



Website Features Diversity Of Queens

By Alice Lok

Thisourqueens.com started as part of Dave Kerpen's campaign for borough president. Despite the fact that Kerpen has withdrawn from the borough president race, the project, which shows the diverse faces of Queens, continues on.

Michelle Kawka, the Queens-based photographer who took most of the portraits, said, "I don't think people realize how diverse our borough is and this certainly helps increase awareness and what a great place it is to live and work."

The project features digital photos of people who grew up, live in and/or work in Queens. According to the website's 'about' page, the project and the site are "dedicated to sharing the incredible strength, diversity and beauty of the people of Queens, New York with the rest of the world."

Currently, there are more than 25 countries represented from across six continents. Kawka said however, that they're still looking for someone with ties to Australia. Once their photo is snapped, then every continent of the

world will be represented.

With four photographers working to cover Queens, the most diverse county in the nation, Kawka said she ran into some very interesting characters.

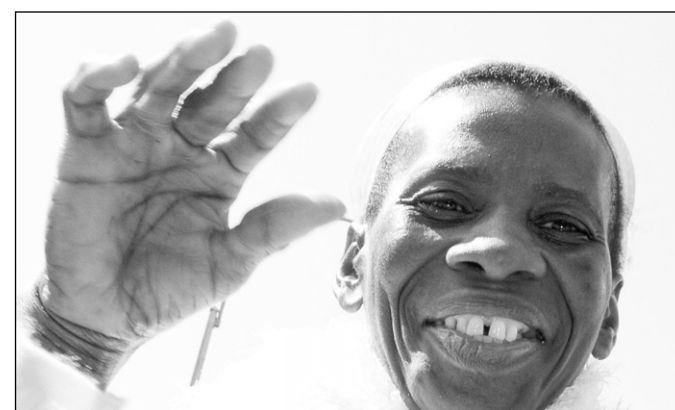
The project took Kawka everywhere, from Sikh temples in Richmond Hill to the Rockaways, where she met a surfer from Kansas, to Jamaica where she met an evangelical Christian who uttered blessings as Kawka took her photograph.

Kawka said she enjoyed meeting people and going out into communities and finding people to photograph.

Despite the fact that the site is no longer used for its original campaign purpose, Kawka said she hopes the project will continue to expand and promote unity amongst people in Queens.

"Personally, I would love to see this expand into other boroughs," said Kawka. But to start, she said she dreams of an exhibit featuring the faces in the Queens Museum of Art.

"We put together a really beautiful, really exciting project," said Kawka.



Upcoming Queens Events

JUNE 30, 2009

Technical Assistance Seminar for Federal Construction Contractors – Presented by Office of Federal Contract, Compliance Programs (OFCCP), New York District Office – 9:30 AM - Noon -Queens Chamber of Commerce, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., Jackson Heights 11370 - - Please place your reservation with Stephanie Oliva, either by fax at 212-264-8166, or by Email at oliva.stephanie@dol.gov or call for additional information at 212-264-7742.

JUNE 30, 2009

New York Empire State Development Corporation Division of Minority & Women's Business Development & U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency presents Energy Efficiency & Green Technology Opportunities Stimulus & Beyond! – 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. - The Bank of New York Mellon, 101 Barclay Street, New York City - Space is Limited! - You must pre-register at <http://02bc77a.netsolhost.com/energyefficiency/register.html> to attend! FREE

JULY 19, 2009

Communications and Public Affairs Meeting with NYS Assembly member Andrew Hevesi - More information to follow – Please check

www.queenschamber.org for latest details

JULY 22, 2009

46th ANNUAL DAY AT BELMONT Join us for a fun filled day at the exclusive Turf and Field Club Panoramic view of all the racing action Private Betting Window Tabletop monitors Delicious buffet....all in your private area. Date: Wednesday at Noon luncheon and 1p.m. post time Cost \$75 per person \$700 per ten tickets. Sponsorships Opportunities are available Please call 718-898-8500 or on the web: www.queenschamber.org and click on calendar. Attire: Business Casual. You must register with the chamber before you can go to Belmont park. If you go to Belmont and do not have a ticket you will not be able to go to the races. All non-members must register with a credit card.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

Business Card Exchange at Wingate By Wyndham at LaGuardia Airport Outdoor Party 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. Free Indoor Parking. At 137-07 Northern Blvd. Flushing NY 11354 More information TBA

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

Communications and Public Affairs Meeting 8:30am at Queens Chamber Board Room 75-

20 Astoria Blvd. Suite 140 Jackson Heights NY Please call Sophia at 718-898-8500 or Fax 718-898-8599 to let her know if you will attend or will not attend.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Business Person of the Year GALA 2009 – 6 PM - Terrace on the Park - Please save the date on your calendar. More information TBA

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Information Technology Committee Meeting at Queens Chamber Board Room 75-20 Astoria Blvd. Jackson Heights at 8:30 a.m. Please call Sophia at 718-898-8500 x23 if you will attend or not

OCTOBER 15, 2009

Golf Outing at North Hills Country Club More information TBA

OCTOBER 22, 2009

Information Technology Committee Meeting at Queens Board Room 75-20 Astoria Blvd. Jackson Heights at 8:30 a.m. TBD Please call Sophia at 718-898-8500 if you will be coming or not

OCTOBER 22, 2009

15th Annual Queens Leader's Award

Reception Thursday at Center for Automotive Education and Training in Whitestone beginning at 6pm. For more call New York Arthritis Foundation 212-984-7-8706 Polly Whitehorn or pwhitehorn@arthritis.org

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Information Technology Committee Meeting at Queens Chamber Board Room 75-20 Astoria Blvd. Jackson Heights at 8:30 a.m. TBD Please call Sophia at 718-898-8500 if you will be coming or not

DECEMBER 3, 2009

97th Annual Building Awards and Dinner Terrace on the Park More information TBA

DECEMBER 17, 2009

Information Technology Committee Meeting at 8:30 a.m. Queens Chamber Board Room 75-20 Astoria Blvd. Jackson Heights TBD Please call Sophia at 718-898-8500 if you will be coming or not

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT US AT (718) 898-8500. VIST US ON OUR WEB WWW.QUEENSCHAMBER.ORG CLICK ON CALENDER