



BROOKLYN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Brooklyn Historical Society Opens New Public Perspectives Exhibition

A Drum Beats in Brooklyn: A Photography Exhibition Celebrating the Drum-Based and African Influenced Traditions of Brooklyn curated by Brooklyn-based She Shootin' Photography Collective

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 2007, Brooklyn, NY –On February 14, BHS opens the exhibition *A Drum Beats in Brooklyn: A Photography Exhibition Celebrating the Drum-Based and African Influenced Traditions of Brooklyn* in the Independence Community Gallery. On view February 14 through May 13, opening reception February 15, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

A Drum Beats in Brooklyn visually relates the stories of several of Brooklyn's public, drum-based gatherings such as the West Indian Day Parade, J'ouvert, Tribute to the Ancestors of the Middle Passage, BAM's DanceAfrica, and Drummer's Grove. "For this show we rallied around the drum as a conceptual focal point," explains co-curator, Laylah Amatullah Barrayn. "On many levels, aesthetically, historically and spiritually, the drum is one of the essential connectors of dispersed Africans and our diversified traditions." *A Drum Beats in Brooklyn* seeks to immerse the viewer in the communal culture that has been established in Brooklyn and illustrates how these gatherings preserve African influenced culture in New York's most populous borough. BHS will host programs to accompany the exhibit including a family drum workshop, panel discussion, and brunch with the curators (see attached listing for details).

A Drum Beats in Brooklyn is curated by the She Shootin' Photography Collective, five women photographers, ranging from mid-career to emerging, hailing from the U.S., the Caribbean and Africa, and who live and work in Brooklyn. The members of the collective are Laylah Amatullah Barrayn, Nsenga Knight, Delphine Fawundu-Buford, Kerika Fields, Ava Griffiths.

The *Public Perspectives* exhibition series, launched this year with a generous grant from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, features exhibitions conceptualized by Brooklynites in response to an open call and selected by a panel of cultural experts and historians. The Public Perspectives exhibition series provides Brooklynites an active voice within BHS, lending insight into the ideas and views of the borough's diverse community members.

The Brooklyn Historical Society is open Wednesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children and children under 12 are free.

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Founded in 1863, the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is a museum, library, and educational center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's rich 400-year past, while recording and reflecting upon the future of our culturally rich borough. BHS houses a treasure trove of materials relating to the founding of our country and the history of Brooklyn and its people. We draw from all of these holdings to create interpretive exhibitions illuminating the past and informing the future. BHS hosts over 9,000 members of the general public at its exhibitions each year. In addition to our general programming, BHS serves over 70,000 public school students and teachers annually by providing exhibit tours, educational programs and curricula, and making its professional staff available for instruction and consultation. The exhibits at BHS are dynamic learning experiences for audiences of all ages.

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A Drum Beats in Brooklyn Calendar of Programs

February 15, Thursday 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Opening Reception

A Drum Beats in Brooklyn

Please join us for an evening of riveting photography documenting the drumming traditions of Brooklyn and enjoy live drumming from the African Diaspora. Meet the curators and artists, too! *Free.*

March 17, Saturday 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Panel Discussion

Behind the Drum

You are invited to join the discussion with the historians and organizers who have kept Brooklyn's African-based traditions alive. Representatives from BAM's DanceAfrica, Weeksville Heritage Center, West Indian American Day Carnival, Drummer's Grove, and International African Arts Festival will discuss the history and influence that these gathering has had on New York most populous borough. *Free with admission.*

April 14, Saturday 2:00 – 4:00 pm

A Family Arts and Crafts Afternoon

Fun with Drums

Participate in an afternoon of arts and crafts based around the drum. Families and children learn to make their own drums, and partake in painting and collage-making. There will be drumming workshops alongside of traditional African story telling. *Free with admission.*

May 12, Saturday 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Brunch with the Curators of *A Drum Beats in Brooklyn*

Sip n' Chat

Join the curators, the She Shootin' Photography Collective for a discussion on photography, culture and the arts. The ladies, Laylah Amatullah Barrayn, Kerika Fields, Delphine Fawundu-Buford, Ava Griffiths and Nsenga Knight will share stories on curating a *Drum Beats in Brooklyn* over a light brunch of delicious Caribbean and Senegalese appetizers and tea. *Free with admission.*