



Dear POINT community,

At this unprecedented difficult time for all of us, I wanted to share how we at THE POINT CDC are responding to the COVID-19 crisis that has impacted how we work, mobilize and build with our community. It has forced us to make some rough transitions nearly overnight but we are the house “where community and creativity connect” and that is the spirit in which we will move forward and out of this.

Three weeks ago, THE POINT was buzzing with our after-school program kids, staff preparing for our 25th Anniversary Conference and Fish Parade 2020. The smell of spring was in the air! As news of the pandemic settled in our communities we modified our programming and worked with other local Bronx agencies to discuss the impact and consequences of shutting our doors.

Fast forward to today. We’ve been forced to cancel all programming, rentals, community engagements, and gatherings. We are following the Department Of Education’s schedule, meaning that there will be no programming and our building will be closed until April 20th. **We urge you to check back in with us as things are changing quickly.**

We have had to reinvent what it means to engage and mobilize our community during this unprecedented challenge. Although our [South Bronx Resiliency Agenda \(SBRCA\)](#) prepared us for mobilizing relief efforts at a time like this, and although it is not the storm or blackout we expected, we are committed to offering as much relief from the current COVID-19 virus as possible. In the coming days, we will begin to unveil opportunities for online engagements in the main areas of our mission, offering opportunities in youth development, arts and culture and community development. We are fortunate that we have had some resiliency plans in place, and that our dedicated staff will be able to offer free content to our families, links to our partners who are also offering resources, and provide remote services as needed. We ask that you stay tuned to [www.thepoint.org](http://www.thepoint.org) and [www.huntspoint.nyc](http://www.huntspoint.nyc) for regular updates.

THE POINT’s role in this crisis is four-fold.

- First, we must mobilize to assist our families, who are already economically burdened and may have recently been laid off. THE POINT has been distributing food to our families in need.
- Secondly, we must mobilize to assist artists hard hit by the cancellation of events and economic contraction, recognizing that many of their livelihoods were precarious to begin with.

- Third, knowing that our quality cultural programs are community bonding experiences and vessels for human connection across distance we will continue to virtually provide these programs during times of intense and frustrating social distancing.
- Fourth, mobilize in defense of the oppressions and marginalizations our neighborhood has suffered before and have been exacerbated by Covid-19.
  - [Rent freeze now campaign- No Evictions!](#)
  - [Unemployment resources](#) - If you're out of work because of the novel coronavirus, you should be eligible to begin receiving unemployment money. Part-time workers and seasonal workers/instructors can receive partial benefits, while gig economy workers are not currently eligible. **Some undocumented residents may qualify for unemployment**, according to the advocacy group Make the Road.
  - For information about Coronavirus and to make an appointment to get tested, call the NY State Dept Of Health 24-Hour Coronavirus Hotline at **1-888-364-3065**. They will assist in the borough you are in and tell you which hospital to go to. Calling does not guarantee you a test you either need to have severe symptoms of it or have been exposed to some who tested positive but you need to be experiencing symptoms. These calls take time because they are screening you over the phone.
  - Health Insurance coverage:
    - NY State of Health, [“Special Enrollment Period Open Through April 15th for Uninsured Individuals”](#) (statewide)
    - [Community Service Society](#)
  - Information for our immigrant families:
    - [Protecting Immigrant Families, “Factsheet: Know Your Rights, Protect Your Health”](#)
    - Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York Helpline at 1-888-744-7900 – food resources and support for seniors. Immigrant and Refugee Services – Email [immigration.services@archny.org](mailto:immigration.services@archny.org) or call 212-419-3700.
  - [Mental Health ResourcesNYC.gov, “NYC Well: Text, Call, or Chat”](#)

THE POINT is committed to communicating accurate and essential information around the rapid changes happening in and around our neighborhood. We are committed to assuring that this pandemic does not become an excuse for a retraction of our freedoms and for the further marginalization of our neighborhood.

Please consider donating to THE POINT below and make sure to subscribe to our newsletter and check back for updates at [www.thepoint.org](http://www.thepoint.org), [www.huntspoint.nyc](http://www.huntspoint.nyc) and on Instagram @thepointcdc.

With our deepest gratitude and love,  
THE POINT Management Staff