**Introduction**

When COVID-19 sweeps through an area, a region, the virus attacks people equally, regardless of race, class or socio-economic status. However, the impact left on people, families and communities is very different. People have means far much better than those who are struggling financially, and people of color have sustained a much higher mortality rate. In New York City, Asian Americans have had another pandemic to fight; anti-Asian hate crimes went through the roof, making all of us fearful of our safety in school, on the street, in public transportations. When COVID-19 hit, the most linguistically diverse place in the world—a number of people born in Queens, the borough the most linguistically diverse place in the world. We are celebrating the library's 125th anniversary with year-long virtual activities, events for staff & public.

Stories From the Queens Public Library, Before, During and After COVID-19 Pandemic

Queen County is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse areas in New York City. More than 50% of the population is foreign born. More than 300 languages are spoken in Queens, making it the most linguistically diverse place in the world.

Queen Public Library is one of the largest and busiest public libraries in the US. We are dedicated to serving our most ethnically and culturally diverse area in the country. Our library has more than 5 libraries and 23 branches.

In 2020, we collected more than 12 million materials, welcomed 12 million visitors, served more than 5 million visitors, posted 15 million copies, updated 70,000 online databases, offered over 80K programs, our collection includes materials in 250 languages and we offer services in 250 languages.

**COVID-19 Pandemic: Devastating Impact on Our Community**

In 2020, as the city was urged to stay at home, we collected first-hand stories of New Yorkers, sharing personal memories, personal experiences, and personal opinions.

In the spring of 2020, four boroughs of New York City were hit hard by the pandemic. Our library staff were on the front lines, providing information, documentation, time documentation, time documentation, time documentation.

After March 20th, as the city was urged to stay at home, we collected first-hand stories of New Yorkers, sharing personal memories, personal experiences, and personal opinions.

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**QPL Responds: Reconnecting, Rebuilding**

QPL quickly moved a number of services online after initial shutdowns from the coronavirus pandemic. Expanded digital services, contactless pick-up, and virtual programs were implemented to allow the library to continue serving the needs of its community.

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