Viva la Comida!: fun crowd in Jackson Hghts.

Residents gathered at Dunningham Triangle on Friday for food and music

PHOTO BY JOSEY BARTLETT

Hundreds of community members filled the streets surrounding Dunningham Triangle, where 82nd Street meets up with Baxter Avenue, for the Viva la Comida festival hosted by the 82nd Street Partnership.

Posted: Thursday, September 27, 2012
By Josey Bartlett

Hundreds of people packed Ithaca Street between Baxter Avenue and 82nd Street to listen to music, eat food and mingle with their neighbors on Friday at the Viva la Comida festival.

Inside Dunningham Triangle — a recently spiffed up swatch of land that the festival surrounded — the 82nd Street dance troupe from Mestizo Art Center performed, Nelson Idalgo and Maria Del Rosario belted out tunes and the NY Jazz Academy and the International String Duo entertained.

Martin Aterreua of the Colombian Silleteros de Santa Elena created a flower display in honor of the 82nd Street Partnership, which hosted the community event. The Colombian Silleteros showed off their floral skills at the Feria de las Flores in Manhattan last weekend.

Outside the Jackson Heights Cinema, there were a pop-up crafts market from Design for You and face painting. Custom-embroidered hats were given away from The Sewing Outlet and there were other giveaways.

There were lots of food discounts from the surrounding restaurants and a few popular food carts, including Tortas Neza, which participated in this year's prestigious citywide food cart competition —the Vendys.

Overall the event was successful, 82nd Street Partnership Executive Director Seth Taylor said.

"We're looking forward to next year," he added.

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