



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
www.OANA-NY.org

The Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA) is proud to announce the creation of the Astoria Waterfront Arts District (AWAD). We have advocated for the creation of the district since 2018, and appreciate the support we are receiving. The District has been honored with a Proclamation on the Congressional Record initiated by Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney published December 2022.

Congressional Record Proclamation: [https://oana-ny.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/congressional\\_record.pdf](https://oana-ny.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/congressional_record.pdf)

AWAD: <https://oana-ny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Astoria-Waterfront-Arts-District.pdf>

Our waterfront is a hidden asset, though easily accessible to all New Yorkers and visitors via the Astoria Ferry landing. It is anchored by 3 cultural Institutions: the Welling Court Mural project, Socrates Sculpture Park, and the Noguchi Museum. Furthermore, a multi-million dollar restoration effort has revitalized Halletts Cove, enhancing its ecological resilience while allowing for greater access for relaxing, fishing, and boating activities.

OANA is dedicated to marketing the new Arts District to promote this important cultural asset through events and festivals, promotion of local artists and small businesses, and advocacy for greater neighborhood environmental resilience and safety. We are also spearheading the development of a new capital project that will add a publicly-accessible performance venue to the waterfront to further enhance opportunities for artists while increasing cultural engagement with residents and visitors to the area.

Old Astoria was a historically red-lined district, and today remains one of Western Queens' most diverse areas as well as home to a long-standing Black community. It is also home to three NYCHA communities (Astoria Houses, Ravenswood Houses, and Queensbridge Houses.) One of OANA's explicit aims in championing the Astoria Waterfront Arts District is to ensure that our local arts scene is both accessible to and reflective of our neighborhood diversity, and to leverage the power of art in advocating for greater opportunities and quality of life for all of our residents. AWAD also promises to bring greater support to our growing hyper-local community of artists and creative changemakers.

**Old Astoria Neighborhood Association: Sponsor of AWAD:** <https://oana-ny.org/>

OANA is a 501C3 non-profit established in 2014 whose mission is to advocate for Quality-of-life issues, plus work to promote the Cultural and Economic Health of Astoria and its waterfront. Our Borders are Queensborough Plaza to the south, 21<sup>st</sup> st/20<sup>th</sup> ave-Steinway st to the east and the East River to the west and north, home to over 17000 households. We hold meetings educating the neighborhood of issues and programs, and hold events and festivals to help meet our goals. Accomplishments include street cleaning throughout the neighborhood, and the extension of the Ferry to the UES. We recently



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partnered with Queens Economic Development Corp to promote local small business and with the sponsorship of AWAD, look forward to economic and cultural growth in our community.

**Welling Court Mural project** <https://www.wellingcourtmuralprojectnyc.com/>

The Welling Court Mural Project (WCMP) is one of the largest, longest-running outdoor mural projects in New York City. Founded in 2009 by Alison Wallis, WCMP has helped beautify the Astoria community while featuring over 1,600 murals by artists from around the world including the founders of NYC Graffiti and Street Art. The project is a prominent tourist attraction that draws thousands of visitors to Astoria Queens each year. WCMP aims to work with partner organizations and capital projects to continue supporting living artists with new opportunities throughout NYC.

**Socrates Sculpture Park** <https://socratessculpturepark.org/>

Socrates Sculpture Park is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting artists in the production and presentation of contemporary public art. It is located on the East River waterfront in a New York City Park on the border of Long Island City and Astoria, Queens. Socrates is an internationally renowned outdoor exhibition space and studio program, a neighborhood park that offers a wide variety of free community events, programs, and services.

The Park was established in 1986 by the artist Mark di Suvero with other artists and community members. Once an abandoned landfill, it has been transformed into a thriving cultural space, a unique environment where artists are invited to create and present ambitious public art projects in an urban park landscape setting. The Park offers an extensive roster of inclusive public and educational programming, from events and live performances to yoga classes and meditation sessions. Education programs are provided for individuals of all ages, especially from our local community, to support life-long learning through an engagement with art and the natural landscape of the Park

**Noguchi Museum** <https://www.noguchi.org/>

Founded in 1985 by category-defying artist [Isamu Noguchi](#) (1904–1988), The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (now known as The Noguchi Museum), was the first museum in the United States to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Located in Long Island City, Queens, the Museum itself is widely viewed as among the artist's greatest achievements.

The Museum today remains a place for the exploration of individual artistic endeavor and creative collaboration through exposure to Noguchi's wide-ranging practice. Through an active exhibition and public programming schedule, coupled with ongoing education, preservation, and research projects, the Museum continues to illuminate the enduring influence of Noguchi in dialogue with contemporary culture.