

 Queens Name Explorer
Exhibit Opens at Culture Lab



Hope everyone is staying warm and cozy from the snow!

A new exhibit opened this month at Culture Lab LIC, called "[The Stories Behind Their Names: Queens Women in Action](#)."

Drawing from the [Queens Name Explorer](#) project, this community-centered public history exhibition honors women whose names are woven into our public landscape and whose stories are integral to the making of Queens.

Join us on Sunday, March 22, from 2:30 to 4pm for a [workshop](#) activating the exhibit. Held during NYC Open Data Week and led by [No, YOU Tell It!](#) producers, this interactive workshop blends open data, local history, and creative storytelling.

Participants will use the [Queens Name Explorer](#) to learn about local named places — including those highlighted in the Women's History Month exhibition at Culture Lab LIC. Through guided prompts, participants will reflect on their own relationships to Queens, take part in a scavenger-hunt exhibition tour, and contribute to an interactive map. The program will conclude with a story exchange that transforms open data into public memory, enriching local history through community voices.

[Registration](#) is encouraged.

 Spring Teen Podcast
Workshop Opens for Registration

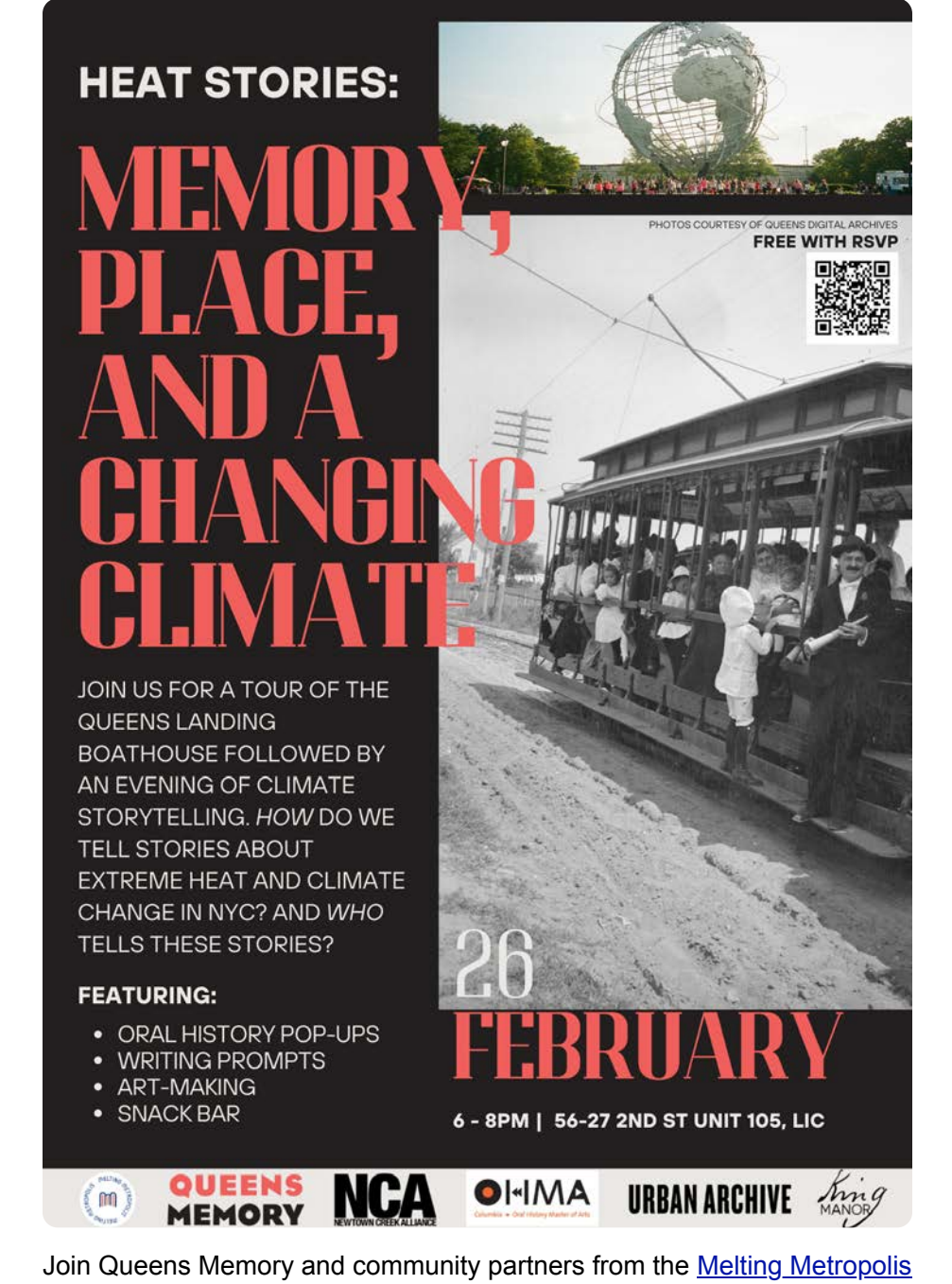
[Registration](#) just opened for the Spring 2026 Teen Podcast Workshop held every Wednesday over six weeks from 4 to 5:30pm at the Flushing Library. From **April 15 to May 20**, our talented instructor, sound mixer, and producer, [Rebecca Seidel](#), returns to lead this workshop along with Queens Memory Curator, J. Faye Yuan. The aim of the workshop is to create a new episode together, co-hosted with workshop participants, which will feature interviews with Queens Public Library staff sharing heat stories and favorite summertime memories. Listen to past teen episodes [here](#) and [here](#).

Open to all middle school and high school students!



Rebecca Seidel instructs a group of teens at the Flushing Library on how to record a good interview. Photo courtesy of Gracielle Camara.

 Need a Break from the Snow?



Join Queens Memory and community partners from the [Melting Metropolis project](#) at the Queens Landing Boathouse and Environmental Center in LIC on Feb. 26 (6-8 pm ET) to learn more about how communities are documenting local climate impacts related to urban heat. Listen to stories from across the boroughs about how our neighborhoods are changing and adapting to longer and hotter summers, share your own experiences, and reflect on how these everyday stories enter our collective memory.

This event is part of a year-long public programming series with the Oral History MA Program at Columbia University, exploring the relationships between place, memory, and oral history through a series of site-specific oral history events. From the Lower East Side to Long Island City, from the domino table to the community center meeting room, we will experience how oral histories live in places and communities.

Beverages and light bites will be served. Register [here](#).

Featured Oral History Spotlights
an Astoria Community Leader

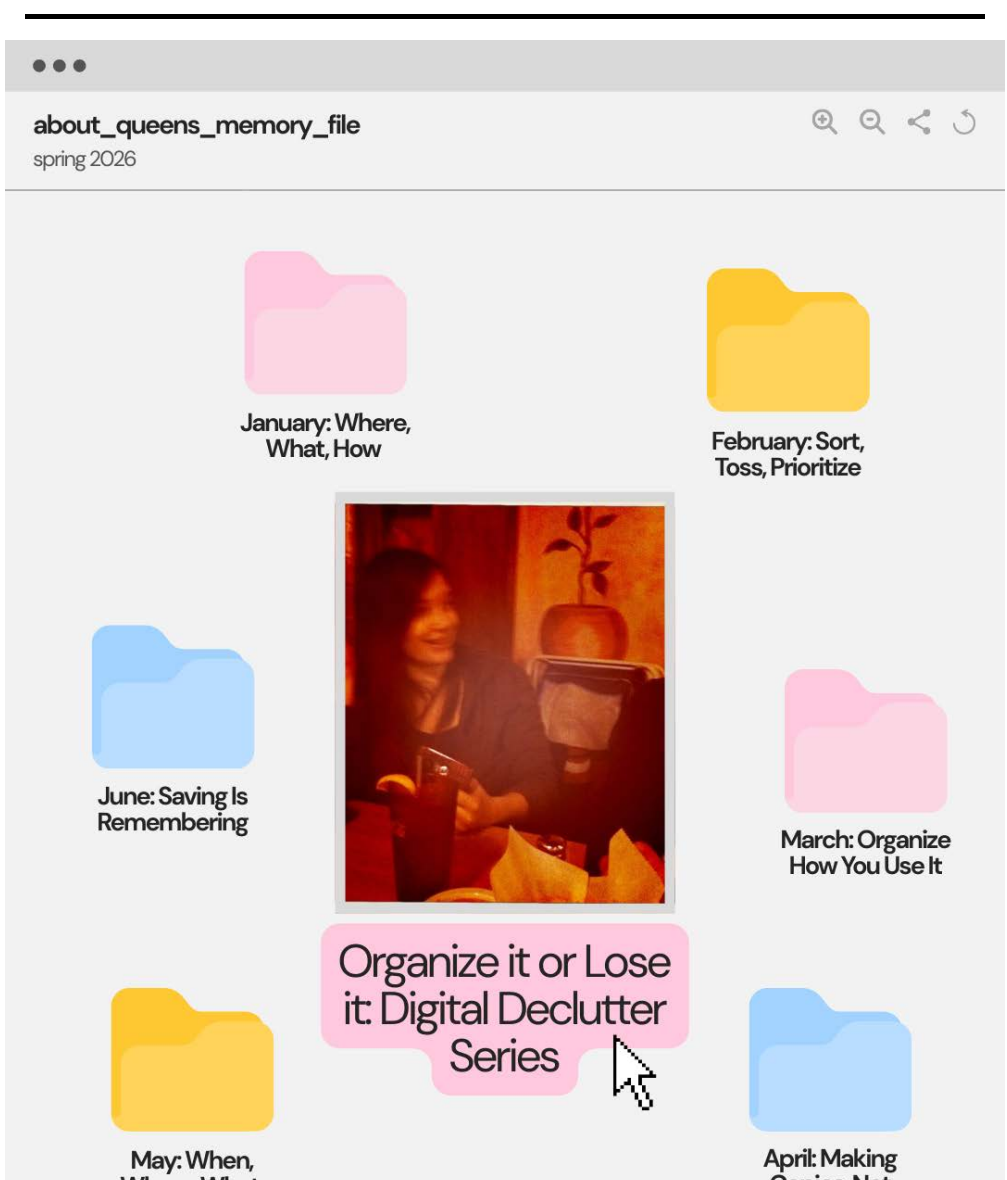


Former NYC Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer and his sisters Kim Foskew, Dawn Vartholomeos, and Debbie Pavlidis share memories of their mother Elizabeth White Marcum (1940-2025). Elizabeth was a volunteer, activist, and natural-born leader who was deeply engaged with her community of Astoria for more than 50 years. Elizabeth was posthumously honored with the co-naming of the corner of 28th Avenue and 44th Street in Astoria as [Elizabeth White Marcum Way](#).

Jimmy, Kim, Dawn, and Debbie discuss Elizabeth's childhood in Corona, the close relationships she had with her mother and four siblings, and the strong work ethic she developed from growing up in a blue collar working class environment. They also discuss Elizabeth's adulthood as a working mother who raised seven children and also babysat a large number of local children, who knew her as "Aunt Liz" and looked up to her as a role model. Furthermore, they discuss Elizabeth's involvement in LGBTQ activism and her volunteer work in the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts.

Additionally, they reflect on Elizabeth's deep affection for the borough of Queens, her support for the Queens Public Library, the social gatherings that she frequently hosted at her home, and her commitment to being present for her children and her community.

Listen to the interview [here](#).



Join our monthly [virtual Digital Decluttering series](#)! Audiovisual Archivist Marie Lascu reviews simple organizing and storage tips to help keep important personal digital files easy to find and use, while offering some carved out time to do the work amongst community members with similar goals.

Each session opens with a brief workshop followed by dedicated work time to encourage attendees to practice their new skills and learn from each other.

March 17: Organize How You Use It

With a better grasp on where your files are, what type of files you have, and what you want to keep, let's finalize storage places, folder names, and a digital backup plan.

April 21: Making Copies, Not More Clutter

Review digital copy and storage best practices and apply them to your reality. Try out new or updated digital storage, from hard drives to cloud services, and compare pros and cons with community members.

May 19: When, Where, What, Why, and Who

You have the basics in place; let's focus on a collection of files you want to spend more time on. What extra information is important to pass on with your files, and generally make it easier to look through and understand what you have?

June 16: Saving Is Remembering

With long-term file care recommendations in mind, community members will set a personal file organizing schedule for the next 6 months that includes digital backups.

Register for the series or a single workshop [here](#).

Celebrate Library Lovers Month!

This Library Lovers Month, in preparation for our 130th anniversary, we're asking you to share your favorite memory of Queens Public Library! Did you find a favorite book that changed your life? Did one of our programs inspire you to start a new career? Do your kids love storytime at the Library? [Tell us your story](#), and you could win a cash prize!



 Upcoming Events

March 4 – Join us online for [Community Archiving Happy Hour](#) – a social and resource sharing space organized by a few folks who work on inclusive archiving projects. This get-together is for people who work on behalf of their own communities, or in partnership as community allies. So, whether you're "community-based," "community-driven," or just "community-curious," we hope you'll show up to share who you are, what you're working on, and what you're trying to figure out right now. There's weirdly not a lot of community amongst people working in these spaces so we hope to start some conversations and mutual support. To receive updates and to attend the virtual event, [join the Google group](#) for monthly updates. (3 pm ET)

March 5 – Join the Boston Public Library and the After Violence Project online for a [four-part workshop series](#) that will equip participants with ethical, effective strategies for conducting oral history interviews with communities who might require specialized consent and confidentiality practices due to experiences of trauma, marginalization, or identity-based targeting. The first session will focus on the foundations of oral history, which is a method of collecting and preserving histories through recorded interviews with people about their personal memories and experiences. Together, we will explore why context and relationships matter, and how trust, consent, and care shape the interview process and, relatedly, the stories that are shared. (6 pm ET)

March 10 – Join us online for an [Introduction to Oral History Interviewing](#) workshop and learn how to record an interview. The Queens Memory team will share tips on getting started, including how to prepare for an interview, how to ask questions that encourage people to share, and how to record in person and remotely. Register [here](#). We will follow up with a confirmation and event link. **This program is not recorded.** (12 - 1 pm ET)

March 24 – Come to our [Queens Memory Lunch and Learn](#) for a quick lunchtime presentation. Hear about new projects and ongoing collaborations with our community partners. Learn how you can contribute to Queens Public Library's Archives and help out at upcoming programs. Each month we'll present new material and feature special guests; the topic for March will be on the Queens Name Explorer exhibit at Culture Lab LIC! Register [here](#). We will follow up with a confirmation and event link. (12 pm ET)

Queens Memory in the Professional Community

Congratulations to Dr. Johnathan Thayer (Associate Professor, Queens College School of Information Studies), who has just received a grant from [the Mellon Foundation](#) to develop a new framework that will solidify [partnerships between community memory organizations and academic library, archives, and information studies students and faculty](#). Thayer will work with Lori Wallach (Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator) on the two-year grant, which will launch a pilot Graduate Community Memory Fellowship program for Queens College School of Information Studies students, and develop new community memory curricula with Queens College faculty partners.

In honor of Black History Month, two of our quilt-making alums (and Queens Memory volunteers) - Jacqueline Colson and Thadine Wormly - will be featured in ["The Fabric of History in Flushing and Beyond"](#) exhibit at Bowne House through Sunday, March 15.

On Thursday, March 19, Queens Memory Coordinator Meral Agish and QPL Digital Archives Manager Dacia Metes will join colleagues from Urban Archive to lead a workshop about the Queens Name Explorer at the [Connecticut Digital Humanities Conference](#) hosted by Central Connecticut State University.

On Friday, March 20, Meral Agish and Queens Memory Curator J. Faye Yuan will present two panels at the [third annual STEM Mini Conference for Information Professionals](#) at Barnard College in New York City, co-sponsored by the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), New York University, Penguin Random House, and the Barnard Center for Engaged Pedagogy.