



# Annual Report 2018



ALLIANCE FOR  
**FLUSHING  
MEADOWS**  
CORONA PARK

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*“The Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park supports the largest park in the most diverse borough in the country. I’m proud to build relationships with all our neighbors and visitors for extraordinary services and programs for the park.”*

*-Janice Melnick, Executive Director  
Alliance for FMCP*

## Our Alliance

# Mission Statement

The mission of the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park is to support NYC Parks to preserve, maintain, and improve Flushing Meadows Corona Park for the benefit and use of the surrounding communities and all New Yorkers.

As stewards, we aspire to raise awareness and engage the community by caring for the natural environment, preserving our history, and providing exceptional amenities and programming.

We are committed to making the park accessible for all to enjoy, now and for future generations.



# From the Chair

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

When Mayor de Blasio announced the formation of the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park in 2015, he called the park a pivotal destination for Queens residents and tourists alike. The Alliance was launched with the mission of ensuring that this park continues to draw in visitors for years to come – and now, three years since its formation, we’re doing just that.

The Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park, a public-private partnership, raises funds that go directly to the park for services and programs. What can it bring to a hugely popular and heavily-used City park? The Alliance has created an Environmental Stewardship program that has brought volunteers in to our natural areas to help improve and maintain these vital resources. The Alliance also funded new garbage receptacles throughout the park, including recycling cans. Additional seasonal staffing has been funded to help us clean and maintain the busiest park in Queens and offer even more free public programming.

The Alliance draws on the strengths and vision of our diverse communities and enhances visibility and respect for the park’s contributions to city life. Perhaps you joined us this past summer for a live performance of jazz or Shakespeare, a free movie night, or puppet show for the kids. Maybe you play your favorite sport on our athletic fields, swim at our Aquatics Center, or workout at the Recreation Center. Or perhaps you came by for a family reunion barbecue, or to explore the scenery and outdoor art.

Whatever your favorite way of enjoying this essential part of our City, I hope you enjoy this year-in-review report, and continue to come to the park and share your ideas on how to make it everything it can and should be. And I’d like to personally invite your participation in the Alliance’s activities for the year ahead.

See you in the park!



**Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, Hon. ASLA**  
Commissioner, NYC Parks  
Chair, Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park



Chair Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, Hon. ASLA

# Board of Directors

**Julissa Bisono**, Lead Organizer, Make the Road NY

**Carol Conslato**, Queens Director of Regional and Community Affairs, Con Edison

**Kenneth Cohen**, Regional Director, NAACP NYS Conference Metropolitan Council

**Edwin Torres**, representing NYC Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl

**Carl Rodrigues**, representing NYC First Deputy Mayor Dean Fuleihan

**James F. Gennaro**, Deputy Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, appointed by Council Member Rory Lancman

**James Haddad**, Proprietor, Law Office of James M. Haddad

**Andrea Hirsch**, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel, United States Tennis Association (USTA)

**Andrew Hollweck**, Senior Vice President/New York Building Congress, appointed by Council Member Karen Koslowitz

**Vicky Morales**, representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

**Patricia Ornst**, Managing Director, New York State and Local Government Affairs, Delta Air Lines

**Victoria Schneps-Yunis**, Publisher and President of Schneps Communications, appointed by Council Member Peter Vallone

**Mitchell J. Silver**, FAICP, NYC Parks Commissioner

**Terry Tang**, Co-Founder and CEO of BCGA Concept Corporation, appointed by Council Member Peter Koo

**Michelle Villagomez**, NYC Legislative Director, ASPCA\*

**John Wang**, Chair of the Community Advisory Board for the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park (CAB)

**Edwin Wong**, President, Forest Hills Asian Association

**Danny Zausner**, Chief Operating Officer, National Tennis Center

*\*Michelle Villagomez was appointed August 23, 2018*

*“Here in the park, I can learn to preserve  
and protect my environment.”*

*-Jacqueline Colson  
Environmental Steward*



## Volunteer Programs

# Volunteer Overview

In FY18, 1,156 volunteers donated over 3,574 hours of public service to Flushing Meadows Corona Park on 42 days of volunteer events. Park-lovers of every age and ability painted benches and light poles. Environmental steward volunteers cleaned our shoreline and trails, built a wooden puncheon boardwalk for Willow Lake, and planted flowers. Docents educated and entertained park-goers on free walking tours of World’s Fair sites. And corporations and community groups requested customized volunteer days for their employees.





# Stewardship



Flushing Meadows Corona Park is 898 acres of fields, wetlands, woodlands, and ecosystems for wildlife and native plant species.

In FY18, the Alliance's Environmental Stewardship Program's initiatives included planting garden beds, mulching trails, clearing overgrowth, laying down new pathways, and installing new trail markers along 1900 feet of trails at Willow Lake.

Park-goers of all ages and abilities were provided with tools, training, and supervision, and received hands-on experience while having fun and learning new things. They are essential to the park's success.

For more information, please visit our web site at [allianceforfmcp.org/stewardship](http://allianceforfmcp.org/stewardship).

# Docent Program

Flushing Meadows Corona Park was the site of both the 1939/40 and 1964/64 World's Fairs in New York City. Every year, the Alliance invites interested park-goers to become docent volunteers who lead free history tours of remaining World's Fair sites and structures on Sundays in spring and summer.

In FY18, the Alliance program hosted 24 free World's Fair History docent tours, attended by nearly 500 tour-goers.

Docents also offered free World's Fair History bike rides in partnership with Bike New York, a customized ride for the sight-impaired in partnership with In Tandem, and customized walks for P.S. 94 middle-schoolers, college students at Fordham University, participants in the Municipal Art Society's 2018 Jane's Walk, and family groups visiting from other states and countries.





*“Flushing Meadows Corona Park siempre ha sido un escape importante para nuestra familia especialmente en el calor del verano. Sentarme en el pasto con mis hijos para disfrutar los diversos eventos publicos es un descanso de la rutina diaria al dentro de este recurso natural inestimable para nuestra comunidad.”*

*- Anna Dioguardi Moyano  
Director of Community Building, Queens Community House*

## Public Programs

# Programming Overview

The Alliance hosted free public programs for people of all ages in FY18 – from dance nights with the Salsa Warriors and blockbuster movie nights on the lawn, to live family-friendly concerts and children’s theater.

In addition to this, the Alliance hired fitness instructors to lead free weekly exercise classes outdoors at the Unisphere in spring and summer.

## In FY18, Thousands of People Enjoyed Alliance Programming and Outreach

### Evening Programming

- Salsa Warriors Dance Night
- Hip to Hip Shakespeare Live
- Movies in the Park

### Children’s Programming

- Plaza Theatrical presents “Madagascar”
- Sonia De Los Santos in Performance
- Darlene Graham in Performance
- Puppets in the Park: “Cinderella Samba”
- Music Together Live
- Hip Pickles in Concert
- My Reptile Guys
- Nature Nick’s Animal Adventures

### Community Engagement

- Environmental Stewardship
- Volunteer Days
- World’s Fair History Walking Tours and Bike Rides
- Public Meetings

### Health & Fitness Classes

- Fitness Classes at the Unisphere
- Willow Lake Nature Hikes

### Cultural Programs & Festivals

- Shocktoberfest
- Only In Queens
- In Search of Something Special
- Family Day at Mauro Playground

## In FY18, the Alliance Ran Ninety-Four Programs

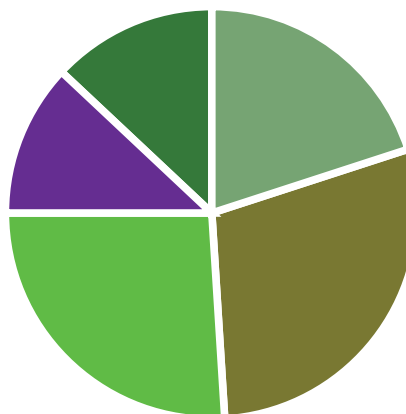
Environmental Stewardship Projects (12)

Public Engagement Events / Meetings (11)

Docent-Led Tours (24)

Volunteer Events (27)

Special Events (20)



# Programming Events



In FY18, the Alliance hosted free family entertainment, dancing at the Unisphere to the music of Salsa Warriors, and a full performance of Shakespeare’s “Measure for Measure” with the Hip to Hip Theatre Company.

For families and kids, there were two live nature shows with Nature Nick and My Reptile Guys, four live interactive musical performances with Sonia De Los Santos, Darlene Graham, Music Together by Music & Me, and the Hip Pickles band. Puppets in the Park presented “Cinderella Samba” and live theater included Plaza Theatrical’s performance of “Madagascar.” At Shocktoberfest, the Alliance’s annual Fall Festival, children enjoyed free crafts, activities, treats, costume contests, and a pumpkin patch with pick your own pumpkins.

The Alliance hired instructors to teach free weekly outdoor fitness classes at the Unisphere. Classes included Boot Camp, Aerobics, Yoga, and Zumba. “I think it’s great that the Alliance is supporting these classes for the community,” said yoga instructor Anita Haravon. “My passion for teaching and training started in Peru in 2003,” said Zumba instructor Evy Evyful. “My mentor had in mind to create a fitness program for everyone. I started teaching in 2007 at several gyms, and now I offer it here in the park, too, thanks to the Alliance.”



*“I’ve worked in Flushing Meadows Corona Park for 20 years. Thanks to the extra staff and equipment funded by the Alliance, we are able to be more proactive and efficient.”*

*- Vincent Musillo  
Park Supervisor*

## Improvements

# Improvements Overview



The Alliance raises funds to support additional equipment, staffing, and operational initiatives in the park. In FY18, this included purchasing new vehicles with specific maintenance and operations capabilities, such as snow removal on the narrowest paths in the park to enhance the park-user's enjoyment of the season outdoors, and the hiring of an extra playground associate at the Playground for All Children.

# Landscaping

The Alliance supports NYC Parks' efforts to maintain, beautify, and increase the sustainable strengths of Flushing Meadows Corona Park, working in partnership with the agency's Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources Group. Most popular with park-goers are the long rectangular Unisphere garden beds, which are so often used as a scenic backdrop for photos that volunteers and landscaping staff have placed soft wood chip paths in strategic spots so that no one tramples the plants. At one time, FMCP beds were made almost entirely by short-lived annuals. Now, perennials and shrubs are heavily mixed in to keep the gardens interesting in all seasons and so that many of the plantings return year after year. In FY18, the Alliance targeted "greeting gardens" which grace the entrances surrounding the park, and "zig zag beds" which provide inviting geometrical borders.





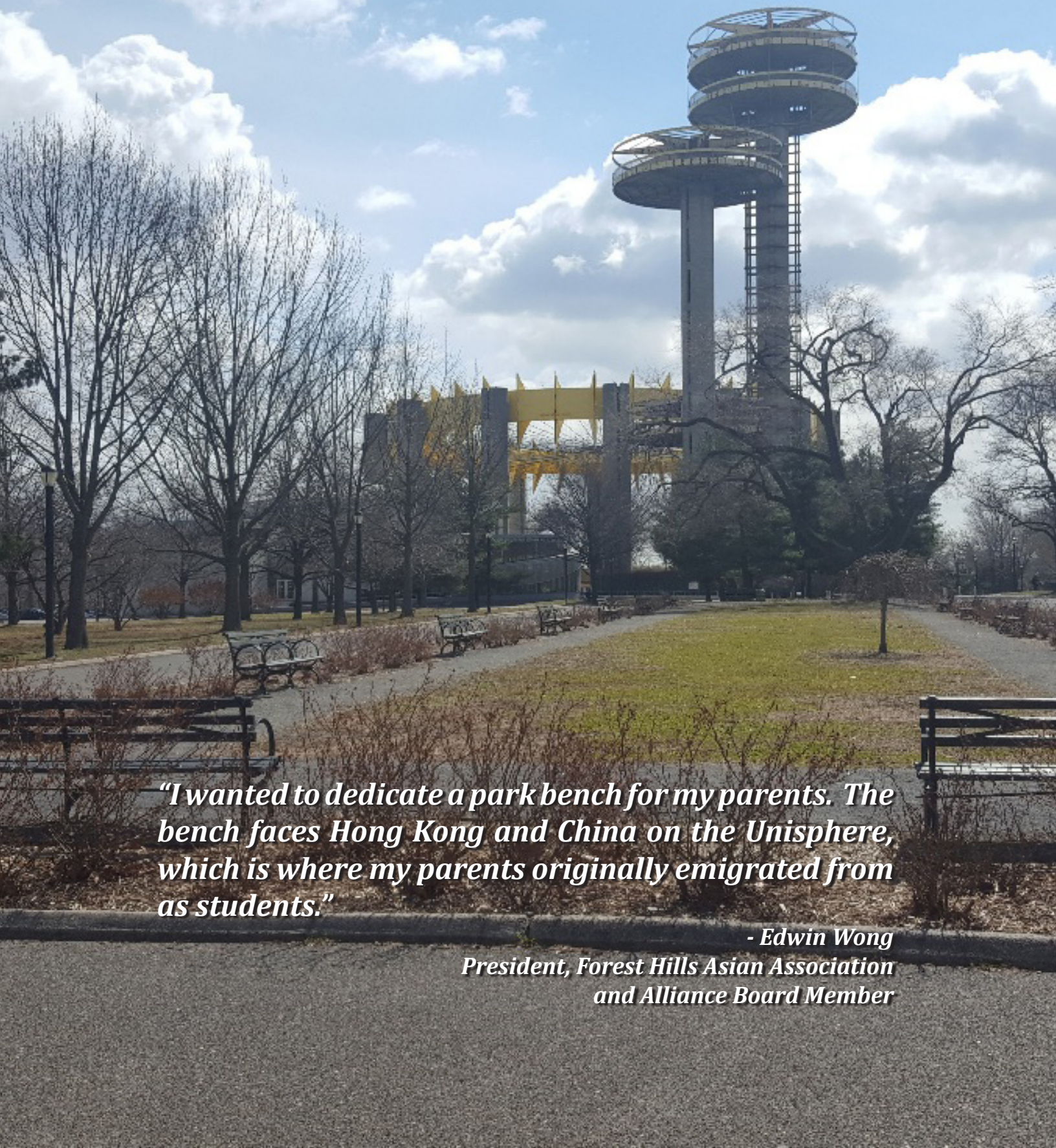
# Staffing & Equipment



In FY18, the Alliance purchased four new highly-specialized vehicles for the 898-acre park: a Trius Mini-Sweeper to clear water and debris from flooded or obstructed pathways, a pick-up truck, a trailer to transport special events equipment, and two Gators for park maintenance (in past years, the Alliance purchased a 16-yard packer, a 6-yard packer, a single-cab pick-up, three double-cab pick-ups, a double-cab dump truck, and a passenger van for transporting M & O staffers to work sites within the park).

The Alliance also rented a high-end mobile restroom facility for the peak season, and purchased boardwalk materials for Willow Lake Preserve's Pat Dolan Trail and new interpretive signage for the park's Meadow Lake area.

To address littering throughout the park, the Alliance purchased additional trash and recycling garbage receptacles in FY18 (20 trash and recycling units had been purchased by the Alliance in past years). Packers and crews picked up approximately 3,650 tons of litter for the year.



*“I wanted to dedicate a park bench for my parents. The bench faces Hong Kong and China on the Unisphere, which is where my parents originally emigrated from as students.”*

*- Edwin Wong  
President, Forest Hills Asian Association  
and Alliance Board Member*

## Fundraising

# Gala: Evening Under the Sphere



On September 13, 2017, the Alliance held its first fundraising gala, “Evening Under the Sphere.”

Moderately-priced tickets allowed community members and park lovers to participate. In-kind donations from dozens of local businesses and park vendors made it possible for the Alliance to retain nearly 98% of money raised.

A special thank you to all of our sponsors and guests, who made the Alliance’s first “Evening Under the Sphere” a great success:

*Cherry Blossom Sponsors:* Con Edison, Delta Air Lines, USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. *Willow Sponsors:* Flushing Bank. *Sweetgum Sponsors:* Verizon; Port Authority of NY/NJ. *Maple Sponsors:* Thales, National Grid, GNYADA, LaGuardia Central Terminal B, Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, New York Community Bank, Albany Strategic Advisors, New York Hall of Science, New York-Presbyterian Queens. *Supporters:* Queens Center Mall, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy. *In-Kind Donations:* Queens Night Market, Malaysian Project, Twisted Potatoes, Hong Kong Street Food, In Patella, Panda Café, World’s Fair Marina Restaurant, Coffeed, Mr. Broadway Kosher, Di Lena’s Dolcini, Single Cut Beersmith, Vine Collection, Bruce Cost Ginger Ale, Coca-Cola.

# Adopt-A-Bench

The Alliance offers the public opportunities to support the park by honoring someone they care about with a plaque on a park bench of their choice.

Adopting a bench offers the opportunity to have the plaque with your inscription placed on an existing bench in a location of your choice in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. It's a unique way to celebrate weddings, recognize birthdays, remember loved ones, and mark other special occasions and milestones.

A \$2,500 donation helps celebrate something important to you while also caring for our park.





*“The Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park represents the most diverse community in the world, and Delta is committed to giving back to the communities where we live and work each day.”*

*- Patricia Ornst  
Managing Director, New York State  
and Local Government Affairs, Delta Air Lines  
and Alliance Board Member*

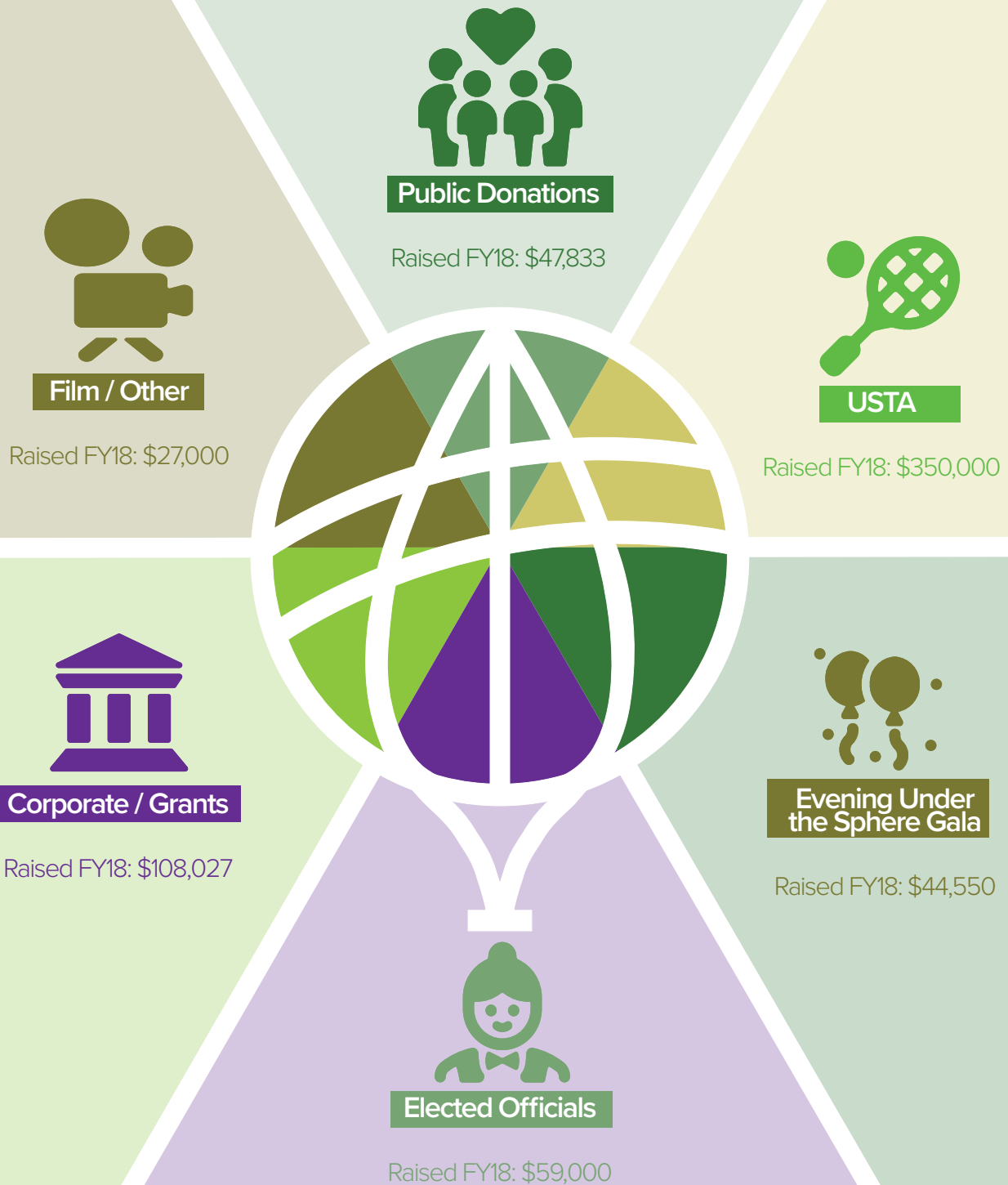
## Financials

# Financials Overview



The Alliance’s Finance and Development Committee meets quarterly to determine funding resources and designated projects for each fiscal. In FY18, the Alliance utilized both restricted funds from dedicated grants, new sources of unrestricted funding from elected officials and local business, and created specific fundraising initiatives staffed by Alliance volunteers, such as the “Evening Under the Sphere” gala.

# Financials at a Glance



# FY18 Budget

Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
 FY18 Budget  
 Budget Period July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

as of June 30, 2018

	FY17 Actual	FY18 Proposed Budget	FY 18 Actual To Date
<b>Revenue (Assets)</b>			
<i>Restricted</i>			
USTA Funds	\$700,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00
Grants	\$102,340.00	\$63,635.00	\$88,635.00
City Council	\$59,245.00	\$59,000.00	\$59,000.00
FY 17 Surplus	\$0.00	\$555,421.26	\$555,421.26
NTHP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,392.00
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>\$861,585.00</b>	<b>\$1,028,056.26</b>	<b>\$1,072,448.26</b>
<i>Unrestricted</i>			
FY16 Carry-over	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Film Shoots	\$15,950.00	\$15,000.00	\$27,000.00
Other	\$4,350.00	\$5,000.00	\$42,833.33
Adopt-a-bench	\$2,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00
Gala Reception		\$5,000.00	\$44,550.00
FY 17 Surplus		\$11,040.00	\$11,040.00
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>\$29,800.00</b>	<b>\$46,040.00</b>	<b>\$130,423.33</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$891,385.00</b>	<b>\$1,074,096.26</b>	<b>\$1,202,871.59</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<i>Restricted</i>			
Start-up	\$1,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$50,196.08	\$205,000.00	\$209,324.96
Staffing	\$83,666.28	\$180,000.00	\$186,003.56
Improvements	\$29,836.48	\$150,000.00	\$127,480.00
Miscellaneous Operations		\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Grants	\$14,371.00	\$74,413.32	\$36,447.20
City Council	\$56,213.58	\$59,000.00	\$58,572.74
Reserve		\$342,142.94	\$409,800.54
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>\$235,283.42</b>	<b>\$1,028,056.26</b>	<b>\$1,027,629.00</b>
<i>Unrestricted</i>			
Programming (unrestricted)	\$8,727.00	\$20,000.00	\$18,503.72
CPF Administrative Cost	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Administrative Costs - other		\$5,000.00	\$2,193.42
Branding/marketing		\$10,000.00	\$10,521.00
Reserve		\$1,040.00	\$1,990.29
Gala			\$2,231.57
Adopt-a-Bench			\$600.00
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$16,227.00</b>	<b>\$46,040.00</b>	<b>\$46,040.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$251,510.42</b>	<b>\$1,074,096.26</b>	<b>\$1,073,669.00</b>





*“Parks provide neighborhoods with a solid foundation on which to raise families and enrich our lives, and Con Edison looks forward to its continuing role as a supporter of the Alliance.”*

*-Carol Conslato  
Queens Director of Regional and Community Affairs, Con Edison  
and Alliance Board Member*

## Looking Ahead

# The Future



FY18 was a promising and rewarding year for the Alliance, from volunteering to fundraising, from educating and entertaining families and neighbors to protecting the environment at the park and hardening its green infrastructure against climate change and outdated environmental practices.

The year ahead will continue the Alliance's core efforts to involve surrounding communities and park users, provide free programming and services, and widen the scope of the park's potential. Work is already underway for new art in the park, new programs, and improvements to the natural areas through coordinated volunteering.

Thank you for being part of what we do. We hope you'll join us in the coming year by subscribing to our free newsletter, participating in our events, and enjoying one of the City's green gems in all seasons.

Please visit our website at [allianceformcp.org](http://allianceformcp.org) and follow @allianceformcp on social media.



**Contact:**

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



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