bring together disparate communities for shared cultural experiences.
- When the community is culturally active, it is healthier and more resilient; the arts help bridge divisions, serve as a driver for local business, and play an important role in healing, as it did during Sandy.
- An action-oriented coalition of cultural stakeholders could:
 - engage and connect the community in forthcoming local development.
 - help build community awareness about local arts and cultural activities throughout the peninsula.

“There is a lot of separation between communities; we need ways to connect communities, neighbor to neighbor, neighborhood to neighborhood.”

– Faith Based Leader



Power of Art in the Public Realm

- Activating underutilized public space with arts and cultural programming is an effective way to:
 - Bring together artists and community members for dynamic experiences.
 - Make isolated areas feel safer and more attractive.
 - Attract visitors for unique adventures.
 - Shape a positive narrative for the area.



“The boardwalk is one of those communal spaces that everyone can be a part of and that everyone utilizes, it’s an amazing universal space, especially for art programming like the Rockaway Times Photography Exhibit.”

– Artist

Value of Diversity

- The community values arts and culture programming that represents the neighborhood's diversity.
- Arts and culture is a valuable asset that enhances the quality of life for individuals, families, and the community alike.
- Diverse local voices are critical to creating effective community development efforts and preserving Far Rockaway's cultural heritage.

“We have a long way to go, but the future looks bright. The more people are engaged in the process the better, we need to hear the voice of the community. We got the ball rolling, and we need to get DCLA to focus on Far Rockaway.”

- Local Elected Official

Art and Youth

- Provide more opportunities for youth and children to participate in arts education (in-school, after-school, summertime) by identifying local resources and advocating for increased public support.
- Support pathways for youth to careers in the creative sector.



“You would never know what was in Far Rockaway until you asked.”

- Town Hall Attendee

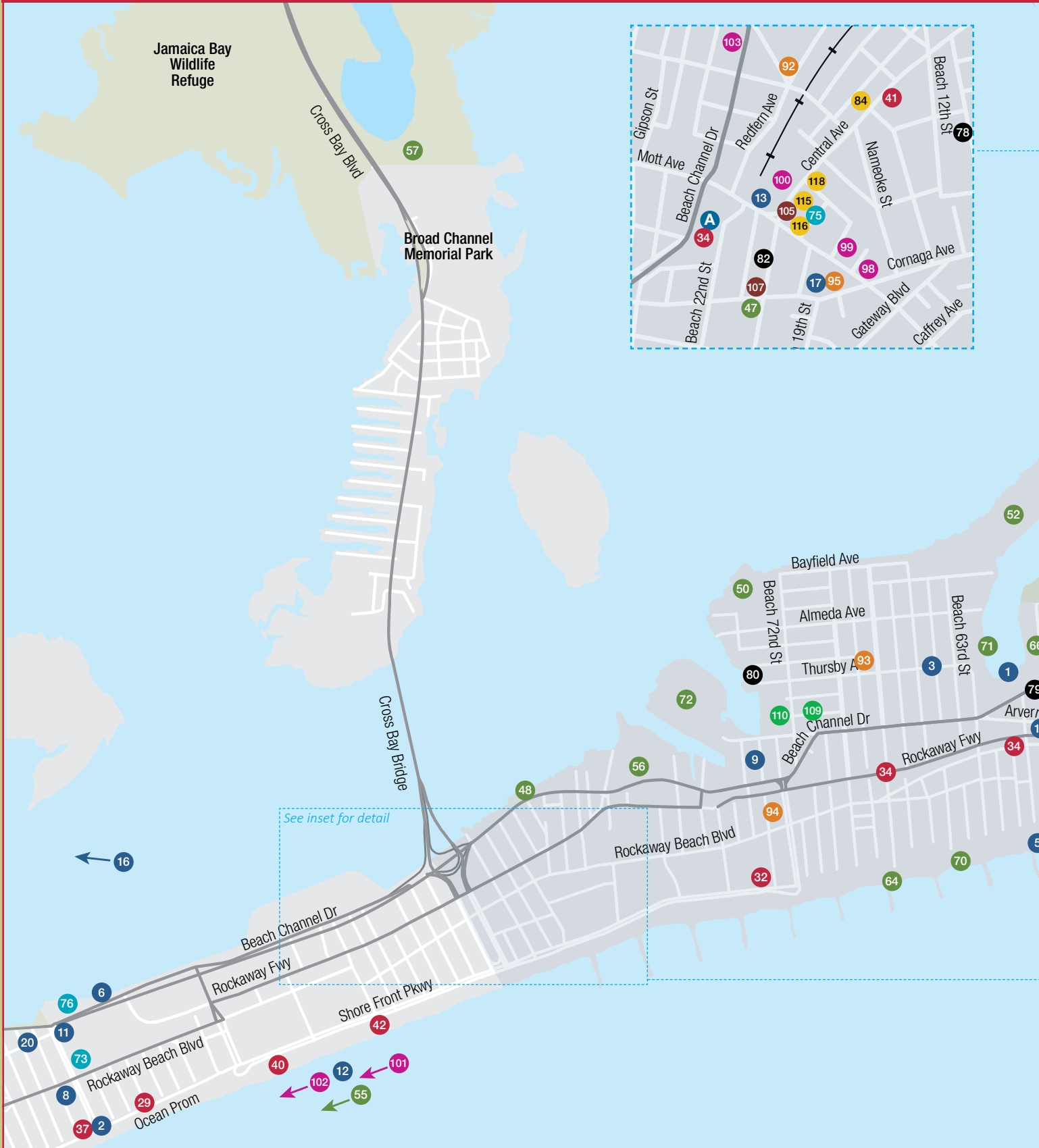


Local Cultural Ecology

- Bring together the cultural community as strong partners in the incoming development.
- Help cultural providers and creative sector businesses maintain their vital local presence.
- Identify community partners who can provide year-round space for the cultural community to create, exhibit, and perform.

CULTURAL ASSETS

CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS • PUBLIC ART • PARKS & GARDENS • MEDIA • SMALL BUSINESSES • COMMUNITY



CITY/SENIOR CENTERS • HISTORIC SITES • LIBRARIES • RESTAURANTS/FOOD MARKETS • SOCIAL SERVICES



These spaces were identified through conversations with stakeholders and community members, and is not an exhaustive list of local assets.

LEGEND

CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

1	Arts in Parts
2	Beach Sessions Dance Series
3	Beach64retreat (Artist Residency)
4	Beachside Bungalow Preservation Association
5	Beach 59th Street Playground
6	Elaine's School of Dance
7	Far Rockaway Cultural Performance Arts
8	Jamaica Bay Rockaway Parks Conservancy
9	Luke Glanton Gallery
10	Ready Rockaway

11	Rockaway Artists Alliance
12	Rockaway Theatre Company
13	Rockaway Village Public Art Commission
14	Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability & Equity
15	Rustwoods
16	Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay
17	Stan's Pepper Steppers
18	sTudio 6 Gallery, Fort Tilden
19	The Black Surfing Association of Rockaway
20	The Castle



PUBLIC ART

21	Beach Channel High School <i>The Family</i> , Costantino Nivola, sculpture <i>Untitled</i> , Jordan Steckel, sculpture <i>Untitled</i> , Jordan Steckel, sculpture <i>Untitled</i> , Eduardo Ramirez, sculpture
22	Belle Harbor Memorial Circle <i>Best on the Beach</i> , Jane Greengold, sculpture (Far Rockaway Fire/EMS Station)
23	<i>Birds of Paradise</i> , Ruth Hofheimer, mural
25	Community Mural

LEGEND

26	<i>Eat</i> , Robert Proper, sculpture		
27	Edgemere War Memorial		
28	<i>Farewell</i> , Scott Khan, mural		
29	Flight 587 Memorial, Freddy Rodriguez, sculpture		
31	<i>History of the Rockaways</i> , mural		
32	<i>Monarch Landscape</i> , Esther Grillo, mural		
33	Monument to Culluloo Telewana, Last of the Rockaways		
34	MTA Arts & Design Murals (A Train Stations)		
	<i>Respite</i> , Jason Rohlf (Far Rockaway/ Mott Avenue)		
	<i>Past/Present/Future</i> , Mauricio Lopez (Beach 25th Street)		
	<i>Symphonic Convergence 1&2</i> , George Bates (Beach 36th Street)		
	<i>Coom Baroom</i> , Jill Parisi (Beach 44th Street)		
	<i>The Beaches of New York City</i> , Simon Levenson (Beach 60th Street)		
	<i>On and Off the Boardwalk</i> , Ingo Fast (Beach 67th Street)		
	<i>Surf Station 90</i> , Michael Miller (Beach 90th Street)		
	<i>Be Good or Be Gone</i> , Duke Riley (Beach 98 Street)		
	<i>Vast</i> , Callie Hirsch (Beach 105th Street)		
			<i>First on the Beach and Wednesday Night Fireworks</i> , KK Kozik (Rockaway Park / Beach 116th Street)
		35	<i>Ocean Fence and Ocean Floor</i> , Julie Dermansky, sculpture (Beach Channel Drive Day Care Center)
		36	PS43 Murals <i>Gatehouse to Knowledge</i> , Willie Cole, mural (PS43) <i>The Flying Imagination</i> , Alfredo Ciebal, mural (PS43)
		37	Rockaway Mosaic, Ann Evans & Mary Nell Hawke, mural
		38	<i>Rockaway Petroglyph</i> , Kevin Sudeith, sculpture
		39	Rockaway Veterans Memorial, Joseph P. Pollia, sculpture
			Rockaway Veterans Memorial Tree Markers
			Rockaway Women Veterans Monument, Eileen Barry, sculpture
		40	<i>Surfs Up</i> , Esther Grillo, mural
		41	<i>The Big Wave-Not a Superhero - In the Ocean of Language</i> , Luca Buvoli, sculpture (PS253)
		42	<i>The Deep</i> , Esther Grillo, mural
		43	<i>We Rose Above the Challenge</i> , Misha Tyutyunik, mural

LEGEND

PARKS AND GARDENS

44	Arverne East Dune Preserve
45	Bandshell at Beach 17th Street
46	Bayswater Point State Park
47	Beach 20th Street Pedestrian Plaza
48	Beach 88th Street Park
49	Beach 91 Community Garden
50	Brant Point Wildlife Sanctuary
51	Culinary Kids Garden
52	Dubos Point Wildlife Sanctuary
53	Edgemere Farm
54	Edgemere Landfill - "Edgemere Community Park"
55	Fort Tilden / Gateway National Park
56	Freeway Dog Park
57	Gateway National Recreation Area – Jamaica Bay
58	Greenthumb Community Garden
59	Healing Garden by Coalition Against Hunger
60	Jamaica Bay Park
61	Michaelis Bayswater Park
62	NYCHA Beach 41st St. Community Garden
63	O'Donohue Park
64	Rockaway Beach Boardwalk

65	Rockaway Community Park
66	Rockaway Youth Task Force Garden
67	Seagirt Boulevard Community Garden
68	Seagirt Wetland Protected Wetland Area
69	Skate Park at Beach 9th Street
70	Surfing Beaches
71	Thursby Basin Park
72	Vernam Barbadoes Park



LEGEND

MEDIA

73	Rockaway Beach Broadcasting Company
74	The Wave
75	The Rockaway Advocate
76	The Rockaway Times

SMALL BUSINESSES

77	Hipsterville in the Beach 90th (Umas, 109, 98th Street)
78	Local Landscape Architecture
79	Marina 59
80	Seaview Marina
81	Sunlites Stained Glass
82	The Crate
83	Zingara Vintage

COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTERS

84	Arverne Church of God - NY Rising Community Center
85	Beach 41st Street Community Center (NYCHA)
86	Catholic Charities - Seaside Neighborhood Senior Center
87	Community Center of the Rockaway Peninsula, Inc.
88	Hammels Community Center (NYCHA)
89	Jewish Association Serving the Aging (JASA)
90	Jewish Association Serving the Aging (JASA)
91	Ocean Bay Community Center (NYCHA)



LEGEND

92	Redfern Community Center (NYCHA)
93	Rockaway Summer House
94	Rockaway YMCA
95	Sorrentino Recreational Center
96	Young Israel Program Inc.

HISTORIC SITES

97	Cornell Burial Ground
98	Far Rockaway Police Precinct
99	Far Rockaway Post Office
100	Firehouse, Engine Companies 264 & 328 / Ladder Company 134
101	Jacob Riis Bathhouse / Naval Air Station (NAS)
102	Strand Theatre
103	Women's Industrial Service League

LIBRARIES

104	Queens Library, Arverne
105	Queens Library, Far Rockaway
106	Queens Library, Peninsula
107	Queens Library, Queens Library for Teens

RESTAURANTS/FOOD MARKETS

108	DredSurfer
109	Goody's BBQ Chicken & Ribs
110	Rockaway Brewery Co.
111	Rockaway Beach Surf Club
112	Thai Rock
113	Uma's

SOCIAL SERVICES

114	Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation
115	Rockaway Development and Revitalization Corporation
116	Rockaway Youth Task Force
117	St. John's Episcopal Hospital
118	Jewish Community Council of the Rockaway Peninsula

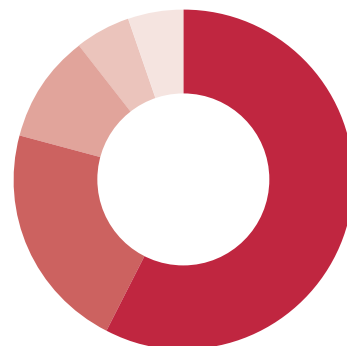
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND ENGAGEMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD

The data below comes from 411 completed surveys both online and in print (made available in English, Spanish, and Russian.) In person contributors included attendees at local events, gatherings, town halls, and focus groups.

The Insights on pages 8–9 come from seventy local residents, stakeholders, youth, and arts and cultural producers who participated in two town halls held at RISE and at the Queens Library for Teens in Far Rockaway. Thirty local community members participated in four focus groups targeting artists, business owners and entrepreneurs, residents (in collaboration with Ocean Bay CDC’s Women of Empowerment Group that met at NYCHA Redfern), and the faith-based community. Additionally, 12 diverse cross-sector stakeholders granted in-depth individual interviews.

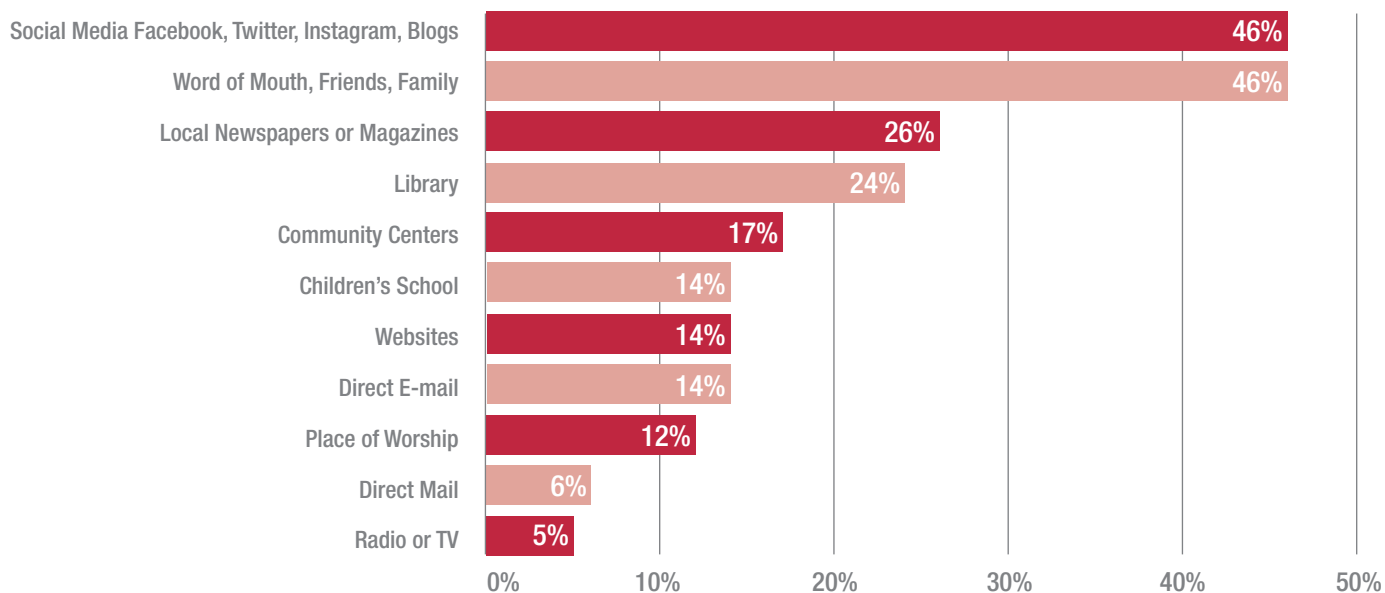
HOW DO YOU RELATE TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



Resident	67%
Student	25%
Employee	12%
Visitor	6%
Other	6%

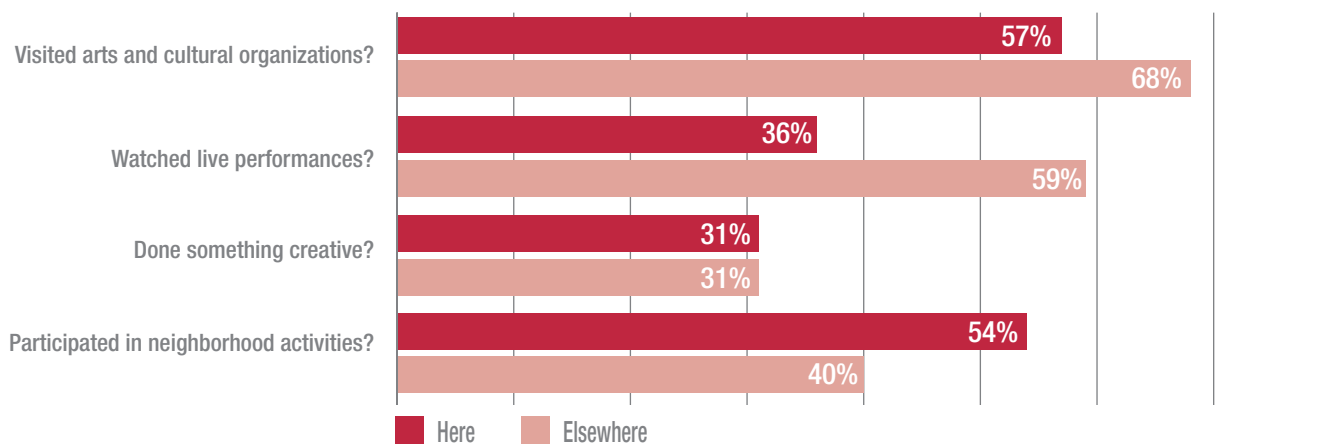
COMMUNICATION

HOW DO YOU HEAR ABOUT CULTURAL EVENTS IN FAR ROCKAWAY?

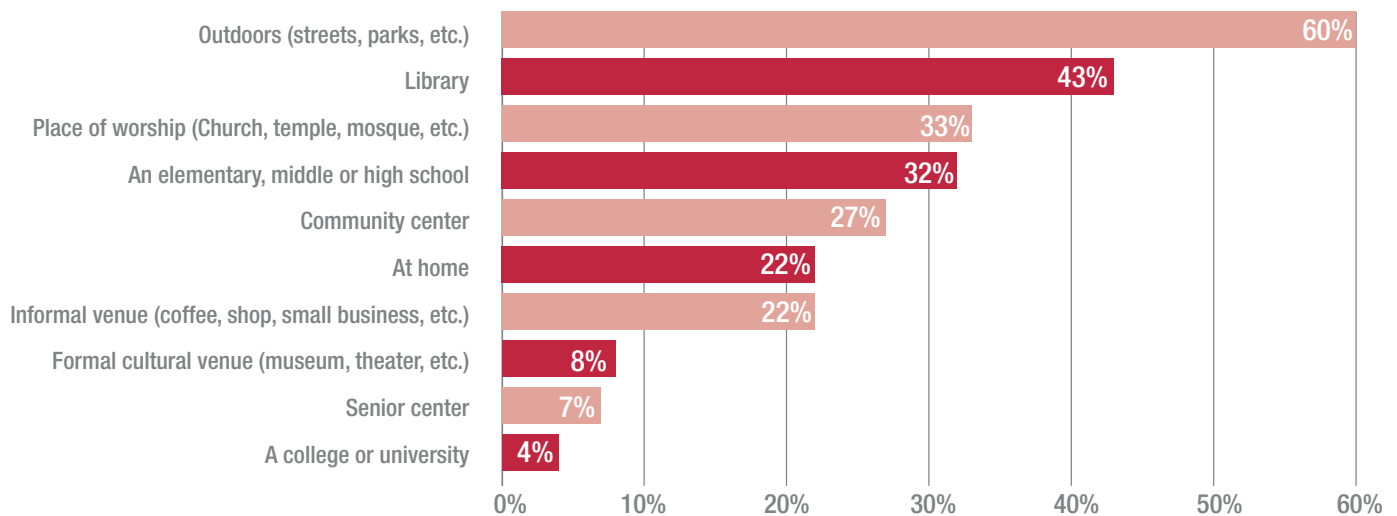


ARTS AND CULTURAL PARTICIPATION

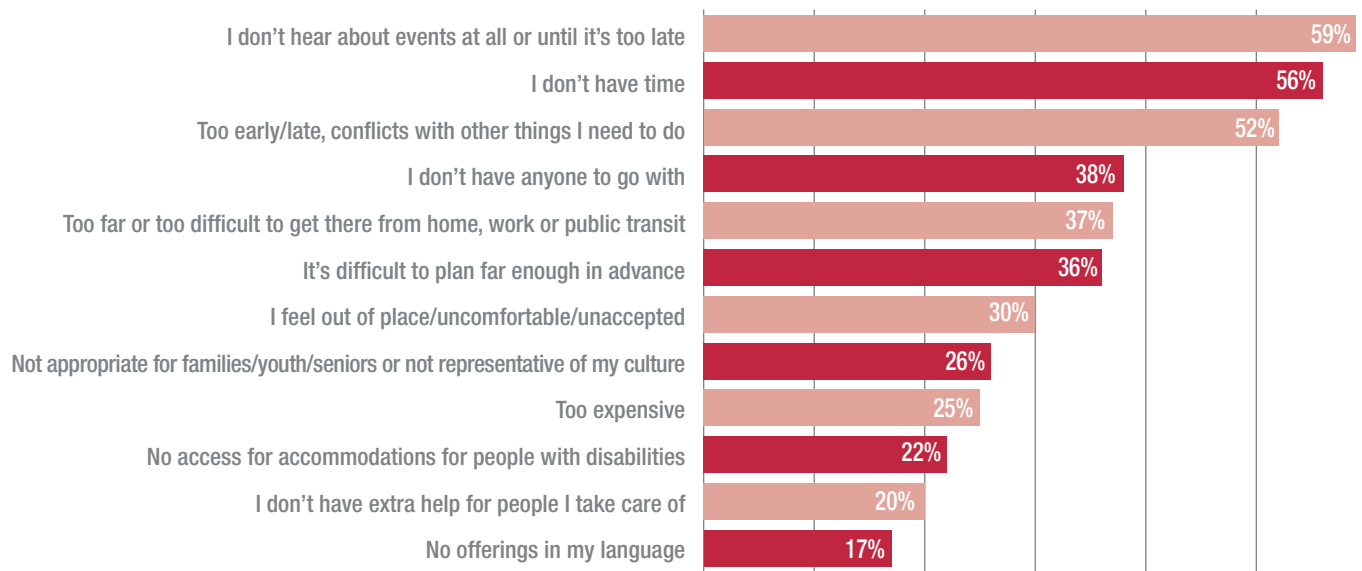
IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS HAVE YOU... (check all that apply.)



WHERE HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN ARTS AND CULTURE? (check all that apply.)



DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PREVENT YOU FROM PARTICIPATING IN ARTS AND CULTURE IN FAR ROCKAWAY? (check all that apply.)



CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY ISSUES

PLEASE MARK THE 5 FAR ROCKAWAY COMMUNITY ISSUES THAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU.



KEY FAMILY ISSUES

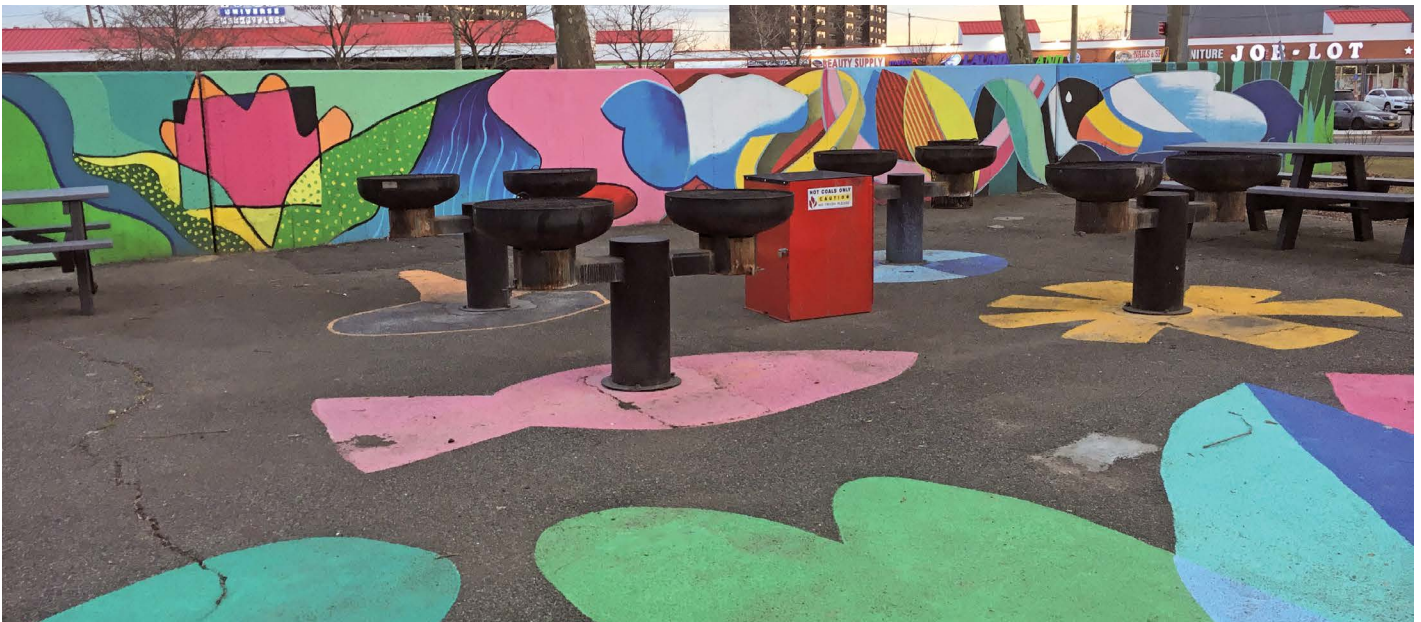


99%
EDUCATION



83%
YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT

99%
SAFETY



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Create Far Rock is a community-wide initiative to envision the future of the arts on the eastern end of the Rockaways. Residents and stakeholders gave voice at town halls, focus groups, interviews, and surveys to help identify cultural assets and ways to grow the capacity of art and culture in the community. Over four months residents took part in the process to ensure that arts and culture have a solid foundation in a vibrant, equitable, and diverse eastern end, especially in the face of recent city initiatives. Their input will help formulate investments in the local arts and cultural sector over the next two years.

The initiative launched on March 9, 2018 at the Rockaway Institute for a Sustainable Environment (RISE) with an Art Slam. It brought together and showcased a diverse program of artists, creators, performers, musicians, vocalists, designers, filmmakers, writers, and others.



Rockaway Waterfront Alliance (RWA) inspires all generations of Rockaway residents to care for their environment and community. We provide civic engagement and youth development programs that advance social equity and the physical well-being of our vibrant urban coastal community. Key project staff: Ana Fisyak, Jeanne DuPont, and Judah Asimov.



Rockaway Artist Alliance (RAA) is a nonprofit arts organization incorporated in 1995. RAA's mission is to encourage and engage community residents, particularly youth and seniors, in the arts and cultural activities. Key project staff: James Dalid and Regina Moerdyk



The Far Rockaway Arverne Nonprofit Coalition

(FRANC) is an alliance made up of two dozen nonprofit organizations. The goal of the coalition is to improve the lives of young people by strengthening Rockaway’s nonprofit network. Key project staff: Denean Ferguson, Brandon Jeffries, Helen Montero, and Ebony Littlejohn-Beaty.



Data analysis and research support provided by **Webb Management Services (WMS)**. WMS is a research and planning practice dedicated to advancing the arts and culture. Founded in 1997, the firm supports preservation, development, and delivery within the arts and cultural sector with sound planning, research and consulting services that lead to cultural and community development. Webb Management Services has worked on more than 400 projects for governments, arts organizations, educational institutions, and other related entities across North America.

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Page 1: Library of Congress • **Page 4:** (top) Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, 2013; (bottom) Joshua Simpson, 2018 • **Page 5:** Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, 2013 • **Page 6:** (top) Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, 2017; (bottom) Giles Ashford, 2018 • **Page 8:** (top) Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, 2014; (bottom) Giles Ashford, 2015 • **Page 9:** (top) Joshua Simpson, 2018; (bottom) Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, 2017 • **Page 12:** Ana Fisyak, 2017 • **Page 13:** Joshua Simpson, 2018 • **Page 16:** Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, 2019 • **Page 19:** (top) Felicia Saucedo, 2018; (bottom left) Brandon Rios, 2016; (bottom right) Giles Ashford, 2016 • **Page 20:** (top) Giles Ashford, 2016; (bottom) Branden Rios, 2015 • **Inside back cover:** (top left) Giles Ashford, 2018; (top right) Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, 2016; (bottom) Giles Ashford, 2017







NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) is dedicated to supporting and strengthening New York City's vibrant cultural life. DCLA works to promote and advocate for quality arts programming and to articulate the contribution made by the cultural community to the City's vitality. The Department represents and serves nonprofit cultural organizations involved in the visual, literary, and performing arts; public-oriented science and humanities institutions including zoos, botanical gardens, and historic and preservation societies; and creative artists at all skill levels who live and work within the City's five boroughs. DCLA also provides donated materials for arts programs offered by the public schools and cultural and social service groups, and commissions permanent works of public art at City-funded construction projects throughout the five boroughs. For more information visit www.nyc.gov/culture.

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