

1. King Manor Museum and King Park



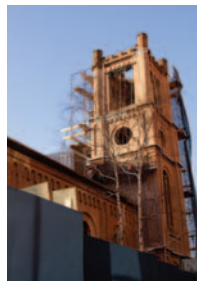
Home to Rufus King, one of New York's first senators, ambassador to Great Britain, an author of the U.S. Constitution, an opponent of slavery, and a candidate for President. Once a farm, it's a reminder of Jamaica's agricultural roots.

2. Family Court



Each floor provides sweeping views of the surrounding area and is designed by I.M. Pei to maximize natural light. Over the forty-foot high atrium ceiling is Ursula von Rydingsvard's sculpture *katul katul*. On the façade of the building, you'll also find granite plaques inscribed with quotes from Thurgood Marshall, the first African American Supreme Court Justice.

3. The Church Project



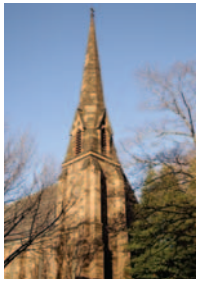
An example of some of the creative ways old and new co-exists. The 1858 landmark former First Reformed Church is being converted into a multi-use performance center (scheduled to open in 2007) and will offer performances, film, and conference and rehearsal space. Call 718-658-7400 x 123 for more information.

4. Joseph P. Addabbo U.S. Social Security Building



The first New York City public building since 1981 to contain artwork specifically designed for public buildings, it is the home of such paintings as Romare Bearden's *Family*, Richard Yarde's *Savoy*, Jacob Lawrence's *Community*, and Mel Edward's sculpture *Confirmation*.

5. Grace Church



Built in 1862, this is the third church of this name on this site. Founded in 1702 as the official church of the British colonial government, the surrounding graveyard holds the remains of Rufus King, as well as other elected officials and gentry of that time.

6. Jamaica Business Resource Center



This building looks like it is straight from a back lot of a studio set up for a 1930s movie. In 1934, it was outfitted with a new art moderne "false" façade and the interior was redecorated for use as a restaurant and nightclub named La Casina, the only known example of an art moderne nightclub in New York City.

7. Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (JCAL)



An urban arts center offering a variety of programs for children, teens, and adults including music, theater and dance performances, contemporary gallery exhibitions, and community arts workshops. Call 718-658-7400 x 123 for more information.

8. Prospect Cemetery and the Chapel of the Three Sisters



A performance space in a cemetery? The 1857 chapel is being renovated for that purpose and will enjoy new life as part of the York College campus. This 1668 cemetery, one of the few remaining colonial cemeteries in Queens, contains the graves of Revolutionary war soldiers and Edward Benson, New York's first Attorney General.

9. York College Performing Arts Center



York's 1500 seat Main Stage Theater and its 250 seat Theater in the Round are new, ultra modern, and present numerous exhibitions and performances. Call 718-262-3750 for program information. Step inside to see two jazz murals in the lobby. Across the street in York's Academic Core building you'll find other works of art by world renowned artists. See Art at York on map.

10. First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica



Two companies of Minutemen were led by members of this church. The 1813 sanctuary was moved from Jamaica Avenue around the corner to this site in 1920 on a trailer made of logs and pulled by mules.

11. 165th Street Mall

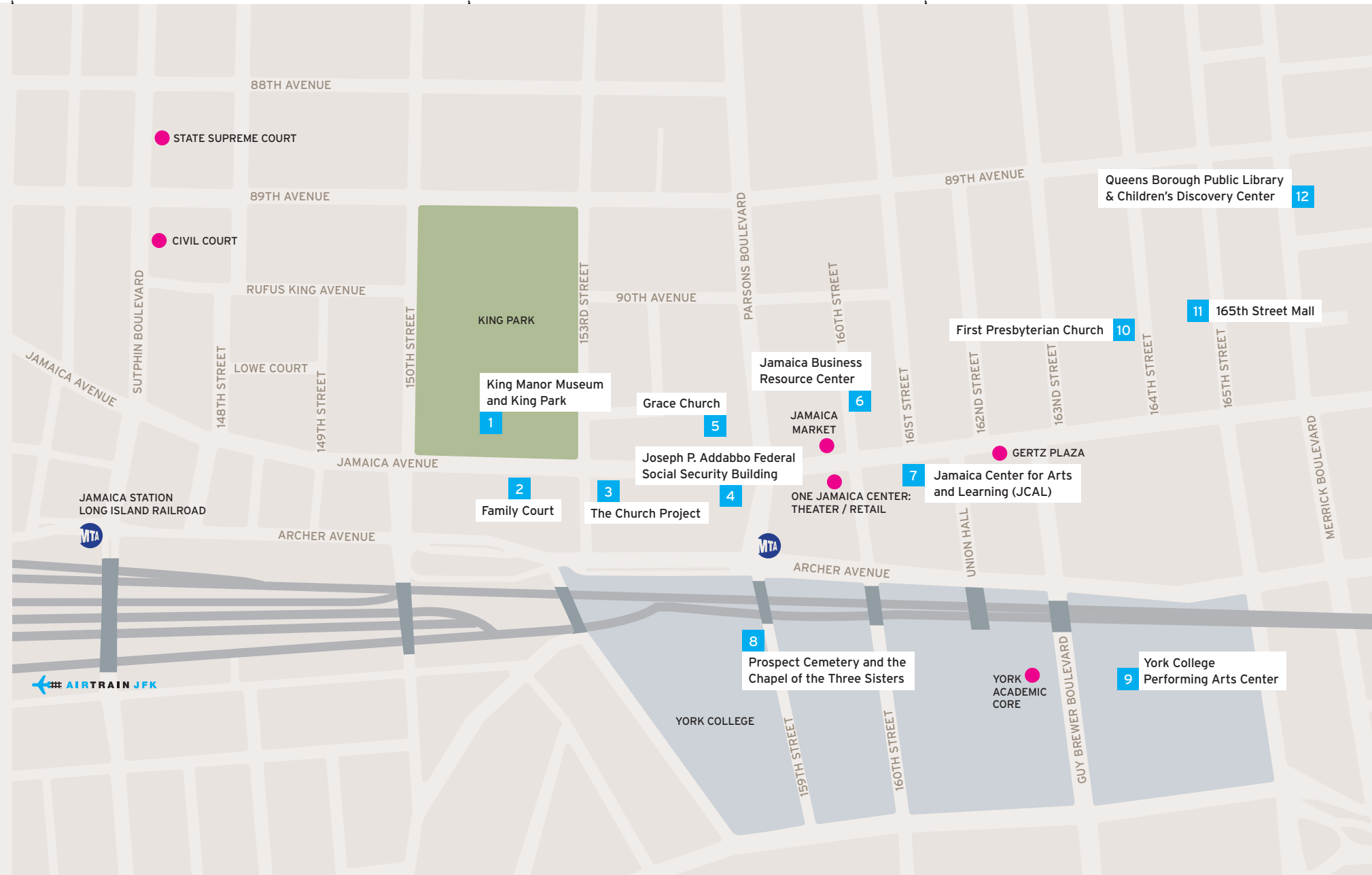


Take a look for *Eponymous*, three sculptures by William King on this long-time shopping street turned pedestrian mall. The former Macy's department store is now the Colosseum, an indoor site for small vendors.

12. Queens Borough Public Library and new Children's Discovery Center



A cultural center in and of itself, the headquarters and central branch of the largest circulation library system in the country hosts programs for children, teens, college students, adults, and seniors. Films, lectures, practical information are all part of the library services; its collection of Long Island history is unsurpassed.



Art at York 9

York College has a significant collection of contemporary art displayed throughout its campus, both indoors and out. Notable artists include the four mentioned here—Romare Bearden, Frank Stella, Elizabeth Catlett, and Sam Gilliam—and others such as Martin Puryear, Stephen Antonakos, John Matos, Sina Yusuf, AJ Loving, and Doris Price. Stop by the information desk in the Academic Core building to ask for the complete list with locations.



Romare Bearden,
Recollection Pond,
3rd Floor Library



Frank Stella,
Brzozdowce III,
1st Floor near Café



Elizabeth Catlett,
Torso,
3rd Floor Library



Sam Gilliam,
Solar Canopy
4th Floor outside Library

DOWN TOWN

A CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

JAMAICA

DOWNTOWN JAMAICA



WELCOME

Welcome to Jamaica!
No, not the island—
Jamaica, New York City.
In the borough of Queens.

YOU MAY KNOW that New York City is many communities spread out over the five boroughs of Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and the Bronx. It was only a little over one hundred years ago that the five boroughs became incorporated into what we now call the City of New York.



Believe it or not, the name Jamaica is unrelated to the name of the Caribbean island. Jamaica is a derivation of the word Yamacah, the Canarsie Indian word for beaver, an animal that used to be plentiful in this area.

But it's the Jamaica of today that you're here to see, so let's get started.

ROMARE BEARDEN, RECOLLECTION POND



WILLIAM KING, EPONYMOUS AT 165TH ST

VISIT

We've prepared a walking tour for you. Follow the map and the key on the other side and you will discover the exciting selection of art and architecture Downtown Jamaica has to offer.

WITHIN DOWNTOWN JAMAICA'S buildings and along its streets you will find dozens of works by internationally acclaimed painters, sculptors, and installation artists. On the way you will view everything from colonial-era churches, farmhouses, and cemeteries, to famous movie palaces and award-winning modern architecture. All of



this is within a twenty-block area, and is easily accessible on foot in just forty-five minutes. Now that you're here you'll wonder why you didn't visit sooner. And we want you to come back again and again.

But please don't just follow the map...look beyond it.

Look around you as you walk along Jamaica Avenue. This has always been one of Queens' main commercial thoroughfares since colonial times. Until 1978, "the Avenue" as it is known locally had a noisy elevated railroad track running above it which was removed and put underground as part of the area's redevelopment.

Commerce in Jamaica continues to thrive. Today people flock here by the busload to shop. It's not only the mecca for hip hop clothing and accessories, but its birthplace. FUBU and Russell Simmons first introduced their clothing lines here. So whether you're in the market for clothing, shoes, music, electronics, or house wares, you're sure to find some excellent bargains in the Avenue's shops.



165th Street, a shopper's paradise for decades, is a pedestrian mall that also contains the Coliseum, an enclosed vendor's market. And when you feel you need a break from all that shopping, some time spent looking at William King's three figure sculpture *Eponymous* will be the perfect restorative.

Now you know that Jamaica is not just a place that people come through.

Despite the presence of the Long Island Railroad's Jamaica station, its busiest transfer point for hundreds of thousands of daily commuters, and the ultra-modern AirTrain complex that offers service to and from J.F.K. International Airport, Jamaica is a place where people live, work, shop, advance their education, relax with entertainment, and discover the arts. In the last decade Jamaica has undergone a dramatic transformation that has re-established it as a vital New York commercial and cultural center.



A rich mix of cultures live and thrive here: people from Portugal, Guatemala, the Caribbean islands, Mexico, Bangladesh, China, and El Salvador, as well as the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guyana, Ecuador, Greece, Colombia, and the West Indian Jamaica.



GREEN MARKET

This cultural blend is reflected in the local food. You can sample some at the Jamaica Market food court, which is the perfect place to stop to eat, get your bearings, or just relax and refresh yourself. The variety of exciting ethnic foods will tantalize your taste buds as well as your eyes. The market also holds special events such as concerts, especially in the summer. And on Fridays and Saturdays (7am-4pm) from April to October local farmers arrive to sell their luscious exotic produce and other foods.

WATCH AND LISTEN

No downtown would be complete without an active arts scene. Jamaica delivers there too.

OVER AT THE JAMAICA CENTER for Arts & Learning, ongoing art exhibitions vie for attention with art classes, music classes, technology classes, and musical and theatrical performances. Cultural Collaborative Jamaica's JAMS Under the Stars fills a summer evening the first weekend in August with free music in King Park and the annual JAMS street festival brings everyone out to enjoy food and camaraderie along Jamaica Avenue.

Still more music and theater is there for the asking at the York College Performing Arts Center with its professional performances, art exhibits, and free Friday-night jazz concerts. Jazz is not new to Jamaica. Since the 1940s,



SAM GILLIAM, JAMAICA CENTER STATION RIDERS, BLUE

Jazz culture has been one of the foundations of life here. Greater Jamaica was home to such music legends as Count Basie, Brook Benton, Milt Hinton, Illinois Jacquet, Arthur Prysock, Billie Holiday, Lena Horne, and Fats Waller.

Soon there will be even more performance space in Jamaica. The new Church Project (in the renovated landmark Former First Dutch Reformed Church) is slated to open in 2007. From this new theater, film, and performance facility will emerge an eclectic collection of art and entertainment to suit every taste and sensibility.

YORK COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER LOBBY



LEARN



KING MANOR MUSEUM AND KING PARK

LEARN

A community with a rich past and a vibrant present, Jamaica is also a community that values the arts in education.

THE QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY has a new Discovery Center that will use interactive exhibits and learning labs to stimulate children. A prominent feature will be a giant globe that will illuminate the history of world cultures. And there is the King Manor Museum in King Park which brings American history to life with family events galore as well as a full line-up of hands-on learning experiences and school programs. This elegant country home of Rufus King recalls the exceptional work he did as a founder of this country.

York College, a senior college in the City University of New York system, houses numerous pieces of public art by renowned artists such as Romare Bearden, Sam Gilliam, Elizabeth Catlett, Frank Stella, and Martin Puryear. While you're there, you could also stop for delicious coffee and browse through their extensive book store.

BECOME A PART OF JAMAICA

Cultural Collaborative Jamaica
(718) 526-3217
www.go2ccj.org

King Manor Museum and Park
(718) 206-0545
www.kingmanor.org

Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning
(718) 658-7400
www.jcal.org

Queens Borough Public Library
Main Line: (718) 990-0700
Program Information: (718) 990-0779
www.queenslibrary.org

York College/CUNY
Main Line: (718) 262-2000
Performing Arts Center
Program Information: (718) 262-3750
www.york.cuny.edu

Jamaica Center Improvement Association
(718) 526-2422

165th Street Mall Improvement Association
(718) 298-5489

Sutphin Boulevard Business Improvement District
(718) 291-2110

DOWNTOWN JAMAICA

SEE YOU THERE.

Greater Jamaica Development Corporation is a community-building organization that plans, promotes, coordinates and advances responsible development to revitalize Jamaica and strengthen the region. For more information, visit www.gjdc.org or call (718) 291-0282.

Greater Jamaica Development Corporation produced this publication with the generous support of the Roslyn Savings Foundation, the New York City Department of Small Business Services, and the Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation.

Text: Toni Kamins
Design: Russell Design, NYC
Photography: Ben Russell