



Brooklyn Historical Society Introduces New Exhibits, Kicking Off the 2006-2007 Season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 11, 2006, Brooklyn, NY –On November 1, BHS opens the exhibits *It Happened in Brooklyn* and *Public Perspectives* season preview, as well as unveils new installations of its permanent collection.

It Happened in Brooklyn, an exhibit highlighting new selections from our permanent collection. The exhibit tells the story of Brooklyn through the eyes of a diverse range of residents. Included in the exhibit is an expansive range of Brooklyn history that presents the borough's earliest Native American settlements; men and women who fought in the Revolutionary War on Brooklyn's shores; Brooklynites who worked to abolish slavery; to the women who kept America going by working in the Brooklyn Navy Yard during World War II.

The Public Perspectives exhibition series, launched this year with a generous grant from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, features exhibitions conceived by Brooklynites in response to an open call for submissions and selected through a panel process. BHS celebrates this year's awardees and features the projects in a "season preview" exhibition on November 1, 6 – 8pm, in the Independence Community Gallery at BHS. The captivating exhibit themes range from exploring converted houses of worship in Brooklyn, to celebrating African- and drum-based gatherings and ceremonies in the borough, to mapping Bushwick's recent recovery from a history of arson. The Public Perspectives series provides an unique opportunity for Brooklynites to lend an active voice within the Society and for BHS to explore contemporary issues within the diverse and dynamic borough.

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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**Public Perspectives Exhibition Series
2006-2007 Season**

November 1, 6 – 8 p.m.
Public Perspectives Kickoff Celebration

November 1 – 12, 2006
Season preview exhibition highlighting the 2006-2007 recipients

November 15, 2006 – February 11, 2007
From Synagogue to Church: Converted Brooklyn Houses of Worship
Curators: Ellen Levitt and Howard Dankowitz

February 14 – May 13, 2007
A Drum Beats in Brooklyn: Celebrating Brooklyn's African- and Drum-based Gatherings and Ceremonies.
Curators: Laylah Amatullah Barryn, Nsenga Knight, Delphine Fawundu-Buford, Kerika Fields, Ava Griffiths

May 16 – August 26, 2007
Up From Flames: Mapping Bushwick's Recovery from the Ashes
Curators: Adam J. Schwartz, Josh Lapidus, and 11th graders at the Academy for Urban Planning

Brooklyn-based individuals, community-based organizations, and school groups were invited to submit proposals for review by a panel of cultural and community members. The recipients that were selected for the 2006 – 2007 season were each awarded a \$2,000 honorarium.

The *Public Perspectives* exhibition series provides Brooklynites with an active voice within the Society by lending insight into the ideas and views of the borough's community members. The *Public Perspectives* Exhibition Series is made possible through the generous support of the Lily Auchincloss Foundation. The Independence Community Gallery is sponsored by the Independence Community Foundation.