



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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Brooklyn Bodega & BHS present the Forum: How Hip-Hop Elected America's First Black President

Brooklyn, NY – On January 22, Brooklyn Bodega and BHS present a panel discussion with leaders in the hip-hop and entertainment industries: ***Making History Now: How Video Music Box Elected America's First Black President.***

WHAT: Brooklyn Bodega and BHS present:

Making History Now: How Video Music Box Elected America's First Black President

On November 4th, 2008 The United States elected the first African American President in the country's history. Brooklyn tallied more votes for President Obama than any other county in New York State and the fifth most in the country. Much has been made about the country's ability to look past hundreds of years of racial insensitivity to elect a Black president only four decades after the end of Jim Crow. President Obama's victory is credited with his ability to brand himself as a post-racial candidate. How did he do this? During the campaign several journalists and experts cited Hip-Hop as one of the unifying cultural factors that precipitated the breakdown of these racial barriers. Black and white people in the post Civil Rights Era grew up watching images and hearing the sounds of Blacks and Latinos; so much so that the presence of an African American running for president or serving as CEO was not an alien concept to this generation.

Join BHS and Brooklyn Bodega for an engaging conversation with **Ralph McDaniels**, Founder of "Video Music Box"; **Christina Norman**, former president of MTV; **Jason King**, Artistic Director, Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music; **Alvin Blanco**, Features Editor, www.allhiphop.com; **Selam Mulugeta**, field organizer for President-Elect Barack Obama's Campaign for Change and Special Assistant to Congressman Honda (CA-15) and Moderated by **Wes Jackson**, President, Brooklyn Bodega and Executive Director, Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival. **Free with your admission to BHS: \$6 Adults, \$4 Seniors/Students.**

WHEN: Thursday, January 22nd, 2009

6:00 - 7:00 PM – Reception sponsored by Brooklyn Brewery

7:00 – 8:30 PM – Panel Discussion

WHERE: Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St. Brooklyn, NY 11201. www.brooklynhistory.org

Brooklyn Bodega is a leading cultural programmer and online music journal. They are the producers of the Annual Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival held each summer. For more info visit www.brooklynbodega.com

The mission of the Brooklyn Historical Society is to connect the past to the present and make the vibrant history of Brooklyn tangible, relevant, and meaningful for today's diverse communities, and for generations to come. Founded in 1863, BHS is a nationally recognized urban history center, comprised of a museum; scholarly research library; and educational center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's extraordinary 400-year history.