

**PRESS RELEASE
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January 20, 2010

CONTACT: Allison Auldridge
347.381.3703
aauldridge@brooklynhistory.org

Tivoli: A Place We Call Home

Multimedia Exhibition at BHS Documents the People of Tivoli Towers

A Crown Heights building on the verge of losing affordable housing status

Brooklyn, NY – The Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) invites the public to celebrate the opening of a groundbreaking new exhibition ***Tivoli: A Place We Call Home***, which is part of the fourth season of *Public Perspectives* community-curated exhibits at BHS. The exhibition will open Thursday, February 11 and is curated by photographer Delphine Fawundu and is part of Black Brooklyn Renaissance presented by Brooklyn Arts Council, in partnership with Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation.



WHAT: Tivoli is located in a neighborhood that once suffered harshly from lack of investment and the crack epidemic. Today, this same neighborhood is rapidly changing due to gentrification. Tivoli Towers is one of the few buildings in the neighborhood that has not been gentrified as yet, due to its status in the city-sponsored Mitchell-Lama affordable housing program.

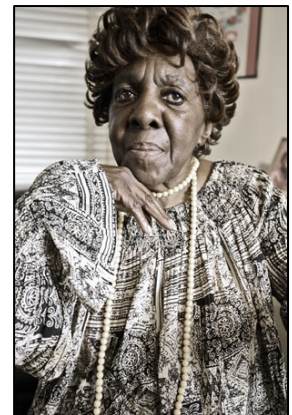
When the landlord recently tried to sell the building and remove it from the Mitchell-Lama Program, the tenants sued – and won. Since several NYC landlords have successfully removed their buildings from this program, this proved to be a landmark decision and important victory in 2005.

In May 2009, the tenants were informed that their landlord was appealing the case. If he wins, Tivoli Towers will no longer provide affordable housing for this diverse community of people. *Tivoli: A Place We Call Home* will put a face and identity on Tivoli's tenants at the onset of gentrification in this Brooklyn neighborhood and will help answer questions such as: Who lives there? Where do they come from? What experiences have they had living in Tivoli? How do they use this space they call home? What are their aspirations for this community that they have created? What contributions do they make to society? How have they been affected by the lack of investment in their building? What does gentrification mean to them?

This project is produced by photographer/filmmaker, **Delphine Fawundu-Buford**, along with filmmakers **Scott Brathwaite** and **Anthony Clouden Jr.** These three long-time friends and residents at Tivoli Towers felt the need to collect visual histories of their own community. **The Mark Meredith Youth Ensemble** will perform at the opening of *Tivoli: A Place We Call Home*. Mark Meredith is a Jazz musician who trains youth in classical jazz music. He is a resident of Tivoli Towers and have taught many children within the apartment complex and the community.

Please join us at BHS on Saturday, April 17 at 2:00 for the discussion "Surviving the Affordable Housing Struggle in Brooklyn" with exhibition curators.

This exhibition is part of Black Brooklyn Renaissance: Black Arts + Culture, 1960-2010 sponsored by MetLife Foundation and presented by Brooklyn Arts Council in partnership with Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation.



WHEN: Opening, **Thursday, February 11. 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Exhibit dates:** February 11 – August 29, 2010.

WHERE: Brooklyn Historical Society; 128 Pierrepont St. (at Clinton St.); Brooklyn, NY 11201.

About the exhibition series: Public Perspectives provides a creative forum for Brooklynites to have an active voice at the Brooklyn Historical Society by presenting community-curated exhibits by individuals and groups selected from our open call for exhibition proposals. The awardees collaborate with BHS staff to develop and mount their exhibitions. Public Perspectives is made possible through the generous support of FHL Bank. Additional support is provided by the Kress Foundation and HBO.