

**Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning  
Announces the Return of the  
Queens International Children’s Festival**

**Free two-day event with family-friendly  
COVID-safe performances and activities**



**May 17, 2021 (New York)** -- Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (JCAL) is thrilled to announce the return of Queens International Children’s Festival, a free, two-day family event that brings together high-quality arts performances and activities to inspire children and families to enjoy the arts. Being held on Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, June 13, 12pm to 5pm, at the **Jamaica Performing Arts Center** (153-10 Jamaica Avenue), the Festival will offer live music and dance performances, interactive workshops, a magic show and much more.

After pausing the annual event in 2020 due to COVID, the Queens International Children’s Festival is back with a diverse range of performances and activities for the entire family to enjoy. The latest state and CDC-approved safety protocols will be observed throughout, with only 150 people allowed on the JPAC grounds at any given time—so RSVPs are strongly advised!

Following Saturday's Opening Ceremony, the Festival will kick off with **Showtime NYC**, one of New York City's largest street dance programs. Showtime NYC is part of the nonprofit, Bessie-nominated Dancing in the Streets. Next, the Festival will bring to the stage a Hip-Hop dance workshop by one of JCAL's most popular teaching artists, **Janora Blackman**, and following that will be an exciting folkloric performance from the acclaimed **Calpulli Mexican Dance Company**. The final event on Saturday will showcase the incredible dancers of **Edge School of the Arts**, a Southeast, Queens-based dance school that has stood for decades as a beacon of cultural and artistic excellence in the community.

Day 2 of the Queens International Children's Festival will be just as action-packed, beginning with a voice workshop offered by another one of JCAL's professional teaching artists, **Karina Parker**. Then there will be spoken word performances and dance shows by the **Thunderbirds** and **Soul Steps**.

We'll also invite everyone under 12 to participate in a **creative drawing contest** on the JPAC grounds. And on both days of the Festival, we'll offer **mini-golf, cotton candy, popcorn, merchandise** and more than a few surprises!

Funding for the Queens International Children's Festival is made possible by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, with additional support from the Queens Delegation to the New York City Council, including Council Members I. Daneek Miller and Adrienne Adams, and by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Con Edison, Ameriprise and Flushing Bank.

"What's coming back? We are!," said Interim Executive Director Leonard Jacobs in a statement. "After a year in which we knew we had to stay inside and wonder if and when any of us would ever once again get outside, we can finally come out with our kids and have a great—safe—time being together. That's what makes our Queens International Children's Festival so fun and special, and we can't wait to welcome as everyone in the community back to JPAC in June."

"We learned so much in the last few months about how to presenting all kinds of events and concerts and festivals and how to do it in a way that lets everybody relax and have a great time and stay safe," added Interim Artistic Director Courtney Ffrench. "Now we're moving into summer, and finally this our time to be with our kids, hear them laughing and screaming and jumping and just—you know—being kids again. We all miss that and want that—that's what our festival is all about, and a lot more. So come to JPAC, have a great time, and say hello! We can't wait to see everyone there!"

#### **About JCAL**

**Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL)**, founded in 1972, is a multidisciplinary arts center based in the diverse community of Southeast Queens. Our mission is devoted to offering quality visual, performing, and literary arts, and to providing accessible education programs to encourage participation in the arts. JCAL is temporarily closed in accordance with state and local guidelines. Normal operating hours: Open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm; closed Sundays and major holidays. For additional information, call JCAL at 718-658-7400 or visit [JCAL.org](http://JCAL.org).

#### **Media Contact:**

Tyrel Hunt, Marketing Manager 347-515-3652 or [tyrelh@jcal.org](mailto:tyrelh@jcal.org)