



EVENING UNDER THE SPHERE: THE ALLIANCE FOR FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK ANNOUNCES 2023 GALA—SEPTEMBER 28

—AFMCP to Honor Two Organizations for Queens Efforts During 2023 Benefit

—New AFMCP Award Named Posthumously for Former Borough President Claire Shulman

Today, the **Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park** announced that its annual benefit, [*Evening Under the Sphere*](#), will be held this fall under the Unisphere, Thursday, September 28, 2023, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. A festive evening full of park enthusiasts celebrating those dedicated to our local community, Evening Under the Sphere features entertainment, dancing and unlimited food and beverages from more than a dozen of our favorite *Queens Night Market* eateries. Tickets are on [sale](#) now.

“Evening Under the Sphere brings the community together to celebrate Flushing Meadows Corona Park, while raising vitally needed funds for our programs.” Said Anthony Sama, Executive Director of the Alliance and FMCP Administrator. “It is a night about showing gratitude for the people who keep our parks beautiful, the leaders who have dedicated themselves to Queens, and, with the support of Queens Night Market and our local business partners, it's also a fantastic party!”

“It heartens me to create this award in Claire’s name and for the Alliance to honor her dedicated life of service to the people of Queens.” Said Daniel Zausner, Chairman of the Alliance and COO of the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, “I see the Alliance as an organization committed to the same principles that Claire fought for, one that exists to serve the community. I see that same passion and commitment in the work of our other honorees, and that is at the core of what Evening Under the Sphere is celebrating.”

A key highlight of the Evening Under the Sphere benefit is AFMCP’s ***Freedom of the Human Spirit Award*** that will honor two organizations—the **Association for a Better New York (ABNY)** and **Laguardia Gateway Partners**—for their work to benefit Queens communities.

New this year, AFMCP has created an award that will honor former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman by posthumously naming **The Claire Shulman Award for Public Service** in her memory. This year’s award will go to a dedicated local volunteer.

Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park Awards

The Freedom of the Human Spirit Award

Named for the iconic bronze statue sculpted by Marshall Fredericks for the New York World’s Fair of 1964-65, this award celebrates outstanding work done by civic and community organizations that have positively impacted Flushing Meadows Corona Park and its communities.

2023 Honorees

The Association for a Better New York (ABNY), represented by CEO Melva M. Miller. The Association for a Better New York will be recognized for its continued support of the Alliance and many other critical cultural organizations in New York City. The organization is known for its ambitious, transformational programs that pay special attention to oft-overlooked Queens communities.

"I am truly honored that ABNY has been named to receive the Freedom of the Human Spirit Award from the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park this September at its Evening Under the Sphere benefit," said Melva M. Miller, CEO, Association for a Better New York. "This recognition highlights the collective efforts of our passionate community working tirelessly to improve and preserve this remarkable park. By accepting this honor on behalf of ABNY, I am committed to raising awareness about the park's needs and continuing our work to enhance the lives of those who call Queens home. Together, we can ensure Flushing Meadows Corona Park remains a cherished and vibrant space for generations to come."

LaGuardia Gateway Partners, represented by COO Suzette Noble. LaGuardia Gateway Partners, the manager of LaGuardia Airport's Terminal B, has been instrumental in revitalizing the terminal. The new Terminal B project finished on time and on budget in 2022, and earlier this year was named 'Best New Airport Terminal in the World' by Skytrax. The successful infrastructure project is being lauded for LaGuardia Gateway Partners' equally robust investment in the local community during the terminal's reconstruction.

"I am truly honored that we have been selected for this recognition from the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park on behalf of LaGuardia Gateway Partners," said Suzette Noble, Chief Operating Officer at LaGuardia Gateway Partners. "At LGP, we are deeply committed to the borough of Queens, bolstered through our partnerships with organizations such as the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Together, we remain dedicated to supporting initiatives that enrich the lives of our fellow Queens residents."

2022 Honorees

In 2022, the Alliance honored the following hospitals with the Spirit Award: **Long Island Jewish Forest Hills, New York Presbyterian Queens, and NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst.** They were recognized for their heroic work during the COVID-19 pandemic and for their community-driven philanthropic efforts.

The Claire Shulman Award for Public Service

The Alliance has posthumously named a new award in honor of former Borough President Claire Shulman. During the Borough President's 16-year tenure she was a relentless advocate for Flushing Meadows Corona Park and all Queens residents. The Claire Shulman Award for Public Service honors her lifelong dedication to bettering Queens and fostering the public servants of the future.

The inaugural award will honor an outstanding yet-to-be named local volunteer.

Jointly the Shulman family stated: "Our mother Claire loved Queens, and most of all loved the people of Queens. She was devoted to making Queens a warm, welcoming and nurturing place for everyone to live."

To purchase tickets and for more information about this year's *Evening Under the Sphere* go to the [2023 eventbrite page](#).

About the Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park

The Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park, launched in November 2015, is a public-private partnership created to support Flushing Meadows Corona Park with enhanced programming and

services. The Alliance board is made up of civic, business and community leaders. Funds raised by the Alliance go directly into the park, unlike monies generated by the City, which goes into the General Fund. allianceformcp.org

About Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Queens' flagship park, [Flushing Meadows Corona Park](#) was officially designated a City park June 3, 1967. Visited by approximately nine million people annually, the 898-acre space is home to several cultural institutions (Queens Theatre, New York Hall of Science, Queens Zoo and the Queens Museum) and some of New York City's most famous sporting venues (Citi Field and the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center). The park provides free, open space in the heart of Queens providing access to athletic fields, picnic and barbecue areas, wetlands, meadows, lakes, and playgrounds, as well as free concerts, outdoor movies, walking tours and nature hikes for its highly diverse surrounding communities. As the original site of both New York City World's Fairs, the park is still home to 40 World's Fair sites and structures throughout its grounds.

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