



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF DANIEL DROMM

37-32 75TH STREET
JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372
(718) 803-6373

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Contact: Alex Florez (646) 831-9835 aflorez@council.nyc.gov

**Jackson Heights, Queens' Multicultural Artist Colony,
Comes Alive with Month Long Bevy of Activities in
Dromm Sponsored "June in Jackson Heights"**

Jackson Heights, NY, June 1, 2010 -- New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm is sponsoring June in Jackson Heights, an initiative to encourage local residents and visitors from outside the neighborhood to participate in the bevy of artistic events that will take place during the month of June and to patronize the local businesses and restaurants. Events include art exhibits and installations, literature readings, family friendly activities, musical performances and a restaurant week.

"Jackson Heights has long been home to a diverse array of talented artists, writers, actors, and musicians. The broad range of arts and culture we have here has made this a unique neighborhood in which to live, work, eat, and shop," said New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights). "June in Jackson Heights is also wonderful example of how arts and culture can be a driving force for economic development."

Dromm added, "We are also inviting our neighborhood artists to come out and share their talents with the community during the month of June. Residents can expect to see art pop up in many different locations around the neighborhood - on the street, in front of the post office, in the park or in an empty storefront. It's the mystery of what events will occur that makes June in Jackson Heights so improvisational."

"June in Jackson Heights is a great initiative for all of the artists in our community," said Afzal Hossein, a Jackson Heights resident, architect, and small business owner. "The reason I opened my coffee shop, Espresso 77 here is because I love this neighborhood and because as an artist myself, I wanted to give other artists an opportunity to showcase their work in my shop. I thank Council Member Dromm for sponsoring this event. June is just the beginning, but our hope is that this continues year-round".

One of the events kicking things off is the opening reception for "Illumination" by Laura Fayer and Sandra Mack-Valencia on Friday, June 4th. This exhibition by two artists, one Colombian and one American, celebrates the cultural exchange they share as Jackson Heights neighbors, and presents their artistic interpretation of a renewed Medellin.

Also taking place that weekend is the 18th Annual Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Multicultural Festival. With "One Heart. One World. One Pride." as this year's international theme, the parade kicks off at noon and starts at 85th Street and 37th Avenue, ending at 75th Street where it disperses into a festival. NYC Council Members Daniel Dromm and Jimmy Van Bramer are the grand marshals.

On June 12th, readings by the contemporary Asian American voices of Jackson Heights will be held as part of the Asian American Writers Workshop at The Jackson Diner, a landmark Indian restaurant. It is part of the Queens Art Express, a program of the Queens Council on the Arts.

At the 37th Avenue Art Gallery, local merchants will be hosting works of art by local artists from June 10th through June 30th and on June 16th, Queens Media Arts Development, is inviting the community and NYC at large, to BABEL, an exhibition held at Space 37, that explores the relationship of language and the visual arts. Through paintings, illustrations, photography, sculpture, installations, video, performance and new-media, BABEL will establish connections between the written word and the recent explosion of immigrant conclaves in and around New York City. The use of the premises has been made possible by the efforts of Diane Macari and Louis J. Macari, principals of EXIT Realty Lewis and Murphy.

Hector Canonge, new-media artist, and director of Queens Media Arts Development, said that he is "very excited to be working in the June in Jackson Heights initiative with the Council Member's Office." He also adds that "having a full exhibition in the scope of BABEL is timely as it reflects the diversity of cultures in Jackson Heights, and brings the talent of local artists together to one space to celebrate language and its visual incarnations and representations."

As part of the month long program, organizers have also invited restaurant owners to take part in Jackson Heights Restaurant Week from Sunday June 20th through Saturday June 26th. Participating restaurants will be offering specially priced menus for residents and visitors to sample cuisine from around the world. Some of the participating restaurants include: Natives Restaurant (82-22 Northern Boulevard), Espresso 77 (35-57 77th St.), El Coyote (80-18 Northern Boulevard), Novo Restaurant and Lounge (78-23 37th Ave.), Cafe La Nueva (85-02 37th Ave.), Happy Kitchen (80-12 37th Ave.), Coatzingo Taqueria (76-05 Roosevelt Ave.), and NanKing Restaurant (72-23 37th Ave.).

Consuelo Quintero, owner of Natives restaurant says "June in Jackson Heights is a great way for artists and businesses to work together to strengthen our community. By working together in support of each other we build better businesses and more opportunities for artists of all kinds to have their work seen."

Touring internationally since 2008, "Play Me, I'm Yours" is an artwork by artist Luke Jerram, wherein 60 upright pianos will be distributed across New York City by Sing for Hope, from June 21st through July 5th. In Jackson Heights, a piano will sit in front of the Post Office and will be available for any member of the community to play and engage with.

To promote the event, organizers have created a website (juneinjacksonheights.com) containing a list of all the June activities, as well as restaurants participating in Jackson Heights Restaurant Week. Additionally, local web sites like jacksonheightslife.com and iwantmorefood.com will be working to promote June in Jackson Heights throughout the month.

###