



The BronxWorks July 2025 Newsletter



FEATURED STORY

Community Engagement and Outreach

With the summer and warmer weather upon us, BronxWorks programs and staff have relished the opportunity to engage community members in new and recurring outreach initiatives. From neighborhood clean-ups, to farm stands, and more, BronxWorks is engaging people of all ages to get involved with their neighbors and participate in activities that are building a stronger Bronx community.

Community Clean Up

BronxWorks staff and participants recently led a Community Clean Up in the Hunts Point neighborhood. The event was open to everyone in the community. Volunteers split off in groups, spreading out on multiple blocks to cover a large area. Protective equipment was also shared and special attention was given to observe safe

disposal practices.

Mireya Chavez, Program Director of the BronxWorks Living Room Safe Haven, led the efforts to organize the event alongside her peers. Mireya said the purpose of the event was to not only beautify the neighborhood but also to leave a positive impact on the community and its residents. Staff plan to build on and continue this bi-annual event in the future.



"The Clean Up came about as a way to further our relationship with the community, and among the staff, by doing the good neighborly thing."

Mireya Chavez, Program Director



BronxWorks Farm Stands Are Now Open!

BronxWorks Farm Stands are open for the season! Once again, BronxWorks will operate two weekly farm stands that are open from July to November. The Mott Haven Farm Stand, located at Padre Plaza, takes place on Wednesdays from 9am-1pm*, and the Community Farm Stand, located at our flagship community center at 1130 Grand Concourse, takes place on Thursdays from 10am-2pm* (*or until supplies last). The farm stands are staffed by BronxWorks staff, volunteers, and SYEP youth (see *story below*). Both stands offer fresh, local produce at affordable prices, as well as cooking demonstrations and other nutrition education. The farm stands offer many incentives and accept multiple forms of payment, including cash, EBT, Health Bucks, and more. As the challenge of affordability and food access continues to rise citywide, BronxWorks is dedicated to providing healthy and accessible food to our Bronx

neighbors.

Press Coverage: [Bronx Times](#)



BronxWorks staff conduct a cooking demonstration at the Mott Haven Farm Stand using the same fresh produce that is available to purchase at the stand.



BronxWorks staff at the Community Farm Stand provide attendees with resources on healthy eating and information about other services offered at BronxWorks.

Summer Youth Employment Program Is Back!

Once again, BronxWorks welcomes over 1,300 youth into the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)! BronxWorks SYEP, in partnership with the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) connects youth ages 14-24 with a six-week paid internship during July and August. Older youth (16-24) are connected with local employers for work experience, while younger youth (14-15) participate in project-based programming that provides them with career exploration opportunities. SYEP introduces participants to engaging and fruitful experiences within their community that also prepare them for the workforce in the future.

Worksites for SYEP older youth ages 16-24 include the Bronx District Attorney's Office, the Office of New York State Assemblymember Chantel Jackson, the NYC Department of Homeless Services, and many more. Hundreds of participants are also placed within BronxWorks programs in a variety of departments, including Children & Youth, Workforce Development, Community Health, and Information Technologies.



Younger youth ages 14-15 gain experience in teamwork, problem-solving, and other skills through various projects. For example, some participants are working in collaboration with NYC FIRST, a STEM program that teaches youth how to build robotics. Additionally, other younger youth are exploring community-based projects and working together to design and install a mural at the BronxWorks Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center at 1130 Grand Concourse.

All BronxWorks SYEP participants were welcome to attend a banking fair before their internship started. Representatives from several local financial institutions were in attendance, and they shared information on how the participants could set up their direct deposit, among other financial literacy



topics.



DID YOU KNOW

BronxWorks Students Celebrate Graduation at the Jill Chaifetz Transfer School



Did You Know? Dozens of students earned their high school diploma from the Jill Chaifetz Transfer School (JCTS), a public high school that helps older youth stay on track to graduate. BronxWorks was incredibly proud to celebrate this achievement with the students, staff, and families. This year, 35 students graduated from JCTS, and several other students were also recognized for their completion of specific coursework. BronxWorks provides academic support and social services to students at JCTS so they can succeed in school and are prepared for life after graduation. Some graduates will head onto higher education, attending schools such as Hunter College, Bronx Community College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Lehman College, and more. Other students will enter the workforce and have found assistance through the BronxWorks Workforce Development department. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson was a guest speaker at the graduation, and she concluded the event with a \$250,000 donation to support the JCTS science lab! We are so grateful to Borough President Gibson for her generosity and the opportunity to expand STEM programming at the school. Congratulations to all the JCTS graduates!



STAFF PROFILES

Opal Henderson

Program Director, Jill Chaifetz Transfer School



Opal Henderson joined BronxWorks in pursuit of her heart's passion to work with young people in her community. Despite starting her career in the banking industry and finding success in that field, Opal remained passionate about and drawn to teaching. When she heard about a job opening with BronxWorks at a Bronx high school, she jumped at the opportunity. Now, Opal is the Program Director of the Jill Chaifetz Transfer School (JCTS), a school designed to assist youth ages 16-21 stay on track to graduate high school.

"I see myself as a driving force for the future, sparking a light within them to see beyond right now."

[Read More About Opal](#)



PHOTO ESSAY



BronxWorks Summer Camp Visit Bronx Zoo

BronxWorks summer camp participants enjoyed a fun day at the Bronx Zoo this month! The children explored many exhibits, and some of their favorite animals to see were the tigers and sea lions! Thank you to the Wildlife Conservation Society and The Bronx Zoo Community Access Program for providing such a wonderful experience to our participants every year.



Robin Hood Volunteers at BronxWorks Community Center

BronxWorks was thrilled to welcome two volunteer groups through Robin Hood! Robin Hood coordinated two volunteer days, one with one of their partner organizations, OC&C Strategy Consultants, and another with their summer interns. Volunteers visited our flagship community center and worked the Farm Stand, prepared meals in the kitchen, and engaged with participants of our older adult center and early childhood learning center. Thank you to all the volunteers for taking the time to support BronxWorks! Special thank you to Robin Hood for our strong partnership!

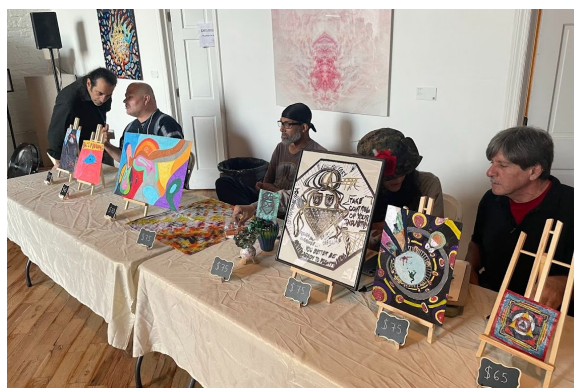


Older Adult Center Hosts Bronx Walks Workshop

The BronxWorks Morris Older Adult Center hosted their second Bronx Walks Workshop. Older adults from the community attended to share their concerns and ideas for walking safely in the neighborhood. BronxWorks staff were present to lead the discussion and will also help implement these ideas during future walking group outings.

ESOL Students Celebrate Program Completion

Students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program recently celebrated completing the program! Over 200 students received certificates for their accomplishment and the classes celebrated with a ceremonial event. Congratulations to all the students for this incredible achievement!



DCWP Commissioner Visits

BronxWorks Artists at

BronxWorks Sites

The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) Commissioner Vilda Vera Mayuga visited multiple BronxWorks sites this month! She and her team first took a tour of our flagship community center at 1130 Grand Concourse. They also visited our Workforce Development office, where we have many programs in partnership with DCWP. Thank you to the Commissioner and her team for visiting and learning more about the organization!

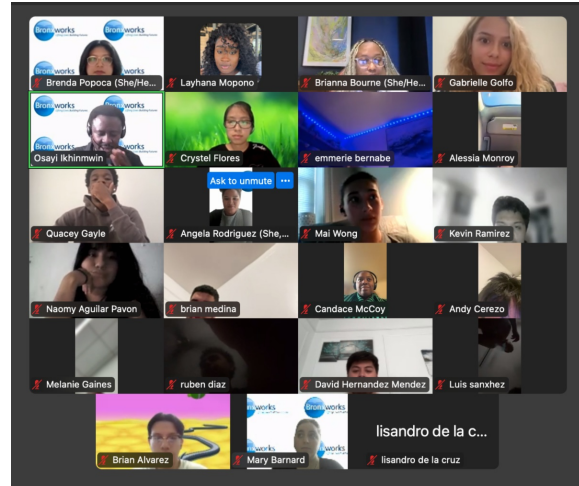


EXCEL Graduation Celebration

BronxWorks EXCEL students recently celebrated earning their GED! Seven students successfully passed their GED test, and dozens of other students celebrated passing one or more subjects as part of the four-part GED exam. Congratulations to all the students for their accomplishments!

WoodSOCK Music Festival

BronxWorks artists had the opportunity to showcase their artwork at the WoodSOCK Music Festival, an event hosted by Knock Knock Give a Sock. Artists come together to share or perform their creations. BronxWorks participants develop their artwork with BronxWorks Artist-in-Residence Francis Palazzolo. The artists were thrilled to share their art and their story at the event.



Summer Bridge Hosts Virtual Career Panel

College-bound students attended a virtual career panel hosted by the BronxWorks Summer Bridge program. Professionals from various industries, including IT, Engineering, Psychology, and Public Relations, were present to share their experiences and advice. Summer Bridge provides guidance and skills to first-year college students to help them be successful in their college journey. Special thanks to BronxWorks staff member Osayi Ikhinmwinn for sharing insights into his career in IT!



UPCOMING EVENTS

REGISTER NOW! The BronxWorks 2025 5K

Saturday, October 18

Orchard Beach, Bronx NY



MONSTER MASH HUNGER DASH

BronxWorks 2025 5K Fun Run/Walk



SATURDAY
OCT 18
10AM



Join us to fight food insecurity
in the Bronx
Orchard Beach, Bronx NY

REGISTER NOW! The **BronxWorks 2025 5K Monster Mash Hunger Dash** will be on **Saturday, October 18, 2025 at Orchard Beach in the Bronx!** Join us in raising funds to fight food insecurity in our communities! All proceeds raised will benefit BronxWorks programs providing food access and education to the Bronx, including our food pantries, seasonal farm stands, nutrition and cooking workshops, and more.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information!



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Support #TeamBronxWorks in the TCS 2025 NYC Marathon! BronxWorks is proud to once again be a charity partner for the TCS NYC Marathon this year. As a charity runner, members of #TeamBronxWorks each have a goal of raising \$3,000 for BronxWorks Children and Youth programs. [Support our runners here.](#)

Here are some other ways you can join BronxWorks and support our mission this year:

- [Make a Monetary Gift.](#)
- Donate essential goods directly to Bronx residents in need through our [Wishlist](#).

You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#), and [X](#) for exciting updates.

For a full list of ways to give to BronxWorks, [visit our website](#).

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