



**BROOKLYN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**  
150 YEARS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS \$15K GRANT BY NISSAN FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT *VOICES OF CROWN HEIGHTS* ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

*Grant supports project goal to build inclusive community through “deep listening”*

July 19, 2016 Brooklyn, NY— Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is pleased to announce that it is a 2016 recipient of a Nissan Foundation grant. The grant will help fund *Voices of Crown Heights*, an oral history project which aligns with the Nissan Foundation’s mission of promoting the value of cultural diversity and building inclusive communities.

Launched in 2016, *Voices of Crown Heights* is a multi-year oral history project on the history and future of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, a neighborhood that has taken on continued national significance in conversations about ethnic relations, racial justice, and urban renewal. *Voices of Crown Heights* acknowledges and affirms Crown Heights residents' voices, and their power to tell their own stories. Through oral history interviews, a web-based listening portal and curated digital exhibit, listening stations based at BHS and in Crown Heights, podcasts, public conversations and listening sessions, *Voices of Crown Heights* seeks to immerse diverse audiences in unheard voices of the past and present that challenge any singular linear narrative of Crown Heights’s history.

“We thank the Nissan Foundation for their support in helping *Voices of Crown Heights* cultivate a more inclusive and tolerant borough,” said Deborah Schwartz, president of Brooklyn Historical Society. “Brooklyn is home to residents who represent a wide variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds. We are proud of our role as an institution that is committed to conducting oral history in tandem with community, and in valuing the work of listening and dialogue. With *Voices of Crown Heights* we offer our neighbors opportunities to listen, reflect, and share their stories about the complexity and nuance of urban life, past, present and future. This project is about making history, while creating opportunities for thoughtful, constructive discourse.”

2016 marks the fourth time that Brooklyn Historical Society has received a grant from the Nissan Foundation. It is one of 27 recipients to be selected this year. In its 24-year history, the Foundation has awarded more than \$9.3 million to more than 100 nonprofit organizations across the United States.

“The Nissan Foundation is proud to support Brooklyn Historical Society’s mission to enrich people’s lives and open doors to new ways of understanding our neighbors and the world we live in,” said Scott Becker, president of the Nissan Foundation. “Diversity is a core value of Nissan. Thirty-eight percent of Nissan’s U.S. customers are ethnically diverse, the highest among major automakers in the U.S.”

Additional funding for Voices of Crown Heights has been granted by The New York Community Trust and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. To learn more about *Voices of Crown Heights*, visit: [brooklynhistory.org/projects/crownheights](http://brooklynhistory.org/projects/crownheights)

### **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.

### **About the Nissan Foundation**

Established in 1992, the mission of the Nissan Foundation is to build community through valuing cultural diversity. The Nissan Foundation is part of Nissan North America’s commitment to “enrich people’s lives” by helping to meet the needs of communities throughout the U.S. through philanthropic investments, corporate outreach sponsorships, in-kind donations and other charitable contributions.

### **About Nissan North America**

In North America, Nissan's operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. Nissan is dedicated to improving the environment under the Nissan Green Program and has been recognized annually by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency as an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year since 2010. More information on Nissan in North America and the complete line of Nissan and Infiniti vehicles can be found online at [www.NissanUSA.com](http://www.NissanUSA.com) and [www.InfinitiUSA.com](http://www.InfinitiUSA.com), or visit the U.S. media sites [NissanNews.com](http://NissanNews.com) and [InfinitiNews.com](http://InfinitiNews.com).

### **About Nissan**

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., Japan's second-largest automotive company, is headquartered in Yokohama, Japan, and is part of the Renault-Nissan Alliance. Operating with more than 247,500 employees globally, Nissan sold 5.32 million vehicles and generated revenue of 11.38 trillion yen (USD 103.6 billion) in fiscal year 2014. Nissan delivers a comprehensive range of more than 60 models under the Nissan, Infiniti and Datsun brands. Nissan leads the world in zero-emission mobility, dominated by sales of the LEAF, the first mass-market, pure-electric vehicle. It is the best-selling EV in history with almost 50% share of the zero-emission vehicle segment. For more information on our products, services and commitment to sustainable mobility, visit our website at <http://www.nissan-global.com/EN/>.

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