

LOCAL FUNDING FOR FOREST HILLS, REGO PARK, KEW GARDENS and RICHMOND HILL

- American Legion – Continental Post 1424
- Asian Americans for Equality
- Asian-American Coalition for Children and Families, Inc.
- Beth Gavriel Bukharian Congregation
- Big Apple Circus, Ltd.
- Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens, Inc.
- Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.
- Central Queens YM & YWHA, Inc.
- Chabad of Rego Park Corona, Inc.
- Chess-in-the-Schools, Inc.
- Child Center of New York, Inc., The
- Coalition for Queens, Inc.
- Common Cents New York, Inc.
- Council on the Environment, Inc.
- CUNY Creative Arts Team
- Dancing Classrooms, Inc.
- Department of Sanitation
- Educational Center for New Americans, Inc.
- Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce of Queens, Inc.
- Forest Hills High School
- Forest Hills Jewish Center
- Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.
- Forest Park Trust, Inc.
- Forestdale, Inc.
- Girl Be Heard Institute
- Hospital Audiences, Inc.
- Jewish Child Care Association
- Jewish Institute of Queens
- Kehilat Sephardim of Ahavat Achim
- Making Books Sing, Inc.
- Masbia of Queens
- Maspeth Town Hall, Inc.
- Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty, Inc.
- Midori Foundation, Inc.
- Midtown Management Group, Inc.
- Misunderstood Youth Development Center Corp.,
- The New York Junior Tennis League
- NYC Family Serenity, Inc.
- Rego Park Green Alliance
- Our Lady of Mercy
- Pride Not Prejudice, Inc.
- Project Lead, Inc.
- Public School 139Q
- Queens Chamber of Commerce
- Queens Community Civic Corporation
- Queens Community House, Inc.
- Queens Council on the Arts, Inc.
- Queens Festival Orchestra Association, Inc.
- Queens Interagency Council on the Aging, Inc.
- Queens Jewish Community Council, Inc.
- Queens Museum of Art
- Queens Symphony Orchestra, Inc.
- Queensborough Community College Auxiliary Enterprise Association, Inc.
- Rabbi Israel Meyer Hacoen Rabbinical Seminary of America, Inc.
- Rego Park Jewish Center
- River Fund New York, Inc.
- Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs
- Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, Inc.
- SelfHelp Community Services, Inc.
- Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research
- South Asian Youth Action
- Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation, Inc.
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. – Queens Chapter #32
- Visiting Neighbors, Inc.
- Where There's a Need, Inc.
- Young Israel of Forest Hills

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NEWS WINTER 2016
COUNCIL MEMBER
KAREN KOSLOWITZ

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

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REAL MONEY. REAL PROJECTS. REAL POWER.

Our second year of Participatory Budgeting is well under way! Over the last few months, dozens of community volunteers have come together to brainstorm and develop ideas on how to spend **\$1 million dollars** to make our community better.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
PARTICIPATORY
BUDGETING   

Through Participatory Budgeting, **you** decide how to invest public funds into community improvements to parks, schools, libraries, streets, and more. Vote on which projects you would like to see get funded during the week of **March 26 to April 3**.

TEXT PB TO (212) 676-8384 FOR VOTING INFO

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KAREN KOSLOWITZ

29th District, Queens • 118-35 Queens Blvd, 17th Floor • Forest Hills, NY 11375 • Phone: (718) 544-8800



Dear Neighbor,

The past year has been very rewarding on so many levels. I am delighted to share with you the results of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget cycle, where I was once again able to help fund numerous outstanding organizations and programs that have a positive impact on our community. The benefits are far-reaching and touch all of us in one way or another.

I was profoundly honored to be elected as Chair of the Queens Delegation in the NYC Council in June of 2015. In this role, I lead the Council Members from the 15 Council Districts in Queens to advocate for our borough's needs. Queens also receives separate funding to be spent within the borough, and I coordinate the voting on where this money goes, in addition to making recommendations to the Speaker's office for capital expenditures on the Delegation's behalf.

As always, I welcome your comments, questions, and opinions, and want to hear from you. My office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if we can assist you in any way. Additionally, on Monday evenings from 6:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Queens-based attorney Barry Goldstein is available to give advice on legal matters, particularly landlord-tenant issues. Please call my office to schedule an appointment with him.

I look forward to seeing you at events throughout our district in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Koslowitz
Council Member
29th District, Queens

FISCAL YEAR 2016

Organizations that received Initiative Funding (selected):

Initiatives are special programs that are selected by the City Council and this year brought nearly \$500,000 in additional monies to our District.

Cultural After-School Adventure (CASA) Grant

This initiative supports after-school programs in partnership with cultural programs and institutions to provide arts enrichment citywide. Schools in District 29 that received this year's grants were P.S. 54, P.S. 99, P.S. 139, P.S. 174, P.S. 175, P.S. 206 and P.S. 220.

NYC Cleanup Grant

NYC Cleanup promotes cleaner streets by providing each Council District with additional funding for cleaning services such as street sweeping, litter pickup, and graffiti removal.

Neighborhood Development Grant

Designed to help meet the need for neighborhood-level economic development and community investment, this grant was awarded to Rego Park Green Alliance this year.

Parks Equity Initiative

This initiative supports smaller neighborhood parks throughout the city. In our District, Yellowstone Park, MacDonald Park, Sobelsohn Park, and Playground 62 were beneficiaries.

NYC Digital Inclusion and Literacy Initiative

This initiative seeks to address disparities in access to the Internet and increase digital literacy across the city. Our portion of the funding was given to the Coalition for Queens.

Cultural Immigrant Initiative

These funds are intended to provide programming focused on the cultural history and traditions of the diverse immigrant community of New York City. Grants were awarded to the Queens Jewish Community Council and the Queens Symphony Orchestra.

CAPITAL FUNDING (SELECTED):



Forestdale Teaching Kitchen (\$400K)

This state-of-the-art teaching kitchen will promote and teach healthy eating and nutrition, and expose young people to careers in the culinary arts.

Forestdale Executive Director Anstiss Agnew and Council Member Koslowitz review plans for the Teaching Kitchen.



Renovations at local schools (J.H.S. 157, P.S. 174, P.S. 206, P.S. 303, and MELS) - \$1,479,000

Various enhancements will improve the quality of our children's education.

Council Member Koslowitz speaks to students at P.S. 206.

Queens Library renovations – Richmond Hill Library (\$600K) and North Forest Park Library (\$300K) Funds will be used for improvements to the interiors of these two library branches.

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE EVENT



In May, I hosted this wonderful event at Plaza College. Guest Speaker Congresswoman Grace Meng helped welcome members of the community as we were treated to a performance by Di Zhao and a Tai Chi demonstration by a group from SelfHelp Austin Street Senior Center. Artwork by Asian-American Photographer Laureate Corky Lee was on display and delicious refreshments were served.

The evening's honorees were New York State Assemblyman Ron Kim, New York City Director of Children and Youth Services Udai Tambar, Edwin Wong of Forest Hills Asian Association, and Nisha Sharma and Shoko Obata, PTA Co-Presidents at J.H.S. 190 Russell Sage. Thank you to all in attendance!

L-R: Nisha Sharma, Shoko Obata, Council Member Koslowitz, Edwin Wong, Udai Tambar. Not pictured: Ron Kim. Photo courtesy of Edwin Wong.

BRINGING SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE



Manager Latchmie Narain, Council Member Koslowitz and Pharmacist Henry Diaz.

In my continuing efforts to bring access to services to residents throughout our district, I held several free mobile van events. A mammography and clinical breast exam was offered in conjunction with the American Italian Cancer Foundation, NY Legal Assistance Group provided free legal advice, and NYU College of Dentistry gave free dental exams to children. I also partnered with Duane Reade and Walgreens to give free flu shots at my district office.

Council Member Koslowitz and Amy Hozer of NY Legal Assistance Group.



QUEENS LIBRARY SIX DAY SERVICE



I was proud to be part of an historic investment to libraries. Mayor de Blasio and the New York City Council increased library operating funds by \$43 million across the city. This increase allows Queens Library to hire more staff, increase programming, purchase additional materials, and ensure that every branch is open to the public six days each week. On Saturday, November 21, kick-off celebrations were held throughout the borough, and I participated in the festivities at the Rego Park branch.

IMPROVING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE



I am frequently contacted by members of our community expressing their concerns about the cleanliness of our high-traffic shopping areas, overabundance of green taxi cabs and traffic enforcement issues. The quality of life in our neighborhood has always been my highest priority. I work with many city agencies and organizations such as our local police precincts, the Department of Sanitation and the Taxi and Limousine Commission to find solutions to these problems. I have also allocated funds to ACE to provide workers to assist in sweeping our streets, emptying trash cans and generally contributing to improving our surroundings.

◀ Council Member Koslowitz and ACE employee Louis Robinson.

FREEZE YOUR RENT

You or someone you know may qualify for a New York City program that freezes your rent. Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program or Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) eligibility requirements include:

- **Be at least 62 years old (SCRIE) or 18 years old (DRIE)**
- **Be the primary tenant on a lease of a rent-controlled or rent-stabilized apartment**
- **Have a combined household income for all members of the household that is \$50,000 or less and**
- **Spend more than one-third of your monthly household income on rent**
- **DRIE: must have been awarded disability compensation**

Please contact my office for additional information or assistance in applying to one of these programs at **118-35 Queens Blvd, 17th Floor, Forest Hills, NY 11375 • Phone: (718) 544-8800**

TOY DRIVE



In December, I sponsored a toy drive to benefit the Interdisciplinary Center for Child Development (ICCD). Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to present lots of toys to the children at ICCD's facility in Rego Park. I was pleased to join my colleagues, Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, and Queens Community Board #6 District Manager Frank Gulluscio, in providing smiles to these deserving children during the holiday season.

L-R: Frank Gulluscio, Council Member Koslowitz, ICCD Program Director Rhonda Kontner, Andrew Hevesi.