



QUEENS WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

Queens World Film Festival, Queens Memory Project

and

MetroPlusHealth

are

LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

A NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE & CONNECTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 19, 2025 Marks 5th Anniversary of Lockdown & Queens World's Historic Online Pivot

Queens, NY — On Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 7 PM, [Queens World Film Festival](#) (Queens World), [Queens Memory Project](#) at the [Queens Public Library](#), and [MetroPlusHealth](#) invite the community to an evening of remembrance and reflection, at [The Local in LIC \(13-02 44th Ave\)](#).

This event commemorates the fifth anniversary of when Queens World became the first film festival in the world to jump online in response to the pandemic. On March 19, 2020, at 7:30 PM, as promised, Queens World opened their festival on time and online with 191 films from 31 nations, broadcasting live from the founders' living room in Queens. Queens World continues to provide the community with opportunities to gather, like the Listening Tour featuring community members reflecting on resilience and hope. "It's time to come back together," said Katha Cato, Festival Director.

The evening will highlight a Listening Tour compilation and collections from the Queens Memory Project, a community-engaged archiving program dedicated to preserving the personal histories of Queens residents. In the early weeks of the lockdown, Queens Memory launched The COVID-19 Project to create a space for their neighbors in the borough to share their experiences and connect with others through public programs, oral history interviews, podcast listening sessions, and other digital initiatives. Combining archival contributions with original interviews, the team released *"The Borough We Became: Queens Residents On Life During COVID-19,"* the second season of the Queens Memory Podcast. "Since the pandemic, we've continued to find ways to keep Queens connected by recording, preserving, and amplifying community voices," said Meral Agish, Queens Memory's Interim Director.

Guests will engage with an interactive mapping installation, sharing how they stayed connected through the lockdown and a screening of short films from Queens World alumni and community members, reflecting on the bleak early days of the pandemic while offering a sense of hope and renewal as we look forward together.

MetroPlusHealth, one of our dedicated partners, is providing appetizers and other nibbles for the evening and will be on hand to provide information to attendees. "MetroPlusHealth is proud to join the event, standing alongside our community partners, filmmakers, and artists. As a company that prioritizes people over profit, we're dedicated to providing healthcare access to every New Yorker. Together, we celebrate resilience and ensure a healthier future for all," said Harlan Gong, Experiential Marketing Production Associate.



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Join us as we honor the past, celebrate our resilience, and recommit to our communities through storytelling and shared history.

Looking Back to Look Forward is free to attend, but reservations are required. [Guests can reserve their spot via Eventbrite.](#)

For more information, visit linktr.ee/queensmemory or follow Queens World Film Festival @Queensworldfilmfest and Queens Memory (@QueensMemory) and MetroPlusHealth (@MetroPlusHealth) on social media.

Event Details:

 Date: March 19, 2025

 Location: The Local LIC, Queens, NY

 Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

The event is free with reservation:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/march-19th-looking-back-to-look-forward-tickets-1242509823329?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

