

## HARLEM HAPPENINGS



### THE SPIRIT OF HARLEM IS HERE TO STAY

On the heels of the monthlong tradition, the **44th Annual Harlem Week** encompassed more than one hundred events and more than two million attendees demonstrated the culture and community of one of the nation's most vibrant neighborhoods. From there, the biannual event of **Harlem Fashion Week** featured a diverse group of designers from all around the world during its fifth season. Throughout it all the theme that remains evident is retaining the core **Harlem** identity – paying homage to its rich history while evolving into the future. From cultural programs, live music, fashion, style and flair, to new and notable openings, the uptown scene is showing no signs of slowing down...

In EAST HARLEM, festive Mexican arrives at casual taco restaurant **La Chula** on the corner of 116th Street and Lexington Avenue, 137 East 116th Street; the tacqueria is offering traditional tacos along with ceviches, burritos and tortas.

On FREDERICK DOUGLASS BLVD., also dubbed as **Harlem's Restaurant Row**, the exciting mix of *eatertainment* continues to expand. Master mixologist Ektoros Binikos is bringing his renowned unique talent of creating 'art in a glass' to his first-ever cocktail lounge, **Sugar Monk** coming to number 2292. **Bean & Barley** a new coffee and wine bar has opened at 2118 Frederick Douglass Boulevard.



**Harlem Fashion Week**

On LENOX AVENUE, the dining options continue with **Field Trip**, a grain and rice concept from charismatic James Beard-nominated chef **Joseph "JJ" Johnson**, best known for cooking food of the African diaspora; the concept will debut at 109 Lenox Avenue.



**Barepas**

In CENTRAL HARLEM, **Meet Me @ Mama's** for Italian casual serving up meatballs and kono pizza cones at 2308 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. Grocery franchise **Shop Fair Supermarket** is scheduled to open a 20,000 square-foot store at 2108 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd in early 2019.

In HAMILTON HEIGHTS, the buzz is swirling over **L'Argot** at 142 Hamilton Place coming this fall; the new restaurant and wine bar calls itself "an alternative space for the arts," and promises to host exhibitions, jazz and classical concerts, plus poetry readings. Freshly debuted **Barepas**, a Latin bistro and wine bar at 1792 Amsterdam Avenue.

In SOUTH HARLEM, upper Manhattan's first and only 24-hour dog care facility recently re-launched as **The Bark Shoppe**, 100 St. Nicholas Avenue.

With all sorts of new additions, the beauty of this four-mile iconic neighborhood is that it manages to retain its soul – **Harlem is Happening!**



**The Hip Hop Hall of Fame**

On 125TH STREET, walk around this central corridor running through the heart of **Harlem** and you'll find lots of activity and developments. **The Cliffs**, a state-of-the-art indoor rock-climbing facility coming to 256-258 West 125th Street. Everyone is anticipating the opening of Danny Meyer's cult-favorite burger chain **Shake Shack** at 1 West 125th Street; with signs now up indicating that it is indeed under construction – look for a November debut. **The Hip Hop Hall of Fame** a nonprofit aiming to preserve, archive, exhibit, educate and conduct research to document hip-hop's historical influence will be setting up for a future home on 125th Street with no official address as of yet.

*Shirley Consolo*

