

Opportunity in Season: RB Bushwick Farmers Markets Enhance Nutrition Access & Local Economy Starting May 2017

RBSCC's Bushwick Farmers Markets Expand the Reach of Fresh Food, Local Vendors and Community Celebration.

Bushwick, BROOKLYN, May 18, 2017 -- In a move that celebrates its ongoing commitment to the Bushwick community, Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, INC (RBSCC) will partner with EcoStation:NY to launch three RB Bushwick Farmers Markets, a network of markets featuring fresh produce and a collection of local products & vendors from a cross-section of diverse residents. By partnering with EcoStation:NY, RBSCC is not only ensuring the preservation of a perennial neighborhood institution at Maria Hernandez Park, but also deepening the organization's efforts to improve nutrition access, expand economic opportunity and enhance community connections in Bushwick.

"RB Bushwick Farmers Markets represent an exciting new chapter in RBSCC's longstanding commitment to the wellbeing of Bushwick and its residents," said **Scott Short**, Assistant Executive Director at RBSCC. "This network of markets will serve as critical infrastructure to support a community-centric economy that puts equitable nutrition access at its center. EcoStation:NY built a cherished Bushwick institution with the original Bushwick Farmers Market, and we are excited to bring additional resources to grow this community asset. Addressing the health disparities in Bushwick and other low-income neighborhoods in Brooklyn is a core focus of RBSCC and critical to our mission of catalyzing thriving communities."

"RBSCC's farmers markets will build on the great work that Eco Station has done to bring fresh and healthy food options to Bushwick, and I am happy to be able to support their expansion to new sites. I encourage everyone to visit the markets, meet your neighbors, and pick up some affordable produce and locally-made food." **Antonio Reynoso**, Council Member for the 34th District

Each of the RB Bushwick Farmers Market partners shares RBSCC's goal of reducing persistent barriers to health and nutrition, and creating inclusive spaces. By bringing together a diverse group of local food growers, prepared food purveyors, entrepreneurs, community organizations and artists of all kinds, the markets will present an assortment of experiences reflecting Bushwick's multicultural heritage and funky character. Every market day is intended to be a celebration of the neighborhood, a chance to learn and exchange, and in true Bushwick fashion, ENJOY!

To better serve the full community spectrum, market season is longer than in previous years and additional locations are dispersed throughout northern Bushwick. New Farmers Market sites include a Sunday market on Bushwick Avenue between Noll and Beaver at the Rheingold Arch – a corridor rich with true Bushwick spirit. For the first time, a night market will be included in the market season to add a dash of spice to Troutman Street on Fridays. Socioeconomic

inclusion is a key mission of the markets, and as such, starting in June EBT transactions will not only welcome but encouraged. The complete network of markets are as follows:

Fridays (May 19 – Dec 15) || Night Market @ 434 Troutman St || 6pm-10pm

Saturdays (May 20 – Dec 16) || Maria Hernandez Park || 10am-4pm

Sundays (May 21 – Dec 17) || Rheingold Archway @ 553 Bushwick Ave || 10am-4pm

RBSCC and EcoStation:NY envision that RB Bushwick Farmers Markets will spark new ideas about community efficacy and economic empowerment among Bushwick residents. Visitors are invited to share their visions of these community projects and help to shape their direction going forward. The markets are poised to be an important part of the community's conversation increasing equity – health, economic or otherwise – in the neighborhood so many love.

About RBSCC:

What began as a single-focused program has blossomed into one of the most broad-based and prestigious multi-service nonprofit agencies in New York City. The Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council was founded in 1973 as a senior service provider in the Ridgewood and Bushwick communities. At the heart of its [mission](#) was a deep commitment to empowering individuals and supporting families through the creation and facilitation of a thriving and healthy environment where growth and prosperity are possible. Since its founding, RBSCC has grown tremendously and its scope of services has extended far beyond that of its early years. Today it provides a vast array of social services to residents of all ages within the Bushwick, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, East New York, Ridgewood, Glendale, and surrounding Brooklyn and Queens communities. Serving thousands each year, the RBSCC has assisted countless community residents since 1973.

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