



**NORTH
BROOKLYN
PARKS
ALLIANCE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTH BROOKLYN PARKS ALLIANCE OPENS UNDER THE K BRIDGE PARK

Illumination NYC will fill the seven acre space with light October 22-24, 2020



Creekside at Under the K Bridge Park. Courtesy North Brooklyn Parks Alliance

September 30, 2020 - Brooklyn, NY - North Brooklyn Parks Alliance, in partnership with New York State Department of Transportation, is pleased to announce the opening of a new seven-acre park in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

Located directly under the Kosciuszko Bridge and called “Under the K Bridge Park,” the new park converts a formerly abandoned site into a vibrant seven-acre open space that invites the public to a little-known waterfront of Newtown Creek. The space, designed by Toronto-based landscape architecture firm, PUBLIC WORK, features expansive multi-purpose sections for recreation and culture, as well as woodland areas where more than 20,000 trees and native plant species now grow, including ferns, birches, maples, dogwoods, and evergreens. Elevated lawns and a granite stairway provide optimal viewing points for the Manhattan skyline.

Unprecedented demand for open space, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has made clear that parks are essential to the physical and mental health of our communities. In Greenpoint, Brooklyn, there is simply not enough parkland to ensure safe social distancing for every resident, and the creation of seven open acres – built and opened during a harrowing period of public health and fiscal crises – is a welcome addition to the neighborhood, New York City, and the State at large. The park presents much needed physical outdoor space, while offering a beacon of hope that symbolizes New York’s path of resiliency.

Under the soaring Kosciuszko Bridge columns, reaching as high as 100 feet, the new park distinguishes itself with massive industrial rooms that offer opportunity for creative expression, including large-scale public art projects that incorporate light, sound and sculptural works. Light will fill the new space this fall.

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For its inaugural event, free to the public with advanced registration, Illumination NYC will present 10+ new media installations and interactive experiences nightly from October 22-24, 2020. NYC Rhizome Creative, Jen Lewin, and NYCxDESIGN are among the participating artist and design projects. Illumination NYC's mission is to unite people of all ages through light-based installations and technological wonders. The inaugural light festival offers visual inspiration during a challenging period for New York City.

The nightly event will be free and open to all, while also following appropriate protocol and guidelines for public events in the era of COVID-19. The public will be welcomed via advanced (free) registration with timed entry to experience light installations and illuminated effects on a continued art walk that reflects this new innovative public space's distinct features, while highlighting the architectural beauty of the bridge itself.

NYS Assembly Member Joe Lentol said, "I want to thank Governor Cuomo, the New York State Department of Transportation and the North Brooklyn Parks Alliance for the commitment and creative energy that went into creating this park. Under the K is a gem. It allows more space for New Yorkers to be outside and it will allow for unique art and music projects as well as children, teen and family programming. Right now we all need local outdoor spots to visit, spend time at and just refresh from the stress of life during these challenging times. Under the K offers us a special way to spend a day."

"During these unprecedented and challenging times, New York City's vibrancy is thriving because of innovative transformations of open space, where the public has taken to the streets, parks, and plazas to gather, play, and share experiences in socially distant ways," said **Katie Denny Horowitz, Executive Director of North Brooklyn Parks Alliance**. "In this context Under the K Bridge Park presents a new paradigm for parks in a dense urban environment, where underutilized, abandoned open space under an elevated highway can be turned into a community asset and open-air venue for creativity, recreation, and environmental exploration.

"After a tumultuous year where we've experienced the greatest darkness in a generation, we present this festival as an opportunity for all New Yorkers to start a new chapter filled with hope, love and light," said **Ron Fisher, Illumination NYC Founder & President**. "Illumination's inaugural event is a celebration of life and art, aspiring to grow into a lasting part of New York's incomparable cultural landscape."

ABOUT THE PARK

Lodged between industry and a modern marvel, Under the K offers a contrasting vision for the waterfront along the Northeast edge of Brooklyn. With funding from the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, North Brooklyn Parks Alliance commissioned PUBLIC WORK, firm responsible for The Bentway in Toronto, for a community-driven design process that lasted two years and resulted in a design framework that unveiled to the public in summer 2019. On August 28, 2019, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced funding to build PUBLIC WORK's innovative design in a construction project that began last fall, led by NYS DOT. Envisioned as a collaborative space unlike any other traditional park, Under the K celebrates the force of nature and Greenpoint's diverse community culture, and its expansive space offers an experimental environment to explore innovative – and safe – socially distant programming in ways not possible in existing parks.

ABOUT NORTH BROOKLYN PARKS ALLIANCE (NBK PARKS)

>> www.nbkparks.org

Formed in 2003 as Open Space Alliance, the North Brooklyn Parks Alliance (NBK Parks) aims to create an equitable, accessible, and vibrant parks system in North Brooklyn. We accomplish this by harnessing public and private investment opportunities to improve and create parkland; ensuring equity across the district and community-driven prioritization; and activating parks and open spaces with vibrant cultural and educational programming. Through a public-private partnership with NYS DOT, NBK Parks led the design of Under the K Bridge Park and now manages, operates, and programs the space.

ABOUT ILLUMINATION NYC

>> www.illumination.nyc

Born in DUMBO, Brooklyn in the traditions of DUMBO Arts Festival and the Festivals of Lights in Berlin and Sydney, Illumination NYC aims to fill a void on the community cultural calendar by welcoming local artists and curating unique visual experiences to the neighboring public. In the spirit of Nuit Blanche and other successful night festivals, it intends to be appreciated after sundown. Illumination NYC's founders and producing partners include veterans of both of these DUMBO experiences, with prolific experience in visual arts and public events. The combined producing team is made up of NYC-based artists, producers, technicians, and community relations professionals.

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