

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

This September, all residents over 14 years old will again have the opportunity to give suggestions on how to spend \$1 million on local capital projects. Attend one of our Neighborhood Assemblies to brainstorm and suggest your ideas. As part of Participatory Budgeting, I will set aside capital for residents to decide how to allocate over the next fiscal year. You can get involved in the city budget cycle through this program by suggesting your project proposal ideas, volunteering to create a ballot, and ultimately voting for your favorite project!



Winning projects from the last cycle included new and upgraded water fountains at Astoria Park, new gaming tables at Astoria Park, and countdown clocks at bus stops that let residents know when the next bus is arriving. City agencies will need to put together designs for these projects and go through planning stages before construction begins. We hope to see you at one of our neighborhood assemblies below!

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Council Member COSTA CONSTANTINIDES

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Budget Update Budget Update Budget Update Budget Update

Neighborhood Assemblies: All Start at 7 p.m.

Sept. 7 - Cretans Association, 32-33 31st Street

Sept. 14 - Lexington School for the Deaf, 25-26 75th Street

Sept. 21 - Astoria Houses Community Center, 4-05 Astoria Boulevard

Sept. 28 - Bohemian Hall, 29-19 24th Avenue

You can decide how to invest \$1 million of public funds into our community's parks, schools, streets, and more. Make your voice heard at a Neighborhood Assembly by brainstorming or suggesting ideas!

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
PARTICIPATORY
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2016-2017 BUDGET UPDATE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

COSTA CONSTANTINIDES

22ND DISTRICT, QUEENS

SUMMER 2016

Dear Residents of the 22nd District:

We've been working hard at City Hall to implement a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2017. We secured and allocated funding for public spaces across our district including schools, hospitals, parks, and streets. This budget also includes funding for community programming and educational activities. I look forward to working with you as these projects continue. Please visit our website Council.nyc.gov/Costa for more information.

Thanks,

Costa
Council Member
22nd District, Queens

IMPROVING SCIENCE LEARNING AT OUR SCHOOLS



We must ensure that children have the tools they need to learn so that they can improve our community in the future.

This fiscal year, we made investments totaling \$820,000 for public schools to build or improve science learning spaces. We provided capital funding to Young Women's Leadership Academy of Astoria for a new STEM lab, a Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics based learning center. We also allocated funding to

P.S. 122 and P.S. 70 for new hydroponic science labs. Plants and equipment will be installed in classrooms that use water and other mediums for plant growth. These labs provide hands-on education to students in many subjects including biology, agriculture, technology, and nutrition. We will also continue to invest in technology at public schools. A total of \$1.04 million was designated for upgrades such as computer labs, smart boards, laptops, and tablets at the 17 public schools in our district.



INVESTING IN AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

While schools are closed for the evenings and for the summer, it's important for students to keep their minds active. This budget includes \$39 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program, which will go towards providing jobs for over 60,000 young people. These young adults will learn about business and enterprise, while earning spending money. We also allocated funding for summer activities for younger children including Junior Tennis and Learning, which combines exercise of the mind and body. There are summer programs already in Astoria Heights Playground/I.S. 10 and P.S. 122. Parents can visit nyjtl.org for information on how to register.

The Council also expanded its successful Cultural After-School Adventures (CASA) Initiative to \$11.2 million citywide, which means we can allocate funding for 11 CASA programs



in each district. Through this initiative, students are exposed to performing arts such as music and theater, and they get the opportunity to perform for their classmates. We look forward to working with Little Orchestra Society, Astoria Performing Arts Center, CUNY Creative Arts Team, and other providers to bring cultural programming to our schools.

Council Member Costa Constantinides - Budget Update 2016-2017

OUR CAPITAL PLAN FOR ASTORIA PARK

As part of my capital plan for Astoria Park, we allocated over \$1 million for upgrades at Charybdis Playground this fiscal year. As part of Participatory Budgeting, we provided \$750,000 in funding for new and upgraded water fountains and for gaming tables at Astoria Park. We also allocated \$70,000 for a tractor to clear snow and leaves from parks throughout this district. Astoria Park is the jewel of our neighborhood and these investments will be a visible symbol that shows how much we care about our community.



A NEW FARMERS MARKET IN NORTHERN ASTORIA

Residents of Northern Astoria will now have a source for farm-fresh local food. Starting this summer, we'll be able to buy local food at a market operated by youth who learn how to run a business and about the importance of eating seasonally. I allocated \$10,000 for a Youthmarket at Ditmars Park, which will be open Saturdays through Nov. 19. The Youthmarket, a network of urban farm stands that employs neighborhood youth to sell food grown in local farms, will make local produce available for more Astorians while exposing children to valuable lessons about the environment, business, and nutrition. I look forward to working with GrowNYC, Global Kids, Friends of Ditmars Park, and other community partners as this Youthmarket grows.



KEEPING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN



Continuing to keep our city clean was an important part of this year's budget. The Council again enhanced its successful NYC Clean Up initiative to \$7.8 million citywide. Using funding from this initiative and our own discretionary budget, we will again allocate over \$200,000 for sidewalk sweeping and graffiti removal services in Astoria.

ACE (The Association of Community Employment Programs for the Homeless) will sweep sidewalks and clear weed patches on major thoroughfare throughout the district including 30th Avenue, Steinway Street, Hoyt Avenue North, Ditmars Boulevard, Shore Boulevard, and 31st Street. We will also continue to invest in graffiti cleanup throughout the district with Queens Economic Development Corporation. If you see graffiti, contact our office at (718) 274-4500 so that we can have it removed.

INVESTING IN HEALTHCARE



Mount Sinai Queens has been providing high-quality healthcare to Astoria residents since 1999. The recently expanded Emergency Department features significantly larger facilities and advanced medical technologies. The new department will bring benefits to our entire community, as doctors will be able to provide high-quality healthcare to even more patients. I am also proud to have had the opportunity to support additional upgrades at the hospital. Since taking office, we have secured over \$5.2 million for the hospital, which has been used for medical devices including a PET Scan machine to a robotic surgeon. This fiscal year, we allocated over \$200,000 to the hospital for UV disinfection units that will prevent contamination and we secured over \$650,000 from the Queens Delegation for additional medical equipment.

UPGRADES AT BULOVA MOSER PARK IN JACKSON HEIGHTS

We allocated a total of \$400,000 to repair the handball courts and upgrade the adult fitness equipment at Bulova Moser Park. These upgrades will enhance the public health benefits of the neighborhood. Our parks act as community centers, where families go to relax, play, and enjoy the open air. Providing improved recreational and leisure resources to all residents of our district will make our neighborhood thrive, benefit our air quality, and protect our environment.

MAKING OUR CITY GREENER



In an effort to meet our goal of reducing our carbon emissions 80 percent by 2050, I advocated that we expand our Council's successful "Greener NYC" Initiative. This initiative supports environmentally focused programs that encourage education, advocacy, community service, and green-job training. The programs contribute to the improvement and conservation of our city's air, land, energy, open space and other vital resources. This fiscal year, we doubled the initiative to over \$2 million citywide for organizations across the city.