



BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 150 YEARS

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BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORED BY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

Local institution recognized as a national leader in historic interpretation

July 6, 2016 Brooklyn, NY—Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is pleased to announce it has been recognized with a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for its project, Crossing Borders, Bridging Generations. BHS president, Deborah Schwartz, will accept the award on behalf of the institution in a ceremony to be held in Detroit on September 16, 2016.

AASLH bestows Leadership in History Awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Awards serve as an inspiration to others in the field. AASLH maintains the awards program to recognize Good History that changes people's lives by helping them make connections with the past.

Crossing Borders, Bridging Generations (CBBG) is an oral history and public program initiative that creates space for dialogues about race, ethnicity, and intersecting identities. The project, which took place from 2011 – 2015 and continues to live on in the website www.cbbg.brooklynhistory.org, examines the history and experiences of mixed-heritage people and families, cultural hybridity, race, ethnicity, and identity in the diverse Borough of Brooklyn. By capturing the voices of over one hundred Brooklynites who self-identify as of mixed-heritage; bringing together interdisciplinary scholars who contributed essays and lesson plans about race, culture, identity and U.S. history; creating a series of public programs examining various aspects of mixed-identity; and making the substance of the project available to the general public through a website, and to students through a curriculum, CBBG has succeeded in facilitating intimate conversations about the impacts of racism, classism, sexism, immigration and diaspora, faith, policies, and laws in the lives of Brooklynites.

“We are honored to receive a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History,” said Deborah Schwartz, President of Brooklyn Historical Society. “Discussions on race and ethnicity are particularly timely and relevant given the country’s cultural and political climate and the subject matter is just as complex as it was in centuries past. This project captures voices from today, and makes them available to

the public and scholars for centuries to come. Our goal is to inspire spirited discourse in a productive way. We are very proud of the work that has gone into this historically significant project and we have established a dynamic model for how issues of mixed-heritage and identity are discussed in a public forum.”

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) is a national association that provides leadership and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans.

About Brooklyn Historical Society

Founded in 1863, Brooklyn Historical Society is a nationally recognized urban history center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's extraordinary 400-year history. Located in Brooklyn Heights and housed in a magnificent landmark building designed by George Post and opened in 1881, today's BHS is a cultural hub for civic dialogue, thoughtful engagement and community outreach.

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