

Bushwick Grind: Not Your Average Coffee



Bushwick Grind's owners Kymme Williams and Raymond Davis opened their coffee shop this year. Photo: Elizabeth Sowa.

Bushwick Grind, owned by the husband-and-wife duo Kymme Williams and Raymond Davis, has deep rooted ties to the community.

"My great grandmother, grandmother, and mother are all Bushwick natives," said Williams. Growing up she would spend her summers at her grandmother's home on Pilling Street in Bushwick.

However, when her grandmother started to show signs of dementia, the couple sprung into action.

"It took some convincing and shrewd negotiating with this tough Brooklyn girl, but we purchased her home with holes in the floors and collapsed ceiling. We renovated it into a two family home and equipped her with a brand new handicap ac-

cessible, one bedroom garden apartment. She was elated. Sadly she had a stroke six months later, but I find joy in remembering her face when she saw her beloved Bushwick home," said Williams.

The experience led Williams and Davis to move from Long Island into the apartment. The Bushwick energy was contagious and quickly, the couple felt that they

were a part of the community. For both, it felt like the perfect place to materialize their lifelong dream of becoming business owners. "During our networking with other business owners we began to think, why not now, why not in our Bushwick?" said Williams.

Their goal was to create a singular experience for every guest. Bushwick Grind offers specialty coffees, teas, paninis, pastries and espresso. During the planning phase, they kept the customer on the go in mind, while not forgetting those that linger for the Internet access. Soon, they hired experienced baristas and grew their offerings to include locally baked goods from The Protein Bakery.

"It all matters, from the décor to the music played, to the knowledgeable team members crafting your drink or preparing your meal – it all contributes to the 'vibe' in Bushwick Grind," said Williams. It was important for them to create a place where the community felt welcomed and they "wanted to further invest in Bushwick in a positive way."

"Everywhere we turned, something new and exciting was happening all around us. We felt more a member of this community in a year than we did in over a decade in our prior Long Island community."



Photo: Elizabeth Sowa.

Bushwick Grind
63 Whipple Street
Brooklyn, NY 11206

District 34's Participatory Budget Projects Revealed



John F. Hyland - PS 257 will receive funds from this year's Participatory Budgeting. Photo: Amfry Sanchez-Buazier.

This year's Participatory Budgeting process has come to an end. Over 20 council districts across the City have allocated part of the City's discretionary fund for projects that the community has voted for in their district. In Williamsburg's 34th District, nearly 6,000 voters decided to allocate about 51 percent of their budget toward education-related projects. The rest will be destined for recreational upgrades and a cooling center at PS 257.

Williamsburg Houses' playground will receive over \$300,000 for benches, a sprinkler system, and new playground equipment. PS 120 and PS 132 will receive \$285,000 for a 3D printer, solar and weather panels, and laptops. PS 239 and PS 18 will receive \$400,000 for a 3D printer, smart boards, smart tablets, and over 40 desktop computers.

According to Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Ridgewood, Bushwick, and Williamsburg will benefit from three countdown clocks at three bus stops. Their locations will be decided in conjunction with the Department of Transportation and the City Council office.

Participatory Budgeting was launched in 2011 with just four council members. Today, 28 council members actively participate in helping the community designate a portion of this year's \$77 billion City budget.

"Participatory budgeting brings the full diversity of New York City to the decision-making table and I thank everyone who participated for helping grow and strengthen this deeply democratic process," said Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

Williamsburg Now

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