

**DESIGN TRUST
FOR PUBLIC SPACE**



For Immediate Release:

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Alfresco NYC Announces 2022 One-Time Grant Winners

Grantees from across the five boroughs will receive funding to support their efforts to activate street life and implement the Open Restaurants and Open Streets programs

Led by Design Trust for Public Space, Regional Plan Association and Tri-State Transportation Campaign, Alfresco NYC Coalition advocates for equitable implementation of Open Restaurants and Streets across NYC

Images of grantees can be found [here](#)

New York, NY – Today, [Alfresco NYC](#) – a coalition led by [Design Trust for Public Space](#), [Regional Plan Association](#) (RPA), and [Tri-State Transportation Campaign](#) (TSTC) – announced twelve grant winners for exemplary outdoor dining structures and Open Streets across New York City’s five boroughs.

The one-time grants of up to \$10,000 will support the Open Restaurants and Open Streets programs in neighborhoods hard-hit by the pandemic across the City. Selected from over 200 submissions, the 2022 grant winners include small businesses and community groups from every borough supporting efforts to create vibrant street life including outdoor dining and cultural programming while helping to address challenges like public safety, youth employment and food insecurity.

In 2021, the coalition launched the Alfresco Awards to recognize and celebrate the city’s best outdoor dining spaces and open streets with small cash prizes. Over the past year, Alfresco NYC

has led a series of roundtable conversations with stakeholders including open street operators, restaurant owners, designers, volunteers, accessibility, and mobility advocates to work through the design challenges and opportunities associated with New York City's Open Restaurants and Open Streets program.

The coalition is now compiling research and reviewing design and policy recommendations to ensure the programs are equitable and successful. The recommendations will be published later this year.

“Over the past two years, we’ve seen our city and region adapt in ways that have centered access, equity and sustainability,” said **Tom Wright, President & CEO of Regional Plan Association**. “We are proud to continue supporting Open Restaurants and Open Streets, crucial initiatives that are heralding a new era of community resiliency by reimagining new, people-centric ways to utilize our sidewalks and streetscapes.”

“Open streets and open restaurants have provided a lifeline for our City throughout the pandemic and these programs play a critical role in its revitalization,” said **Renae Reynolds, Executive Director of Tri-State Transportation Campaign**. “We are thrilled to be able to support so many businesses and open streets that have been serving communities hardest hit by COVID throughout all five boroughs.”

“Congratulations to these business owners and community leaders that represent the best of New York’s vibrant neighborhoods and thriving street life,” said **Matthew Clarke, Executive Director of the Design Trust for Public Space**. “Open Restaurants and Streets are just the beginning of a new approach to public space. These programs not only play a critical role in the city's character and energy, but also its long-term health and economic stability .”

Winning Open Restaurants, Streets, Storefronts and Markets

NYC's Open Restaurants Program comprises more than 12,000 restaurants, including nearly 6,000 that have set up shop along 60 miles of car-free streets. While Open Restaurants is popular with New Yorkers, its initial expansion was concentrated in wealthier neighborhoods. Alfresco NYC continues to work with small businesses and community efforts, in a wide variety of neighborhoods, to support permanent programs for New Yorkers to enjoy.

The Alfresco Grants support a range of Open Restaurants, Open Streets, Open Storefront and Open Markets initiatives. Grants were awarded to:

- [**Angela's Cuisine**](#) (440 E 138th St, The Bronx): Started by Alejandro Espinosa only seven months before the onset of the pandemic, Angela's is working to become a staple for Mexican Cuisine in The Bronx and has also received support from The Bronx Chamber of Commerce in the form of technical assistance.

- [**Angiolina's Restaurant**](#) (1322A Jerome Avenue, The Bronx): Also supported by The Bronx Chamber of Commerce, Angiolina's offers breakfast, lunch, dinner, and catering services.
- [**Assembly for Chinatown**](#) (80 Elizabeth St #7M, Manhattan): Think!Chinatown and A+A+A provided services to support Open Restaurants throughout the pandemic, and want to continue their work to provide repairs and upgrading services to derelict and vandalized structures, demolition and removal services to businesses that no longer need the outdoor space, and beautification mural services to additional businesses.
- [**CarriBbeing**](#) (Little Caribbean, Brooklyn): At Martense and Nostrand near Lips Cafe, the Little Caribbean Block Fete will feature an array of activities, musicians and educational opportunities. The event will offer a series of Little Caribbean Food + Culture educational walks and give visitors an opportunity to meet business owners and deepen their community knowledge.
- [**Centro Cultural Barco de Papel INC**](#) (4003 80th Street, Queens): The last remaining Spanish-language bookstore in NYC. Their storefront provides outdoor space to host authors and artists for open mics and readings.
- [**Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership**](#) (472 Myrtle Ave, Brooklyn): Support for restaurants by providing microgrants to design and build outdoor dining structures along the corridor, activate public space, and joint marketing to support local businesses.
- [**Pimpollo**](#) (32-39 Junction Blvd., Queens): A Colombian restaurant in Queens, Pimpollo is updating their sidewalk seating services with new benches for seating, and roof protection in case of rain and will put in plants and flowers to improve the ambient atmosphere of the patrons dining experience.
- [**RISE: Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity**](#) (Rockaway, Queens): Founded by the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, RISE brings residents together through community-planning efforts to engage and transform the Rockaway community. At Rockaway Freeway and Beach 60th Street, under the El, RISE will establish the Rockaway Market Street to provide a multi-vendor farmers market as part of the Wellness Way Initiative.
- [**Red Hook Initiative**](#) (Red Hook, Brooklyn): Serving residents of Red Hook Houses, Brooklyn's largest public housing development, RHI provides services, hosts community events, and serves food to the community weekly. At West 9th Street between Henry Street and Hicks Street, RHI will continue to support Open Streets and train residents to install and care for trees and public seating.
- [**Salsa Stories**](#) (South Bronx): Every Friday from August 26th to October 14th at Kelly St in The Bronx, Salsa Stories will provide immersive Salsa programming to the open

streets to activate open stages, and attract more people to the neighborhoods' streets and sidewalks and advocate for accessibility improvements.

- [Van Duzer Street Civic Association](#) (Staten Island): Operating an Open Street on Water Street between Wright and Bay Streets on Saturdays in June and September, the Association's "Stapleton Saturdays" offers family friendly activities. Their work helps pedestrianize a normally busy street to connect local businesses and residents to safer open space.
- [W. 103 Street Open Streets Community Coalition](#): With a goal to create public space amenities as an opportunity to engage with and create paid opportunities for youth to be involved on the open street, W. 103 St sees the younger generation as vital to the success of open streets in Manhattan and hopes to invest in them in the same way they invested in the community throughout the pandemic.

The grantees and program stakeholders celebrated the milestone:

"The Alfresco NYC grant awards supporting the Open Restaurants and Open Streets programs provide opportunities to pursue equity and ensure that small businesses across New York City can thrive, particularly those hardest hit by the pandemic," said **Melva M. Miller, CEO, Association for a Better New York (ABNY)** "Supporting local restaurants and open spaces is another step toward revitalizing the city's economy. The ABNY Foundation is proud to support this vital initiative. Congratulations to the awardees".

"The Open Restaurants program saved thousands of local businesses and jobs and is beloved by the countless New Yorkers and visitors who enjoy outdoor dining every day. That's why we're thrilled that Alfresco NYC will award outdoor dining grants to support local restaurants hit hard by the pandemic that rely on Open Restaurants as an essential part of their pandemic recovery and customer dining experience." **Andrew Rigie, Executive Director, NYC Hospitality Alliance**

"We thank Alfresco NYC for this grant which will aid our continued support of small businesses and small cultural groups in the Chinatown community. We are excited to start this new season focused on rehabilitation, safety and beautification of outdoor dining spaces by offering repairs, additions, art murals and demolition services at no cost to business owners." **Assembly for Chinatown**

"Thank you to Alfresco NYC for providing a grant that will support our mission to activate open spaces through programs that promote diversity and cultural heritage preservation. Attracting more people to streets and sidewalks that are significant to the history of the Salsa music art form, will help advocate for accessibility improvements in an effort to tackle misconceptions regarding the safety and livelihood of vibrant communities that gave birth to Salsa." **Bianka Cypriano, Program Director, Salsa Stories**

“Vibrant public spaces are vital to a healthy NYC and outdoor dining is a key piece in achieving this. But for small restaurants, outdoor dining can require big resources. We're excited to participate in the Alfresco NYC program in order to connect locally-owned eateries on Myrtle Avenue to grants and resources that can help them set-up and maintain safe outdoor dining areas in our neighborhood.” **Chad Purkey, BID Executive Director, Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership**

“The Van Duzer Civic Association is grateful to Alfresco NYC for assisting with NYC Open Streets “Stapleton Saturday’s” programming. Their continued participation supports hundreds of kids and their families who enjoy playing in the middle of a normally busy street. The funding and support they provide is crucial to the success of one of the best open streets in NYC.” **Priscilla Marco, President, Van Duzer Civic Association**

"Red Hook Initiative is honored to be the recipient of the Alfresco grant which will provide support for our Open Streets program and allow for the expansion of our tree stewardship work to care for our urban forest." **Morgan Monaco, Executive Director Red Hook Initiative**

“I AM Caribbeing is excited and honored to continue our work of centering Caribbean American communities, small businesses and culturally iconic places through sidewalk activations, tours and a Blocko (West Indian Block Party) in Brooklyn’s Little Caribbean alongside community partners Fun With Friends and Alfresco NYC. Over the next several weeks, we intend to create itineraries and a lineup that centers Caribpolititan life in Brooklyn and beyond.” **Shelley Worrell, Founder, caribBEING Inc.**

"Centro Cultural Barco de Papel is home for a group of people committed to embracing artists from different backgrounds with the common goal of preserving the latino identity through art and culture. We thank the Alfresco NYC coalition for giving us a grant to continue supporting our work.” **Volunteers from CCBDP**

"The partnership of the New York City Open Dining Program and the Alfresco NYC coalition, which created the Alfresco Grant initiative, provides a recovery lifeline to small businesses," said **Lisa Sorin, President of The Bronx Chamber of Commerce.** "We are thrilled that two Bronx businesses which participated in the Small Business Resource Network program were awarded grants to help their businesses recover and thrive."

“Both the Open Streets and Open Restaurants programs remain one of the most important economic recovery strategies employed by the City of New York,” said **Randy Peers, President & CEO, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.** “We applaud the Afresco NYC coalition for investing in several Brooklyn communities in an effort to leverage and expand on these programs.”

"Since the start of the pandemic, businesses have found creative ways to use outdoor spaces to continue serving their communities, saving countless jobs. As the oldest and largest business association in the most diverse community in America, the Queens Chamber of Commerce applauds Alfresco NYC for providing support to the Open Restaurants and Open Streets

programs in the neighborhoods hardest hit by the pandemic. We congratulate all the grantees, including three great Queens-based small businesses -- PimPollo, Centro Cultural Barco de Papel and the RISE outdoor market," said **Tom Grech, President and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.**

"The Open Restaurants and Open Streets programs continue to serve as innovative opportunities as we enter post-pandemic life," said **Linda Baran, President & CEO of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.** "The Van Duzer Street Civic Association is a shining example of the program's innovation, and we congratulate them – as well as the rest of NYC's grantees – as they continue to use their outdoor spaces to enrich the vibrancy of our community."

The project is generously supported by [The New York Community Trust](#) and [The Association for a Better New York.](#)

About Regional Plan Association

[Regional Plan Association](#) (RPA) is an independent non-profit organization that conducts research, planning and advocacy to expand economic opportunity, environmental resiliency, improved health, and better quality of life in the New York metropolitan area. Since the 1920s, RPA has produced four landmark plans for the region. The most recent was released in November 2017. For more information, please visit www.rpa.org.

About Tri-State Transportation Campaign

[Tri-State Transportation Campaign](#) is a 28-year old advocacy organization that fights for an equitable, safe, multi-modal transportation network that provides options and supports the economies of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. TSTC works to fix our commutes, meet our climate goals, stop traffic deaths, and make transportation fair. Learn more at www.tstc.org.

About Design Trust for Public Space

[Design Trust for Public Space](#) is a nationally recognized incubator that catalyzes change and transforms New York City's shared civic spaces to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable city. Its innovative model brings together government agencies, community groups, and private-sector experts to deliver creative solutions that shape the city's landscape with an eye towards social justice and equity, environmental sustainability, design excellence, and public engagement. Learn more at www.designtrust.org.

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