

## **Full Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 20, 2022**

Marie Torniali, Chairperson Torniali - Good evening, everyone and welcome to the December 20<sup>th</sup> Community Board 1, Queens meeting. We have the honor to have the Queens Public Library at Long Island City here tonight, to tell us about their programs and services.

### **Public Hearing**

#### **Presentation - Queens Public Library at Long Island City**

Tieyna Smith, Community Library Manager, Queens Public Library at Long Island City - Thank you for having me, happy holidays everyone. This is a great time to talk about the library, we have made a number of updates. The mission of the library is still very much transforming the lives of the people in Community Board 1 and across Queens we have increased our locations. We now have 66 locations. There are five of them here in the Community Board 1 area there is Astoria Library, Broadway, Long Island City, which I am representing Steinway Queensbridge, those are our locations. A lot has changed since the pandemic, and I would just like to give you an update on where we are today. I am pleased to announce that we have six-day service at all of our locations, we are offering a combination of in-person and virtual programming. Our virtual programming primarily focuses on classes and older adults. We offer reference services three different ways: you can chat with us online, you can email us, and you can text us. For those of you who have piles of books at home, waiting to come to the library for donation we are ready to accept them. We ask that you do not donate encyclopedias and masks are not required, but we are encouraging folks to wear their masks, especially now that rates are going up. The library understands that a lot has changed in people's lives, so we have updated some of our services and highlighting certain things, one is, namely our Digital Collection, there are a number of people that are working from home, who are canceling their streaming services to make ends meet so I would love for you to know about our eBooks. All of our books that you can borrow in the library, you can get most of them online. We have several different eBook providers so definitely take advantage, and for those of you who are our newspaper or magazine readers, this service is available to you, but there is also very nice features to our e-readers, you can zoom into certain texts for some applications, you can get things read to you. For those of you who are or have avid music listeners, we have a service called Freegal, where you can download three songs each week and they are yours to keep forever. If you love listening to music while you are on the train, this is an excellent resource for you. You can also stream videos on your TV, on all of your devices outside the library and that service is 100% free with your library card. For those of you who have students at home, we have what is called Brainfuse and that allows you to access tutoring 24 hours a day, it also has a writing lab, which is great for both students that are applying for high school or for college and for individuals who are working on their resumes and would like someone else to look at their resume before they submit it. It can also be for those of us who write proposals or grant applications. There is always someone available, 24 hours a day to take a look. We also offer various standardized tests on Brainfuse, so, for instance, if you are preparing for the nurse's exam, you can take that practice test and prepare for that exam online using Brainfuse. For those of us who are upscaling and want to improve some of our skill sets LinkedIn Learning is a great platform for you to use, all of the videos that are on this platform are proctored by experts. For instance, if you want to learn Python or some other form of coding, you can use that, and the fantastic thing about LinkedIn Learning is that you get a certificate afterwards and it is a certificate that is respected by many employers, those are our learning resources. We have even more learning resources for folks that are going to college. We have College Corner and College Readiness on our website and also in our libraries, so those resources provide you with financial aid, discovering different schools and also applying for college. We have virtual and in-person programming, I am also assigned with those resources. If you are preparing for the GED or the TACHS exam, we also have the e-learning resources for you. We have databases that you could use to assist your children with their homework. Let's say your child at 10 o'clock in the evening informs you that they have a report, you can use our online databases to help them with their homework. We have a number of services that have expanded. Our Adult Learning Center offers a series of different classes in person and virtually and we are well known for our ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) classes. But folks are not aware of adult basic education. For instance, if you wanted to work on your writing or on your math skills and you want it to be an in-person session, whether it is instructor and several other people in the class, The Adult Learning Center would be an option for you. The Job Business Academy is also another great service. We have a Job Business Academy at the Queensbridge Tech Lab, and they help individuals with their resumes and other job readiness skills and services. They also help with business owners; they have entrepreneurship classes. To register for one of those classes, all you have to do is visit our website and look for the Job Business Academy. The New Americans program is thriving and helping all of our Asylum Seekers settle in, they are working with branch libraries to help tailor services for that population. Those are some of our specialized programs. For some general updates, we have eliminated fees, for instance, if you return a book late, you won't have to pay those 25 cents fine for every day that it is late. If you do lose an item, you do have to pay to replace that. I have some exciting news; the library is expanding its services for teens. One exciting

program that comes along with that expansion is Youth Justice Courts, for instance, at Long Island City we have that service, about 10 kids are participating. We also have Robotics programming for teens, and we have about 20 to 30 kids that are participating in that in various libraries across Queens. We are also continuing to give out test kits, you can get up to two each time you visit the library. We are also in the midst of It's Time for Kind, which is a very popular campaign that the library starts in November and ends in December, and it is just a reminder for everyone to be kind to each other. So, that is what is happening at Queens Library. Thank you so much for letting me do this presentation and thank you so much for the invitation. (*Presentation Attached*)

Marie Torniali, Chairperson Torniali - Thank you so much for that presentation. Does anyone have a question?

### **Q&A with Board Members**

Evie Hantzopoulos - Thank you so much for the presentation. What is on my mind, are the proposed budget cuts to the libraries. I am just wondering what you think that impact might be, how is that going to affect what you are able to do?

Tieyna Smith - Well because I am a Branch Manager, I don't have that information. Our community liaison could not be here, I am covering for her, so I can have her follow up with you. Would you like that? I can have her contact you to answer your question?

Marie Torniali, Chairperson Torniali - She can contact Florence and we will pass on the information.

Jeffrey Martin - Thanks for the presentation that was great. Can you update us on the construction of the accessible entrance into the Astoria Branch at 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Tieyna Smith - I don't know, I am sorry.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Ms. Smith is the library manager at one of the branches. She would not have that information. That is another question, Florence can reach out and find out and get back to us. Thank you.

Kathleen Warnock - Yes, I have been to and by the Long Island City branch many times, and it is very beautiful, I remember when it first opened. There was some pushback because there was an area of it that was not accessible to disabled patrons. Has that been addressed?

Tieyna Smith - I believe that was Hunters Point.

Kathleen Warnock - There was an area that could not be reached by people with disabilities, and I was hoping that there had been some update or change in that.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Ms. Smith would not have that information.

Antonella Di Saverio – Tieyna, you mentioned that you are accepting book donations. Is that every day and how do we go about it? Is there a particular way you want them, in boxes or is there a procedure we need to follow?

Tieyna Smith - Just bringing them into the customer service desk at any Library as long as the library is open, we will accept them. If you bring them in boxes or in bags, it does not matter.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - I have a question about that. I thought at one time the library did not accept book donations.

Tieyna Smith – That is correct. During the pandemic we discontinued collecting donations, and now we are able to accept them.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Is there a certain criteria for the books, I mean, do they have to be in decent condition? Can that be something that is sitting in your house 20 years?

Tieyna Smith- Yes, we have gotten donations like that, and some of them are historical, but we would love to have them in good condition.

Diana Limongi – Hi, good evening, it was a great presentation. I actually didn't realize that there was so much available online. How do you work with schools so that, all the kids in our public schools have access, to have partnerships with the schools directly or is it more family per family? Or, the child has to kind of know that this is something they need?

Tieyna Smith - We reach out to both schools, and we reach out to after school programs, so they have two different ways of accessing the library, through their after-school program or through their schools. We reach out to Parent Coordinators and Assistant Principals. We set up school visits for various schools to come visit the library and during that visit they get a library card, they get an overview of the library and how to use their library card.

Diana Limongi - How do you engage with, for example, communities whose first language is not primarily English?

Tieyna Smith - Because the schools have various adults coming with them, we rely on them to interpret for us.

Diana Limongi – No, I mean outside schools, like the general population.

Tieyna Smith - We visit with all different organizations, for instance, we have an Asylum Shelter across the street from us, so we go out to them and into various pantries and work with them and with other Community Based Organizations (CBO) partners to get those different populations into the library, we do a lot of outreach.

Shahenaz Hamde - Hi everyone, hi Tieyna. Yes, the Queens Library did a really good job during the pandemic, especially the trips they used to do online with all the seniors, the recipes, and the origami, it was really good, and the scenery was very happy. They miss the trips they are waiting for you to do the trips again online; they love it.

Tieyna Smith - Thank you we will try to bring them back. Thank you so much for that feedback, I will share that with the staff.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Does anyone else have a question? Once again, thank you so much for being here, if you can tell we are big fans. I just love libraries and the Queens Library in particular. Thank you for being here and letting us know all the wonderful things that are happening there.

Tieyna Smith -- Thank you again for the invitation. Happy holidays everyone.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Can I get a motion to adopt the November 2022 Minutes.

**Motioned by Kathleen Warnock; Seconded by Dino Panagoulas**

### **Chair Report**

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – I am just going to bring to your attention the fact that there is a Community District Needs Assessment out there for Astoria at the present time. It involves surveying and getting information about the streetscape, the businesses and inventory, anything that might affect the shopping experience here in Astoria. The Community District Needs Assessment is designed by the New York City Department of Small Business Services. How you can be involved is very important. I am going to put a link in the Chat. The Astoria Commercial District Needs Assessment involves the following: 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Business District, 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Broadway, Ditmars Boulevard, Astoria Boulevard and Steinway Street, it is a very brief survey, it should take you about five minutes to complete and you can make your wishes known as to where you typically visit, what additional businesses you would like to see in Astoria, how often you shop, how do you get to Astoria and how safe you feel shopping in the neighborhood. I see Sam Massol, works with Queens Economic Development Corporation (QEDC) and full transparency, who is also SBS partners with local organizations. When I tell you that this survey is in-depth time consuming and in addition to Sam and QEDC, Central Astoria is partnering with them to get this done. We ask that you fill out the consumer survey and I am going to put the link in the Chat.

Sam Massol - I just wanted to as a point of clarification and expand upon the last thing you just said. First of all, there is a survey that went out to the merchants and that is going to be one-on-one right with both the Steinway Business Improvement District (BID) and QEDC growing business to business along the corridors that Marie Torniali, Chairperson mentioned, but with the consumer survey, anyone in Astoria can fill that out, we would encourage you all to share the consumer survey with other residents of Astoria. I do not have the survey now, but I can get it for the January meeting where we can share the consumer survey and then share that.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Sam I think I can put it in the Chat. It is really important because while we have been out there and surveying the businesses and the streetscape like I said, it is very time consuming it is most important really to hear from the consumers, so, that would be great if you could fill that out.

Florence Koulouris – Madam Chair would I be able to get that link in the office? I can put it on our Facebook and our Twitter page, I can also send it out to my network. I don't have a copy of it, would be great for me to be able to send that for you.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Yes, of course, I believe we put it on social media also.

Cristina Lastres - I was just going to ask a follow-up question to that, because I think this survey is great and super important, given everything that we have been talking about this year. How else are you communicating the consumer survey link with all of the Astoria residents? Is there a communication plan?

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – We have done it person to person, we have been out there and actually been quite successful. I wish you all the best of holidays and most important, healthy, and happy, and thank you for all you do.

### **District Manager Report**

Florence Koulouris - Thank you, Madam Chair. That was really important, found it very interesting, it is wonderful. Good evening to you all, I hope the last month has been healthy and happy for you. All of Queens has seen its share of RSV, COVID-19, and the Flu. The Health Department has been encouraging boosters for COVID-19 and the Flu shots to protect against illness for the individuals. The Health Department reported at the Borough Cabinet that Flu and COVID-19 may be done. Queens Libraries have COVID-19 test kits, as they stated for the Community. At the Cabinet Meeting, there were discussions that the New York City agencies are hiring, and you can seek employment opportunities at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov). Agencies are now at low employment levels, so applications are being accepted. We have an intern in our office until March, her name is Amina, she is a student and an Astoria resident; we are welcoming her. Our office has been in touch with several New York City agencies, who will be seeking the opportunity to have presentations in the near future. The Office of Cannabis Management will be doing presentations to Community Boards. Our board has received two licenses in the first round, locations have not yet been dedicated. The Department of Telecommunication and Technology known as the Office of Technology and Innovation now will also be seeking to meet with the Community Board in the near future. I will be following up with the Chairs of the appropriate Committees. As information becomes available to calendar these dates. At the Borough Cabinet, we discussed that Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, launched in the inaugural Queens Tech Innovation Challenge (QTIC), building a Queens economy rooted in Innovation and creating countless jobs and industries of tomorrow are crucial to the future of the success of our Borough. The QTIC application period opened on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and runs through March 1<sup>st</sup>, and each of the five winning startups will be eligible for up to \$20,000 dollars in seed funding. Please go to the Borough President's website. Our office was informed by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice that we were in receipt of a hotel on 12<sup>th</sup> Street, which will be used to house formally incarcerated, homeless individuals for possibly three years or more services will be available for the residents. I would like to take a moment to wish you a happy, healthy holiday season and look forward to working with you all in 2023. I am always just a call away to assist you as Board Members and most of all, as community members. Thank you for all you do, and my very best to you all.

Council Member, Tiffany Cabán - Thank you for having me and happy holidays hope you are staying safe, staying healthy, I was sick recently, I know. Lots of different things are going around so hope folks are all up to date on their vaccines and all that good stuff. Hi, Community Board 1, thanks for having me happy holidays. I hope that you all have been enjoying all of the really wonderful holiday tree lightings and all the other events that the folks in the district have been putting on, that we have been happy to support. Just a few quick updates I wanted to let folks know. The district office is going to be closed for the holidays, starting on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and we will be reopening after New Year's, Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be keeping an eye on the voicemails and emails during that period. Don't hesitate to reach out if you do have an urgent issue to a problem. I will be checking those messages and emails, as well as my chief of staff Steph. Anything that is urgent and emergent, we will be responsive. A couple of quick legislative updates. Last week we introduced The Secure Jobs Act. I wanted to tell people a little bit about that. It establishes, protections against unfair and arbitrary firings for every worker in New York City. Basically, the bill will guarantee that employees get advanced notice, a good reason, and a fair process before a potential firing and what the bill does not do is it does not prevent firings for a violation of policy or misconduct, does not prevent layoffs for economic reasons or bestow any kind of monetary responsibility on the employer. The Secure Job Act has a progressive discipline system, it is a practice that is already implemented in the majority of workplaces, including I am sure a lot of you, the workplaces that you all are at yourselves and it will provide for employers with a tool to give constructive feedback, help employees improve work performance and provide clarity and assurance when termination is the right decision, but on the most basic level, it is what you want, to be able to go to work on a given day and not feel like you could get fired that same day. There is some kind of advance notice and you have got a good reason for your termination. An update on the Care for All Families campaign, during the last budget cycle we fought really hard, basically, we launched the campaign in the spring that demanded that undocumented children be able to access the same publicly subsidized child care programs

as all other children in the City, and that was one of our office's proudest achievements, because when the State budget was passed, the Governor expanded those subsidies to families across the State but left out our undocumented immigrant neighbors, and so, we got that money. We fought for it and now it is being thoughtfully executed by the City, the money we fought for and won during the budget campaign is going to start flowing next month, providing childcare to low-income undocumented families who had previously been excluded from those public subsidies. Really grateful for the productive partnership that we have had with the Mayor on this one and I am hopeful that we can come together to deliver more wins like this, in the future. We are doing a small toy drive to celebrate the holidays tomorrow in the District Office, Oriana is going to put the address in the Chat. We will be hosting a toy drive thanks to a generous donation from Laborers (Local) 79 the Mason Tenders'. We will have everything from children's books, to stuffed animals and toys, and it is on a first come, first serve, distribution will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., tomorrow. One quick update, then I would like to pass it over to Oriana because she has got some news. Last week, we received multiple calls from constituents at Astoria Houses about their heat and hot water being off, and so our team worked with the Tenants Association and mobilized NYCHA heat teams to check the boilers and the pipes. I went myself and visited the houses the next day to check in on the residents who had called the office and to ensure that people on the ground were monitoring the situation, especially with obviously colder weather upon us. If you are here and you live in Astoria Houses and you are having issues with heat, call our office with your ticket number and we will follow up. We are making sure that heat team is going to every single apartment that is reporting in an issue. You know what we have already seen is that the apartments that they have been going into they are, replacing what they call elements. I am not a mechanic or anything, but basically making sure that the different pieces are operational and replacing parts where they need to because the boilers are functioning but a lot of them have to do with just really poor, outdated bad infrastructure in the apartments. Getting those elements switched out so that folks are getting the heat that they need and so we are triaging those individual cases. We are also working with NYCHA to identify some longer-term proactive measures that we can take to help residents there. Stay safe and warm because we know winter is just getting started. I wanted to give Oriana the opportunity to give the last update that our office has for the evening

Oriana Shulevitz Rosado – Hi everyone, I won't take up too much time. I just wanted to let you all know that this will be my last week as Director of Constituents Services for Council Member Cabán's Office. I just wanted to say that it has not only been an honor working for the Council Member, of course, but it has also been an honor working with Community Board 1, and one thing I feel very confident about and really excited about is that although I am leaving I know that our office and Community Board 1 has yet so much to accomplish together and just know if you need to reach the office just reach out to the regular contact, and our Chief of Staff will be monitoring everything, but it has been a pleasure working with you all.

Tiffany Cabán - We are going to sorely miss Oriana, because she has just been a hard-working rock star and I am really excited for her to move on and do some newer, bigger things. Those are our updates, please do not hesitate to reach out to the office if you are not signed up for the newsletter. Please do that because we give much more detailed updates weekly every Sunday morning. Happy to be here with you all, thank you.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Thank you for being here and happy holidays to everyone.

Doreen Mohammed - Council Member, I wanted to inform you that I got reports that there is a building on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Street, the address is 30-51 14<sup>th</sup> Street, and they have not had heat or cooking gas in months. I am not sure if the tenants have gotten to make a formal complaint to the office. I know they have been navigating with HPD. I just got notice from Justice for all Coalition, so I wanted to escalate it because these are cold winter months and I think there are a lot of places in District, like my building also has insufficient heat and I was hoping that there could be assistance to make this landlord do its job and give the tenants what they need.

Tiffany Cabán – Yes, absolutely, I think the only way we can open a case, obviously is they have to contact the office so that we can start getting their information and taking next steps. Oriana is there anything on them, do you want to add? I don't know if we have any open cases for that particular address, because I don't have our spreadsheets with us. We are working with multiple constituents on issues with their landlords.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Thank you, Council Member. Oriana, it has been great working with you and that we all wish you much success in the future.

Oriana Shulevitz Rosado - Thank you so much. I don't believe we have that building among the unfortunate many that we have had reach out. Doreen, I believe you have our general contact information. If you can, you know we are happy to reach out, but if we don't have a contact, we cannot start the case. If you can share our contact information or if we can connect offline, I am happy to start reaching out to folks.

Doreen Mohammed – I will send it to the tenant/organizer who has been helping me facilitate.

Oriana Shulevitz Rosado – The District 22, is the one on our website just because I don't want anything to fall through the cracks as I am heading out, but our Chief of Staff carefully monitors that email.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Thank you again for being here Council Member and sorry to see you go Oriana, but the best, thank you.

### **Committee Reports**

Dino Panagoulis, Consumer Affairs Committee - Good evening, everyone, happy holidays, short report today. Not much really going on, I think Florence, like always, does an amazing job of getting all of the information together in our packets. We have 16 licenses that are up for Renewal, Florence and team did a great job in getting a lot of the owners to get signed affidavits for everything, and so what I would like to do at this time is bring forth a Motion to approve the 16 licenses that are on the spreadsheet today.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Can we get a motion?

**Motioned by Evie Hantzopoulos; Seconded by Antonella Di Saverio**

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Anyone oppose? (Hearing none) the motion carries.

Antonella Di Saverio, Environmental/Sanitation Committee – On December 13<sup>th</sup> we had a Committee Meeting where Chae No spoke about mitigating the rat problem in our area. Contributing factors to the problem are sidewalk cafes and garbage not being placed in garbage cans. They have a Rat Academy, but apparently the Rat Academy information is not available unless you attend the session. Home or building owners who do not clear violations will be subject to fines and they increase after a while. I suggest that they should make the Rat Academy info available so that people who cannot attend the sessions can have access to the information. We also had a presentation regarding 5G and EMF emitting devices. Florence has been trying to get the Department of Tech and Innovation to our Committee Meeting for months and they were basically unavailable. I recently received information that there was going to be a deployment of New York City Link 5G kiosks throughout the City, along with a January 16<sup>th</sup> as the date to submit comments, or else they were going to go ahead and install these kiosks. Florence has since confirmed that the January 16<sup>th</sup> date is for Manhattan, and she has tried to get a map of the proposed sites, however, for those sites, we are going to have to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and there are organizations that have submitted the Freedom of Information Act requests for like over a year. A couple of organizations have, there are about 4,000 of these devices that are planned to be installed in the New York City area, including Queens, and at a later date, obviously would likely include our area. We already 5G polls by the way, so we had New Yorkers 4 Wired Tech and Wired Broadband present as to why these devices are not safe. There is an Assembly Woman in Manhattan, Rebecca Seawright now, who announced her sponsorship of legislation to establish a commission to study the impacts of 5G on the health and the environment. She also went on to say that quote, “these 5G devices have been installed in our area without providing evidence that these devices are safe.” Further, Community Board 8 in Manhattan has passed a resolution this week, calling for a moratorium on the construction and planning of the link, 5G polls and devices in their District. I implore other Representatives, including those in our area, to jump on the bandwagon and to make sure that our area, the public in our area, is not being exposed to a dangerous environmental pollutant. We need to make sure those devices are safe before they replace all the phone booths, because these are supposed to go into where the phone booths were previously housed. Florence will have to try to get a FOIL request. I am not sure why all of this stuff is secret and not easily publicly available. At our meeting, I requested that we take a vote for a motion for a letter of support for moratorium of these devices if they were to come or when they come in our area, so that we could beat the installation because a lot of times these things go in pretty quickly. I am wishing everyone a happy holiday season. Thank you.

Florence Koulouris – I received the map late today and I was trying to connect with Antonella by telephone. I have further information to update her with either tomorrow or the next day.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - I think we can discuss this offline. This sounds like an important topic that you have more information to give Antonella. Maybe you can bring this up at your next Committee Meeting. Do we have information as to where these might be placed?

Antonella Di Saverio – We have been trying to get it and I know some organizations that have. They have been trying to get that information and they submitted FOIA requests, and they have not been able, they have not gotten responses, and this has been over a year.

Florence Koulouris – They are going in borough by borough, district by district. Right now, they are in Manhattan. As they move, to each Community Board, we will get notice, it will be 60 days in advance and the Committee will have a meeting and the Board will get the presentation. As I have stated in the

last two meetings, all of the New York City agencies are understaffed, and they are all doing the best they can to get their messaging. They are working, borough by borough, district by district.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Antonella and Florence, you can bring it up at your next Committee. Actually, it sounds like something that should come to the Board, not just the Committee, right?

Antonella Di Saverio - I would be happy to have people present at the Board to educate the Board and provide studies as well.

Katie Ellman, Housing Committee - No report, but again, if you are experiencing a lack of heat or hot water, please call the Board Office, the local Council Member and/or 311. I can empathize with you because I was there earlier this year as well. I look forward to convening a Housing Meeting in the first quarter of the new year and I wish you all happy safe and beautiful holidays. Thank you.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Any other elected officials or their representatives who wish to speak.

Farah Salam, Council Member Julie Won's Office - This is Farah from Council Member Won's office. I hope everyone has had a good December so far, I just wanted to stop by and provide a few updates. Starting with legislation, the Council Member at the recent stated meeting on December 7th introduced two new bills. Intro 851 would require the DOE to report on student disenrollment from public schools. We have a tracking system of where students are. This is in response to the fact that our City's Public Schools have lost more than a hundred thousand students, which is 10% of our total of enrollment. We also introduced Intro 852, which would require the City to inform non-profits about discounted internet services and community-based internet service providers, and this is in line with our goals to bring Wi-Fi to all at low cost or no cost to all constituents in terms of our constituent services. We have been hosting many toy drives; we are continuing our winter clothing drive. If you or anybody you know would like to donate winter clothes, please feel free to drop off at Evangel Food Pantry, located at 39-21 Crescent Street. They deliver the coats and undergarments, they all must be new, especially undergarments, but coats and shoes, and everything can be like new, and they will distribute all of the items to migrants in need, especially for most of the migrants who live in the District and who live in Community Board 1. On top of that, we are also keeping an eye on heating situations so for Queensbridge Houses and Woodside Houses, there have been several instances of no heat and no hot water, and we have been working with NYCHA and with residents to ensure that their heat gets turned back on that the water turns back on and for Woodside Houses, we have been pushing on NYCHA to get the work that they need to get done in order to get the permanent boilers back in so whether that is smoke tests being done or anything like that, just to get permanent heating back into Woodside Houses that way, people don't have to freeze this winter as they have been for winters past. Lastly, our office will be remote next week. Email is still open, phones are still on, but we will not be in office. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us by phone or email and I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and see you all next year.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Are there any other elected officials or their representatives who wish to make a comment. Public session, any members of the public who wishes to speak? (Hearing none) Motion to adjourn. Happy holidays to you, one and all and thank you for all that you do.

**Motioned by Thomas Ryan; Seconded by Tyrone Gardner**

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 p.m.**

DATE 12-20-22

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
Helene Abiola	✓			Chelsea Lopez	✓		
George Alexiou			E	Huge Ma	✓		
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Jeffrey Martin	✓		
Louise Bordley			E	Sam Massol	✓		
Ann Bruno			E	Amin Mehedi	✓		
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Antonio Meloni	✓		
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			Andreas Migias	✓		
Tenzin Dechen			E	Doreen Mohammed	✓		
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			Eric Mouchette			E
Katie Ellman	✓			Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Elizabeth Erion			E	Dino Panagoulas	✓		
Mackenzi Farquer	✓			Juliet Payabyab	✓		
Dean Feratovic		✓		RoseMarie Poveromo	✓		
Adam Fisher-Cox		✓		Brian Romero		✓	
Tyrone Gardner	✓			Thomas Ryan	✓		
Shahenaz Hamde	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Andre Stith	✓		
Amy Hau			E	Marie Torniali	✓		
Helen Ho		✓		Rod Townsend	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall	✓			Judy Trilivas	✓		
Richard Khuzami		✓		Kathleen Warnock	✓		
Cristina Lastres	✓			Corinne Wood-Haynes		✓	
Diana Limongi	✓			Rosemary Yelton			E
Number Board Members Present <u>32</u>							
Present <u>32</u>				Absent <u>6</u>			
				Excused <u>8</u>			

9/2022



# QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Presentation to Community Board 1

December 20, 2022

## MISSION & VISION

### MISSION

Queens Public Library transforms people's lives by cultivating personal and intellectual growth and by building strong communities

### VISION

Queens Public Library's vision is a vibrant, informed, cohesive and empowered society

# SNAPSHOT

## 66 QPL locations

- Astoria
- Broadway
- Long Island City
- Steinway
- Queensbridge Tech Lab

## WHERE WE ARE TODAY

### QPL has returned to full operation at pre-pandemic levels

- All community libraries are open six-days a week
- Hosting both in-person and virtual programming
- Conducting both in-person and virtual (chat, email, phone/text) reference
- Reinstated acceptance of book donations
- While we don't require mask coverings, masking is encouraged and appreciated at all our locations

# DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

## eBooks

- Can be used on various devices, such as PCs, laptops, Nook, smart phones, etc. Vendors include OverDrive, Hoopla, Axis360, and TumbleBookLibrary for kids

## eMagazines

- An eMagazine is an electronic version of a magazine that can be read on a computer, tablet, or mobile device

## eNewspapers

- Access thousands of newspapers every day, along with 90 days of back issues from national, provincial, and global leading publications

## Music

- Freegal: a downloadable music and streaming service that gives patrons access to over 7 million songs in more than 100 genres
- Hoopla: a web/mobile library media streaming platform for audiobooks, graphic novels, movies, music, and TV

## Videos

- Thousands of videos can be streamed from your devices. This includes films, television shows and instructional videos

# eLEARNING RESOURCES

## Brainfuse

- Learners of all levels
- homework help in math, sciences, social studies, reading/writing
- PSAT/SAT, ACT, AP and standardized tests assistance
- 24-hour writing lab
- Access a library of rich adult learning content (GED), resume/cover letter help, US citizenship prep, MS Office skill series, etc.

## LinkedIn Learning

- A leading online learning platform that helps anyone learn business, software, technology and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals Popular Learning Paths include:
  - Become a Programmer: Foundations – 23 hours of expert-created video
  - Become a C++ Developer – 18 hours of expert-created video
  - Become a 2D Digital Animator – 30 hours of expert-created video
  - Become a Photographer – 19 hours of expert-created video
  - And many more streaming videos at your fingertips

# eLEARNING RESOURCES

## [College Corners/ College Readiness](#)

- Full collection of test prep and college readiness books.
- Discovering the perfect school and applying to colleges.
- Federal aid resources and scholarship information.

## [Method Test Prep](#)

- Focuses on content and test-taking techniques through diagnostic evaluations, lessons, and full length exams.
- Build upon reading comprehension, grammar and math skills.

## [Research Databases](#)

- Nearly 50 databases featuring content for children to adults.
- Topics include genealogy, business profiles, academic research, medical information, small business, etc.

## SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMING

### Adult Learners Program

- Offers ESOL, Adult Basic Education, and High School Equivalency instruction to adults and young adults

### Job & Business Academy

- Specialized training and learning opportunities to job seekers, aspiring entrepreneurs, and business owners

### New Americans Program

- Celebrates Queens residents' cultures and helps newcomers understand life in the United States

## GENERAL UPDATES

Fine elimination

Youth Justice Courts

COVID-19 take home tests

It's Time For Kind

Community library [programming](#)

CONTACT



QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

We speak your language.