NEW YORK, NY (April 2, 2015) – You Are Here: Creating a New Approach to Civic Participation in the World’s Park is an exhibition that highlights the people, process and proposals emerging for Flushing Meadows Corona Park (FMCP) in Queens, NY from a rigorous design collaboration. A group of residents, supported and led by the NYC Parks administrators, the Queens Museum, and the Design Trust fellows team, developed design concepts to improve the connectivity between Flushing Meadows Corona Park and the neighboring communities. The exhibition featuring community-driven ideas to enhance the access and circulation around and within the Park will be on view from April 12 - May 3, 2015.

As part of the opening program, advisors from the community will present new design concepts from 2:00-3:00 p.m., with a feedback session and a reception from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2015.

You Are Here culminates the first phase of The World’s Park: Reconnecting a Regional Park with Its Neighbors, a community engagement partnership between the NYC Parks, the Queens Museum, and the Design Trust for Public Space, focused on creatively engaging the community of neighbors that are passionate about the future of Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The exhibition underlines creative opportunities for the Park’s future that were explored by community advisors in response to the connectivity challenges surrounding access, wayfinding, park history, cultural resources, and programming for various age groups.

The design concepts on view include innovative information kiosks, art installations for park entrances, wayfinding landmarks, and sensory play areas for children with special needs. The exhibition also illuminates the curriculum for the series of learning events that have been bringing together the community advisors and parks administrators since December 2014.

"For people who don’t feel very included in city life, like our newest New Yorkers, this park can be an opportunity for integration and to feel ownership over something. It’s not hard to have that feeling of inclusion when the time is taken to provide a meaningful learning experience, like with this project," said Maria Julia Echart, community advisor for the World’s Park project.
“The community advisors featured in this exhibition reflect the diversity of people who consider Flushing Meadows Corona Park their own backyard. We are so grateful to them for volunteering their time to explore ways to improve Queens’ largest park, and I can’t wait to see their final ideas on display,” said Flushing Meadows Corona Park Administrator Janice Melnick.

“The Queens Museum has always strived to engage local communities in creative and meaningful ways, and the World’s Park project is one such initiative. Located within Flushing Meadows Corona Park, we are keenly aware of the powerful symbiotic relationship between the park, community, and museum, and while we are proud to partner with the NYC Parks, Design Trust and community advisors to expand the discourse and to pursue community-driven ideas that will bolster the future of Flushing Meadows Corona Park, we are even more excited to see the fruits of this endeavor shared with the community at large,” said Laura Raicovich, Executive Director of the Queens Museum.

“We’re proud to be able to help Queens residents shape the future of Flushing Meadows Corona Park. This exhibition is only the beginning of a true collaboration between community members and the city agencies to maximize the community use of this invaluable public resource and renowned destination in NYC,” said Design Trust for Public Space executive director Susan Chin.

Simultaneous Spanish and Mandarin interpretation will be offered at the exhibition opening and the community forum on April 12, 2015, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Interpretación simultánea en Español y Mandarin será ofrecida.
本活動將會使用西班牙語和普通話進行同聲傳譯。

**Community Advisors**
Community advisors, recruited to become advocates and effective partners with the NYC Parks’ effort to initiate community-led enhancements in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, represent a wide range of ages, professional and cultural backgrounds, and every neighborhood that surrounds the Park. Among the organizations represented are: FMCP Conservancy, Make the Road NY, Evergreen Community Garden, Immigrant Movement International, Queensborough Hill Civic Association, Forest Hills Civic Association, Korean Community Services, Asian Americans for Equality, and Sustainable Queens.

The community advisors have been working together since December 2014 attending an intensive ‘Community Design School’ to acquire the planning, design, and stewardship skills to improve and maintain the Park. Working alongside members of NYC Parks, the Queens Museum and the Design Trust Fellows team, they have developed ideas for the Park’s enhancement in four focus groups: Access, Navigation, Opportunity, and Learning. The group members are eager to grow and sustain the group beyond the exhibition.

**Design Trust Fellows**
A team of Design Trust Fellows, each an expert in her or his own field, has led the research, design, and planning work for *The World's Park: Reconnecting a Regional Park with Its Neighbors*. They are:

José Serrano-McClain, **Community Organizing Fellow**, has cultivated the community advisors and leads the planning of the community forums for *The World’s Park* project. He has also integrated community organizing education into the curriculum of *The World’s Park* Community Design School.
http://designtrust.org/people/fellows/jose-serrano/

Sarah Lidgus, **Design Education Fellow**, has designed and leads the classes at *The World’s Park* Community Design School. Lidgus’s work explores opportunities for empathy within large, complicated systems.
http://designtrust.org/people/fellows/sarah-lidgus/

Sam Holleran, **Participatory Design Fellow**, is the designer of the *You Are Here* exhibition. Holleran has also developed the curriculum and teaches at *The World’s Park* Community Design School.
http://designtrust.org/people/fellows/sam-holleran/

**Flushing Meadows Corona Park**
Flushing Meadows Corona Park, one of the most heavily used parks in the NYC Parks system, houses national sports centers, such as the USTA Billie Jean King National Center and CitiField as well as cultural institutions, including New York Hall of Science, Queens Museum, Queens Theatre, and Queens Zoo.
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
NYC Parks is the steward of approximately 29,000 acres of land—14 percent of New York City—including more than 5,000 individual properties ranging from Coney Island Beach and Central Park to community gardens and Greenstreets. We operate more than 800 athletic fields and nearly 1,000 playgrounds, 550 tennis courts, 66 public pools, 48 recreational facilities, 17 nature centers, 13 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches. We care for 1,200 monuments and 23 historic house museums. We look after 650,000 street trees, and two million more in parks. We are New York City’s principal providers of recreational and athletic facilities and programs. We are home to free concerts, world-class sports events, and cultural festivals.
For further information, please visit: http://www.nyc.gov/parks

Queens Museum
The Queens Museum is dedicated to presenting the highest quality visual arts and educational programming for people in the New York metropolitan area, and particularly for the residents of Queens, a uniquely diverse, ethnic, cultural, and international community. The Museum fulfills its mission by designing and providing art exhibitions, public programs and educational experiences that promote the appreciation and enjoyment of art, support the creative efforts of artists, and enhance the quality of life through interpreting, collecting, and exhibiting art, architecture, and design.
For further information, please visit: http://www.queensmuseum.org/

Design Trust for Public Space
The Design Trust for Public Space is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the future of public space in New York City. Our projects bring together city agencies, community groups and private sector experts to make a lasting impact—through design—on how New Yorkers live, work and play. Design Trust's projects jumpstarted the High Line's conversions from derelict railway to a green corridor of open space, activated innovation for the first custom-built Taxi of Tomorrow, and developed the sustainability guidelines that became the precursor to New York City's Local Law and PlaNYC.
For further information, please visit: http://designtrust.org/

The World's Park: Reconnecting a Regional Park with Its Neighbors is made possible by:

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