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BROOKLYN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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**New *Public Perspectives* Exhibit
at the Brooklyn Historical Society
Shows Disappearing Face of Brooklyn Through Student Eyes
Lost in Transition: South Brooklyn, Williamsburg & Coney Island
January 11 – April 27, 2008**

Brooklyn, NY – Opening January 10 at the Brooklyn Historical Society, the newest exhibit of the community-curated series *Public Perspectives* features photographs taken by Brooklyn high school students that capture dramatic and rapid physical change underway in many of the borough's neighborhoods. The exhibit, entitled *Lost in Transition: South Brooklyn, Williamsburg & Coney Island*, is curated by educator Rebecca Krucoff and writer Ain Gordon, who developed The Urban Memory Project, a program created in response to the tide of change in Brooklyn that introduces young people to alterations in the physical landscape by analyzing and documenting the surrounding environment.

In *Lost in Transition: South Brooklyn, Williamsburg and Coney Island*, students of the Urban Memory Project turn their eyes toward the rapidly changing face of their home borough, using photography as a way to capture and document the Brooklyn they know and to begin to understand what these changes mean and how our view of the past is shaped by what survives. Taken over the past two years (2005-2007), their photographs feature images of new development projects, as well as existing structures they predict will soon vanish, including abandoned warehouses along the East River and the Gowanus Canal, small bodegas in quickly gentrifying communities like Park Slope, and Coney Island's Astroland that is slated for demolition. Accompanying the student photography will be images from the BHS collection by legendary late 19th century photographer Eugene Armbruster that provided inspiration for their project. Armbruster took thousands of photographs of the rural Brooklyn he saw disappearing, becoming a true grass-roots historian documenting the changing landscape of his era.

The *Public Perspectives* Exhibition Series provides a creative forum for Brooklynites to have an active voice at the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) by presenting community-curated exhibits. In the spring, BHS issues an annual open call for exhibition proposals from Brooklyn-based individuals, school and community groups, and non-profit organizations. Three recipient groups are selected per season by a panel of cultural and community representatives. *Public Perspectives* enables BHS to encourage community involvement not only in the content of exhibitions, but also in the selection process. The awardees collaborate with BHS staff to develop and mount their exhibitions. *Public Perspectives* is made possible by the Lily Auchincloss Foundation and will be on view in the Independence Community Gallery on the lower level at BHS.

Exhibit Dates: January 11 – April 27, 2008

Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 12 – 5 p.m.

Location: Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (at Clinton Street).

Admission: \$6 Adults, \$4 students/seniors over 62, free for children under 12

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 10, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Free to the public.

Public Program: Exhibition Walk-Through and Talk with the Curators, February 2, Saturday, 1 – 3 pm,
Public program is free to the public.

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