



HSBC BANK AND THE CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE SPONSOR FORUM TO DISCUSS CHALLENGES FACING IMMIGRANT AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

US Senator Charles E. Schumer (D, NY) and Congresswoman Grace Meng among esteemed panelists

NEW YORK – August 11, 2020 – [HSBC Bank USA, N.A.](#) (“HSBC USA”), part of HSBC Group, one of the world’s largest banking and financial services companies, and the [Center for an Urban Future](#), are proud to sponsor a forum titled **“*Bolstering Immigrant and Minority-Owned Small Businesses in Elmhurst, Corona & Jackson Heights that have been Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.*”**

“While government relief programs have helped some Queens businesses weather the storm, many immigrant- and minority-owned businesses in our diverse neighborhoods—including Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, and Corona—have struggled to access these programs, posing additional barriers to economic recovery,” said Marie Pedraza, Sr. Regional Community Development Manager for HSBC. “HSBC is proud to participate in this solutions-focused discussion to explore the ongoing challenges affecting small businesses in these hard-hit communities and put forward specific ideas to support a lasting recovery.”

Details:

- **Wednesday, August 12, 10 – 11:45 AM EST**
- Streaming live online ([RSVP here for link](#))
- **Panel 1:** (10 – 11 am) will feature five business owners and leaders of business assistance organizations that work closely with immigrant and minority business owners in NYC. This panel will raise awareness about the specific challenges facing immigrant and minority-owned businesses because of the pandemic.
- **Panel 2:** (11 – 11:45 am) will feature government officials and Marie Pedraza, Sr. Regional Community Development Manager for HSBC, who will respond to the issues raised and provide an overview of efforts to support immigrant and minority businesses affected by the pandemic.

Confirmed speakers:

- **Senator Charles E. Schumer (D, NY)**, United States Senate
- **Congresswoman Grace Meng**, United States House of Representatives
- **Assembly member Catalina Cruz**, New York State Assembly
- **Councilmember Francisco Moya**, New York City Council
- **Quenia Abreu**, President & CEO, New York Women’s Chamber of Commerce
- **Nancy Carin**, Executive Director, Business Outreach Center Network
- **Joyce Moy**, Executive Director, CUNY’s Asian American/Asian Research Institute
- **Alejandro Osorio**, Owner, Arepa Lady
- **Marie Pedraza**, Vice President, Sr. Regional Community Development Manager, HSBC
- **Lily Urzúa**, Founder, Urzúa Dance Academy

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Center for an Urban Future (CUF) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs, reduce inequality and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

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