

# CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY

## 2023 IMPACT REPORT



# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

## WHAT ISSUES ARE THEY ADDRESSING?

17% Arts & Culture  
17% Education & Youth  
31% Environment & Climate  
25% Health & Wellness  
11% Economic Development & Public Safety

## WHERE ARE THEY MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

18 % Bronx  
27 % Brooklyn  
29 % Manhattan  
21 % Queens  
6 % Staten Island



## WHO LEADS THESE INITIATIVES?

2,000 applicants from across NYC  
66% are volunteer-led organizations  
78% identify as people of color  
68% identify as women or non-binary

## HOW DID THEY IMPROVE NYC?

350 unique and innovative projects across 130 NYC neighborhoods  
100,000+ New Yorkers reached by grantee partner initiatives, community events, and volunteer engagements

# CITYWIDE IMPACT



CitizensNYC funds hundreds of projects and businesses across **130 neighborhoods** in all **5 boroughs**.

Click the map above to explore each of these partners on a live map and find one in your neighborhood!

# CITIZENSNYC SNAPSHOT

At CitizensNYC, our mission is to bring New Yorkers together and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

CitizensNYC recognizes the value in small-scale projects, both for what they bring to the people they serve, and in the way they introduce New Yorkers to the possibility that they personally can make a difference.

We invest in and elevate community leadership in three ways:

**Funding:** Each year we make more than 300 microgrants to New Yorkers who are improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods through two programs - our Community Leaders Grants program support grassroots projects with grants of up to \$3,000, and our Neighborhood Business Grants program support local businesses with grants of up to \$5,000.

**Convening:** We bring together our grantee partners to foster opportunities for them to learn from each other, identify additional opportunities for support, and build collaborations that expand impact. Programming includes a quarterly series of network convenings held in person in each of the five boroughs.

**Connecting:** We raise visibility of community voices and connect our grantee partners with other stakeholders such as elected officials, corporate partners, and nonprofit peers who can provide additional resources to advance the goals of our network of leaders.

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Community leaders in low-income communities often face barriers in getting the funding, resources, and visibility they need to bring tangible change to their neighborhoods and put their innovative ideas into action.

CitizensNYC addresses this challenge by connecting grassroots leaders and neighborhood business owners with the people, resources, and platforms they need to create the impact they envision for their communities. Through our program and support, these leaders are able to design, develop, implement, and sustain community-centered initiatives that bring people together and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: LIBRERIA BARCO DE PAPEL COMUNITARIA

*Paula Ortiz stepped up to fill a critical gap in her community and create a business grounded in giving back.*



Libreria Barco de Papel is a local Spanish-language bookstore situated at the heart of Elmhurst and Jackson Heights, Queens, two of New York City's most diverse communities. Their Minority and Women-Owned business opened in 2003 with the goal of filling a literary and cultural gap in New York.

Support from CitizensNYC is making it possible for owner Paula Ortiz to expand their free cultural programs, including book presentations, children storytelling, discussions, open-mic nights, poetry workshops and literacy workshops. Paula shared that, "Ultimately, our goal is to promote the identity of the Latinx community through increased cultural and artistic activities, with emphasis on literature that embraces diversity and multiple forms of expression."

Libreria Barco de Papel also served as a host for our first convening of Queens partners in October 2023, bringing together over a dozen grassroots leaders and neighborhood business leaders from the borough to share ideas and opportunities to strengthen their communities.

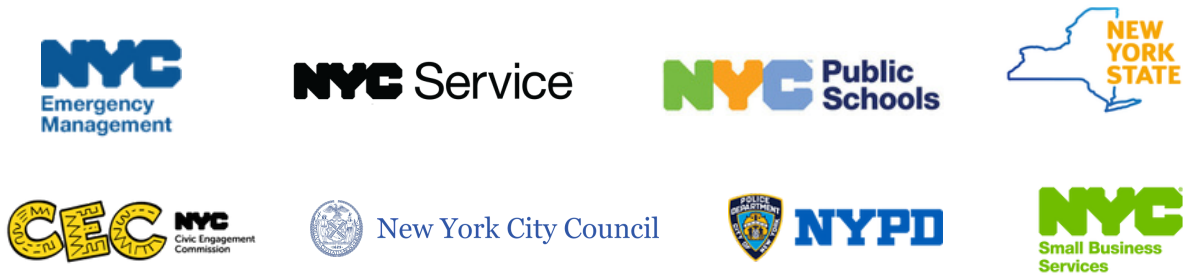
# THANK YOU TO CITIZENSNYC SUPPORTERS

CitizensNYC works closely with stakeholders across sectors to support our network, including corporate and foundation supporters, government leaders, nonprofit organizations, and city agencies. We're grateful for their partnership and support!

## Corporate & Foundation Partners



## Government Partners



## Nonprofit Partners



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: JARDIN LA ROCA

*Lillian Reyes leads the dedicated volunteers who make Jardin La Roca one of the most beloved community gardens in the city*



The Jardin La Roca, or Rock Garden, at the corner of East 160th and Elton streets, is known for its welcoming community and the geology that gives it its name.

The garden's mission is to enhance and increase community pride in the neighborhood while developing interest and providing hands-on learning opportunities.

They provide community programs, space for neighbors to rent out to grow herbs and plants, and even a chicken coop. Jardin La Roca has hosted many events in their garden, such as a PPE give-away of masks and sanitation wipes during the pandemic outbreak, information sessions on healthy eating, holiday events, awareness months on different topics, and a beautiful open green space. Lillian hopes that one day they'll host a wedding!

CitizensNYC has proudly partnered with Jardin La Roca for over a decade, supporting projects to help the garden engage more members of their community through grants and volunteer events.

## JOIN US IN LIFTING UP LOCAL LEADERS

Our community of partners and supporters makes our impact in NYC neighborhoods possible, and we hope that you will join us in investing in grassroots leaders and neighborhood businesses.

**DONATE** to support CitizensNYC grantee partners across New York City. You can join us for our two annual fundraising events, the New Yorkers for New York Gala on June 3, 2024 and the All in for NYC Fall Cocktail Reception on October 29, 2024.

**VOLUNTEER** to directly support the initiatives our partners are leading in their neighborhoods.



**AMPLIFY** CitizensNYC grant opportunities and partner stories by [signing up for our monthly newsletter](#) and following CitizensNYC on social media:



[www.citizensnyc.org](http://www.citizensnyc.org)