



Welcome to Corona!

[Build Healthy Communities](#) (BHC) is excited to highlight the transformative work of our partners in Corona. With over 60% foreign-born residents, language access and cultural dynamics play a strong role. Corona also has the highest birth rate and lowest median age in the city, meaning that the population is relatively young and growing rapidly. This has resulted in often severe overcrowding in housing and schools. Many City resources in other neighborhoods, like Neighborhood Health Action Centers, abundant parks, community gardens, and pedestrian/biking infrastructure have been lacking. A recent analysis by Small Business Services indicates that there is a high overlap of people who both live and work in Corona.

Strong partnerships between community-based organizations connect residents to key resources, and city agencies are starting to make strategic investments in the community. Corona Plaza, a citywide model for community-led plaza development, is currently under capital construction. Although fresh produce is plentiful, residents continue to seek more healthy options in prepared food, as well as greater family activities in underutilized spaces. Enhanced lighting, wayfinding, and maintenance of streets is critical. Recently, the fear of Immigration and Customs Enforcement has increased stress in the community. Like many neighborhoods, there is a stark difference in perceived safety between day and night. During the tour and visit, you'll hear from key community-based organizations and city partners in Corona.

Community Based Organizations:

[Urban Health Plan's Plaza del Sol](#): Plaza del Sol's Family Health Center opened its doors to the Corona community in 2009. It serves critical community health needs through high quality, culturally competent, bilingual and affordable primary care. Services also reach residents through nutrition education and cooking demonstrations at the health center and its garden space, community walks to the farmers market, partnerships with the retail food environment, and community events that share valuable health and wellness resources.

[Queens Museum](#): The Queens Museum is located in Flushing Meadows Corona Park and is dedicated to sharing visual arts and educational programming for NYC residents, and particularly for the residents of Corona. The Museum has a community organizer committed to deep partnerships in Corona, and engages and empowers local schools and cultural groups such as Mujeres en Movimiento. In 2011, Queens Museum partnered with artist Tania Bruguera to found Immigrant Movement International, a community space that offers free health, recreational, educational, art and legal services and workshops. As the plaza partner for Corona Plaza, Queens Museum has made a tremendous effort to make the public space safe, dignified, inclusive, and engaging. They have recently published, "Corona Plaza Es Para Todos: Making a Dignified Public Space for Immigrants," to share public programming and community engagement practices with other plaza and public space partners throughout New York City.

111 Corona Mothers Take Over 111th Street to Call for a Safer Design

By David Meyer | May 9, 2016



Mujeres en Movimiento — a Corona-based group of immigrant Latina mothers — marched on 111th Street this Saturday, calling on NYC DOT and Queens Community Board 4 to move forward with the city's plan for traffic calming and a protected bike lane on the street.

[Make the Road New York \(MTRNY\)](#): MTRNY leads community organizing efforts, provides educational and legal services, offers wraparound intergenerational services for immigrant families, and promotes equal rights and economic and political opportunity. As the Queens Lead for the Partnership for a Healthier New York City, MTRNY focused efforts on the built environment, increasing access to parks, street safety, and active design in schools. When the community identified 111th Street as a priority entryway into Flushing Meadows Corona Park, MTRNY helped residents organize for safety improvements to increase access to the park for families. MTRNY will be opening a center in Corona.

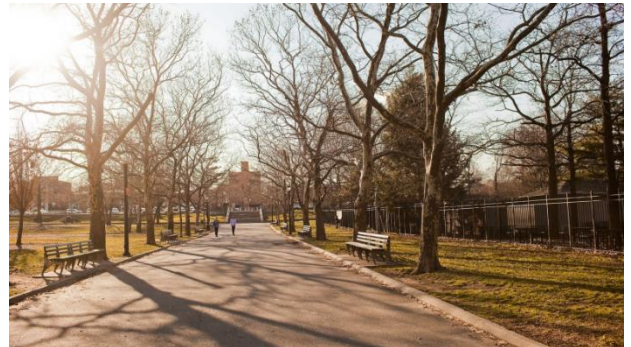
[Public Health Solutions \(PHS\)](#): Public Health Solutions is based inside Corona Plaza and serves as a hub of services directly supporting women, children, and families in the neighborhood. PHS leads the Maternal and

Infant Community Health Collaborative, particularly relevant for Corona’s demographics, and connects the network to resources for mothers and their babies. It also operates home visiting through the Nurse-Family Partnership and Healthy Families Corona program; peer support groups for prenatal, postpartum and perinatal care; and promotes safe, healthy living conditions. PHS also operates the Corona Neighborhood WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program at the site.

City Partners:

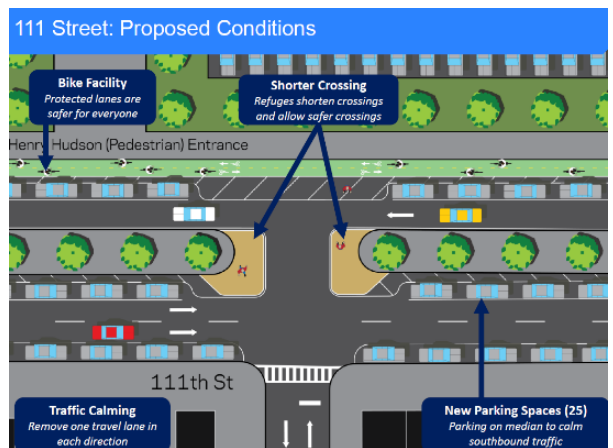
NYC Parks and Partnerships for Parks:

Flushing Meadows Corona Park is the largest open space resource in the community, and hosts a variety of cultural and recreational programming. Terrace on the Park was selected as a *Parks without Borders* site and the community was engaged in designing it to be a more welcoming space. Playground for All Children is one of the few playgrounds designed to accommodate children with special needs and received investment from the *Community Parks Initiative*. Louis Simeone Park is a *Catalyst Site*, meaning that local volunteers will receive extra support in making connections to the park. GreenThumb and BHC awarded Sparrows Nest Community Garden a grant to increase food production and distribution in Corona. BHC recently worked with Partnerships for Parks to award nine groups a *Parks Build Healthy Communities* grant to support activation of various parks and playgrounds in Flushing and Corona. A second grant opportunity will take place next year. A Spanish language Fitness Instructor Training will take place in Corona through the Shape Up NYC program in 2018.



NYC Department of Transportation:

In 2018, New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) will install WalkNYC pedestrian wayfinding signs in Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and Corona. The signs have maps that encourage walking by showing neighborhood amenities, commercial corridors and transit information. Additionally, NYCDOT is engaging the community around expansion of biking opportunities, not only through physical improvements to streets like 111th street, but also through the Big Jump Project, a three-year community-driven planning process that aims to improve cycling safety. This initiative will include programming to encourage residents to use alternative modes of transportation, and will draw on local community input to develop on-street improvements such as general traffic calming designs.



GrowNYC:

The Corona Greenmarket operates from July through November on Fridays, providing affordable access to fresh food as well as cooking demonstrations through DOHMH’s Stellar Farmers Markets. This season, BHC funded five grantees across Corona and Flushing, including Queens Museum, to implement culturally relevant nutrition programming, paired with use of Health Bucks coupons provided by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to be used in local farmers markets. GrowNYC is completing its nutrition workshops in various senior centers in Corona, encouraging residents to use their Health Bucks at the nearby market.

