

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

MOVING FORWARD

LIVING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC, FDC GIVES SMALL BUSINESSES WHAT THEY NEED TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE



NEWKIRK PLAZA
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION



CORTEYOU ROAD
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

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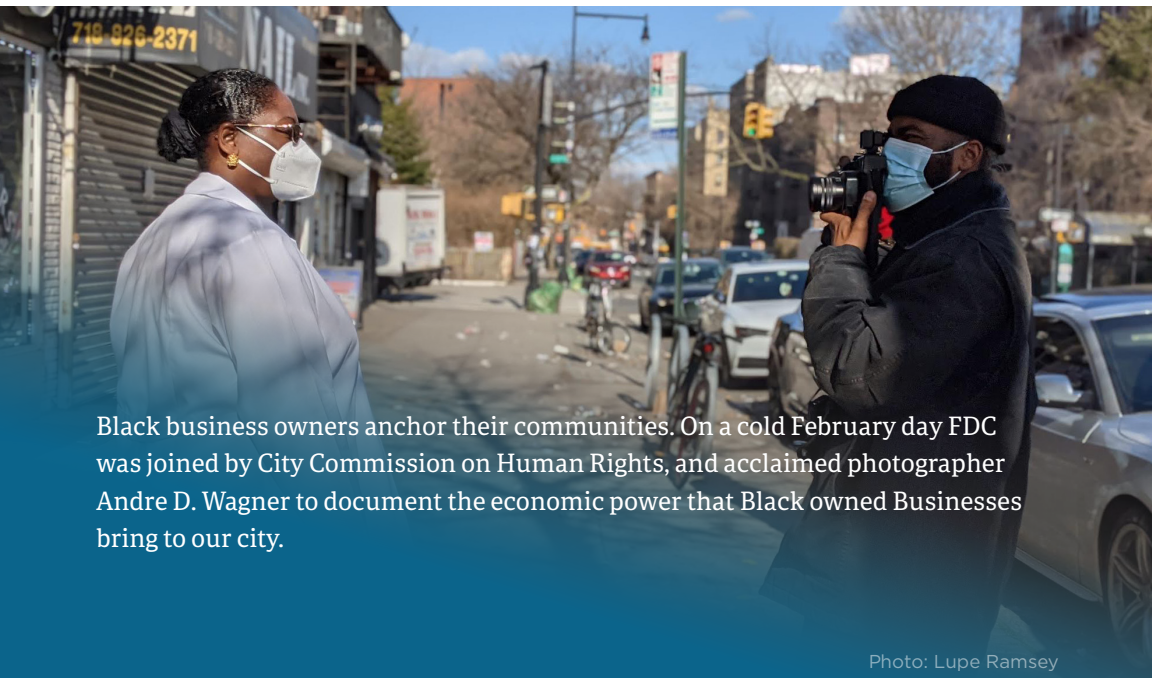
A lot goes into keeping small businesses open, especially during a pandemic. This year FDC and its partners provided technology, legal services, financial tools, and City regulatory assistance to our 300+ Ditmas Park businesses. We know that the wellbeing of small businesses means jobs preserved, quality goods and services for the community, and a more vibrant, healthy place to call home.



Photo: Andre D. Wagner

SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

CELEBRATING BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES



Black business owners anchor their communities. On a cold February day FDC was joined by City Commission on Human Rights, and acclaimed photographer Andre D. Wagner to document the economic power that Black owned Businesses bring to our city.

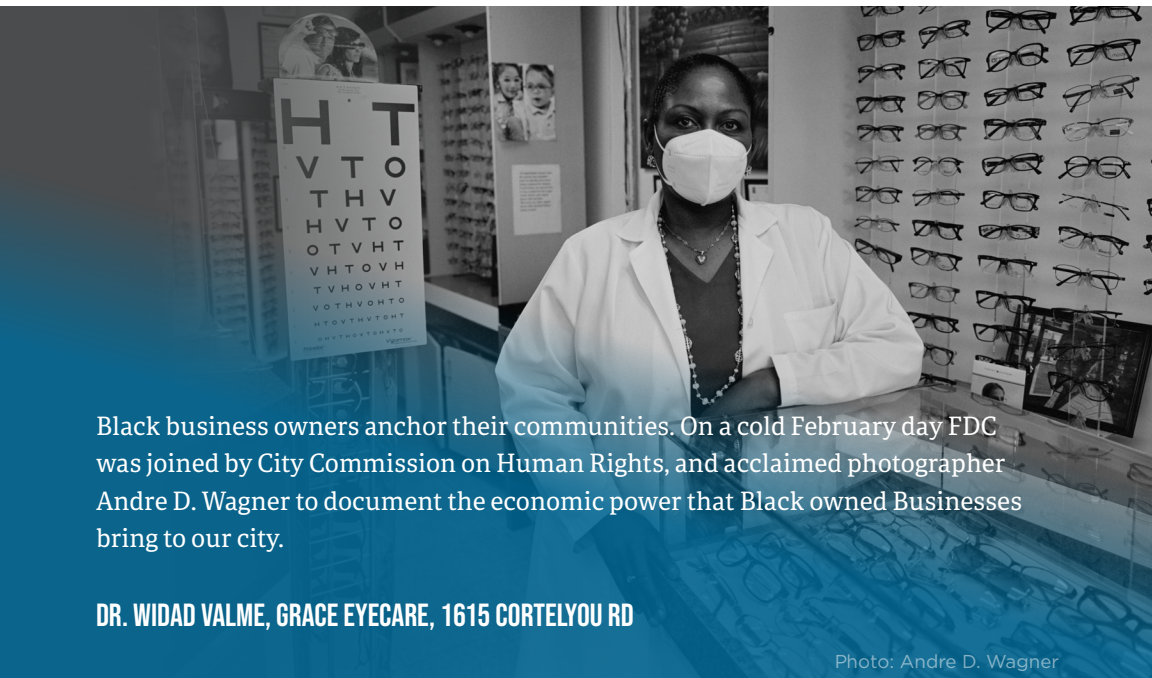
Photo: Lupe Ramsey

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

CELEBRATING BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

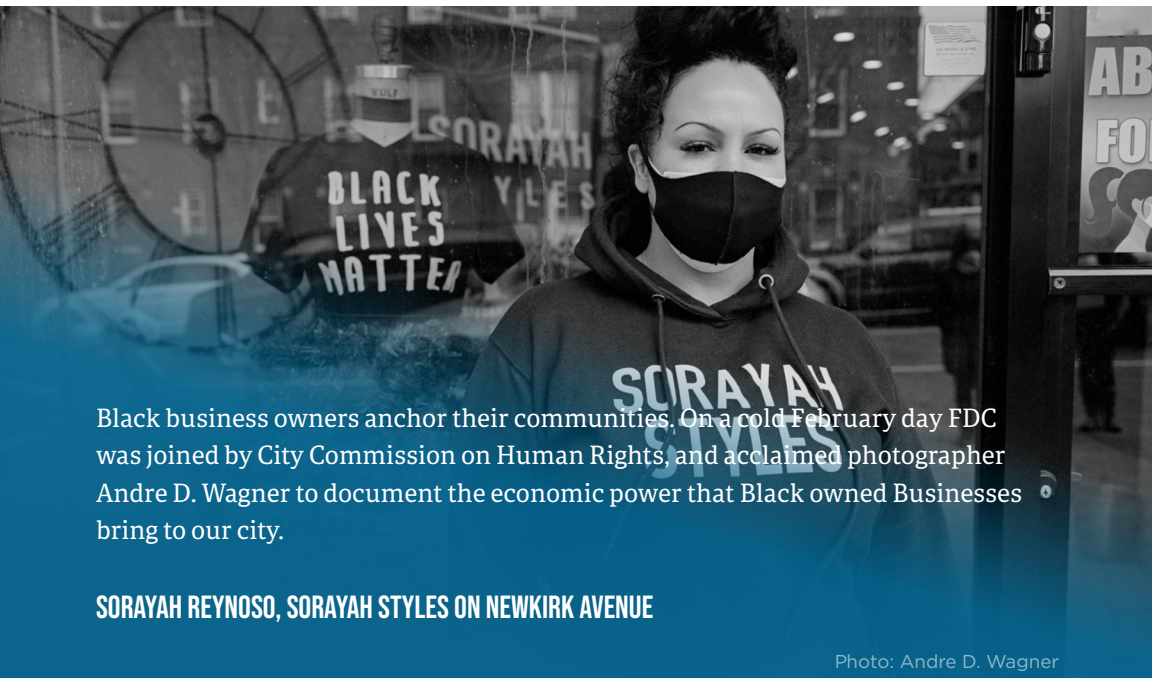


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DR. WIDAD VALME, GRACE EYECARE, 1615 CORTELYOU RD

Photo: Andre D. Wagner

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SORAYAH REYNOSO, SORAYAH STYLES ON NEWKIRK AVENUE

Photo: Andre D. Wagner

SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

HURRICANE IDA HOW FDC RESPONDED



First came the pandemic surge, then Ida. Local small businesses and neighbors faced unprecedented loss and flooding. FDC and its partners quickly responded with a FEMA Day to provide resources and grants. Many merchants received financial resources and residents met with FEMA officers for application support.

MOHI BHUIYAN, OWNER OF ASIAN SUPERMARKET NYC ON NEWKIRK AVE.

Photo: Lupe Ramsey



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

FDC COMMUNITY EVENTS

MUSIC, ART, FOOD, AND PLAY ON STREETS AND PORCHES



Small Businesses and neighbors transformed porches, streets, and sidewalks around Ditmas Park into COVID safe venues for a healthy, fun lifestyle.

Photo: Lupe Ramsey



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

FDC COMMUNITY EVENTS

DITMAS PARK DAY STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



FDC held its first successful Ditmas Park Day—a biannual event to unite residents and small businesses around community awareness and City cuts due to COVID. Together we cleaned sidewalks, recycled three tons of paper, two tons of clothing, and three tons of electronic waste.

Photo: Lupe Ramsey

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

FDC COMMUNITY EVENTS

DITMAS PARK DAY STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



Ditmas Park Day meant cleaner, more vibrant life on our sidewalks.

Photo: Lupe Ramsey

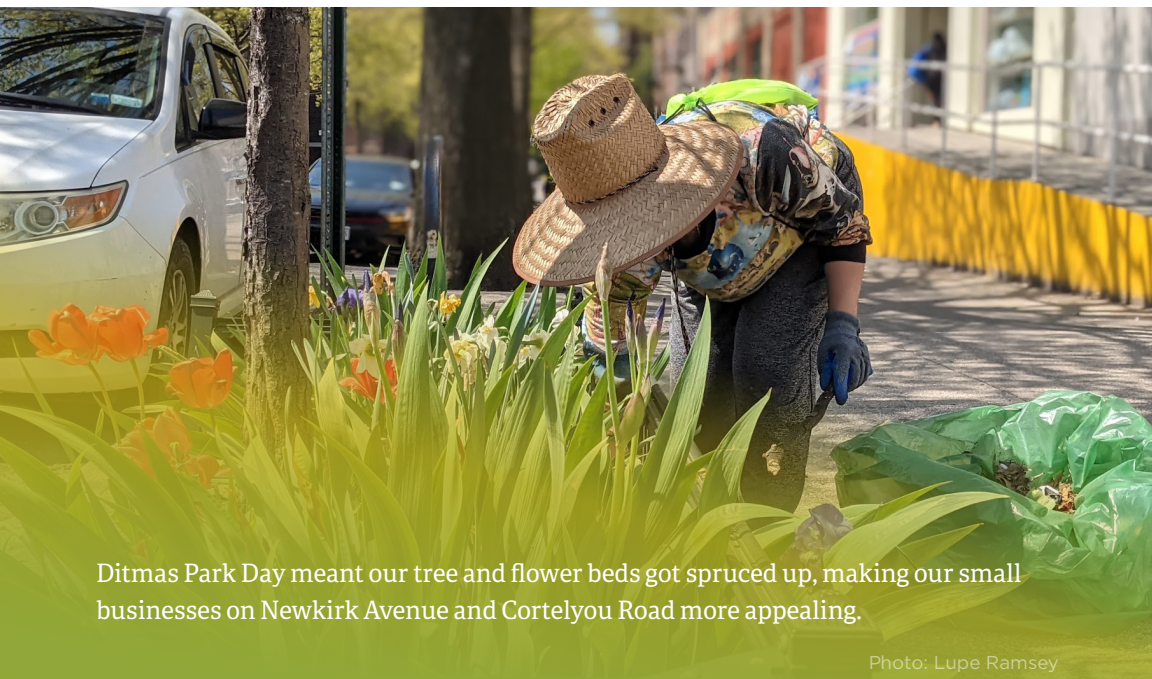
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FDC COMMUNITY EVENTS

DITMAS PARK DAY STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



Ditmas Park Day meant our tree and flower beds got spruced up, making our small businesses on Newkirk Avenue and Cortelyou Road more appealing.

Photo: Lupe Ramsey

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

FDC COMMUNITY EVENTS

OPEN STREETS



FDC transformed Newkirk Avenue into one of the many NYC Open streets in the summer of 2021. Summer Sundays brought free music, arts, dancing, and outdoor dining.

Photo: Lupe Ramsey

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

FDC COMMUNITY EVENTS

OPEN STREETS



Community enjoying performances by the Bindlestiff Circus at Ditmas Park Day

Photo: Ron Diamond

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

FDC COMMUNITY EVENTS

OPEN STREETS

FDC and 5PM Porch Music turned Newkirk Avenue into a classroom and performance space for many local students. Neighbors enjoyed live music and top-notch food, drinks, and services from our local businesses.

Photo: Lupe Ramsey



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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

FDC SUPPORTS WOMEN



Although the pandemic disproportionately impacted women-owned businesses, CedarStar Catering and La Petite Chambre took the lead in providing delicious Lebanese-inspired food & catering services, and fine children's new & used clothing. Kudos to moms Raisie and Berta for their COVID-proof businesses.

DIPNA CORDOVA, OWNER OF FORMER CINCO DE MAYO RESTAURANT ON CORTEYOU ROAD

Photo: Lupe Ramsey

FDC SUPPORTS WOMEN

“

Opening a business during COVID was very difficult. We signed our lease a day before the city lockdown, lots of unknowns about permits, construction, and the future of the food industry. FDC has been incredibly welcoming and helpful—they have reached out repeatedly to let us know of opportunities, local events, and grants—resources that we would otherwise know nothing about.

RAISIE SAAD, CHEF & OWNER. CEDARSTAR CATERING ON NEWKIRK AVENUE

Photo: Cedarstar Catering

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FDC SUPPORTS WOMEN

“

Opening my business during COVID felt like a ‘now or never’ opportunity. I was grateful to receive overwhelming support from the community off the bat, then came Hurricane Ida. The support that FDC & CORMA provided was essential in bouncing back to recover some of my inventory losses. Having FDC support small businesses in our community is a life saver.”

BERTA HERNANDEZ VILLA, LA PETITE CHAMBRE ON CORTELYOU RD.



Photo: La Petite Chambre



NEW BUSINESSES & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FDC, THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NY, AND NYC DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

FDC, The Horticultural Society of NY, and NYC DOT joined forces to provide daily sanitation and greening services to Newkirk Plaza. This partnership expanded to Cortelyou Road where you'll find colorful seasonal tree bed plantings. Plants and flowers in tree beds mean less litter, making all our storefronts more appealing.



Photo: Lupe Ramsey



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

NEW BUSINESSES & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

JAMES AND COREY FROM ACE SERVICES



James and Corey from ACE Services began working in Newkirk Plaza over two years ago as workforce development clients and quickly rose to site supervisors due to their excellent greening and sanitation services. If you've noticed that the Plaza has been cleaner since their arrival, it's because they believe keeping the Plaza clean will make people litter less. Both are proud dads and take pride in the work they do. Thank you James and Corey for giving the Plaza your best!

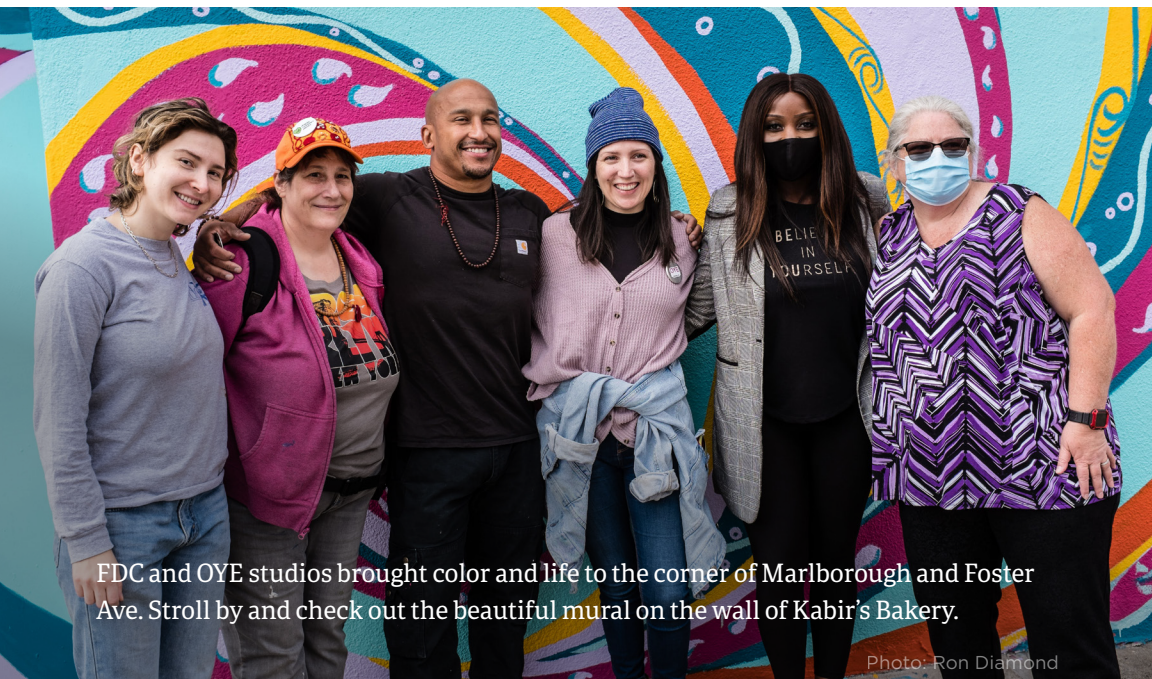
Photo: Lupe Ramsey



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

NEW BUSINESSES & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

PUBLIC ARTS OYE STUDIO, KABIR'S MURAL



FDC and OYE studios brought color and life to the corner of Marlborough and Foster Ave. Stroll by and check out the beautiful mural on the wall of Kabir's Bakery.

Photo: Ron Diamond



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

NEW BUSINESSES & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

PUBLIC ARTS KILLA COLLAGE & ARTMAGGEDON



In collaboration with Killa Collage & Artmageddon — FDC collected used wooden chairs and benches from our neighbors, and upcycled the pieces to make colorful, collaged public art installations. They were exhibited in front of local businesses to provide nice outdoor seating while enjoying district small business offerings.

Photo: Annie Del Hierro-Jost

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ROB ELSTEIN OF ARTMAGEDDON LEADING A RECYCLED ART WORKSHOP AT DITMAS PARK DAY

Photo: Ron Diamond

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SEE YOU IN 2022

FLATBUSH FROLIC

NEWKIRK AVENUE OPEN STREETS

DITMAS PARK DAY

MAKE MUSIC DITMAS PARK

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS, AND MORE ...

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE DIRECTORY AND SUPPORT OUR SMALL BUSINESSES](#)



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