



BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION, AND THE BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER DISCUSS PLACEMAKING IN BROWNSVILLE

*The New York Times' Ginia Bellafante moderates a discussion about the activism and stewardship involved
in unlocking public space.*

December 8, 2017 Brooklyn, NY— For its final public program of the Fall/Winter 2017 season, Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) will partner with the Center for Court Innovation and its Brownsville Community Justice Center to host a conversation about placemaking – the nexus of public space and public safety – in Brownsville.

Starting with Jane Jacobs's first campaign against Robert Moses, urbanists have argued that public space is a critical component of a healthy, vibrant city. But what if people fear for their safety on their own street? In Brownsville, through the work of the Brownsville Community Justice Center, residents have leveraged urban planning tools to transform neglected spaces into safe, vibrant public hubs. **Ginia Bellafante** of *The New York Times*, moderates a conversation with **Erica Mateo** and **Deron Johnston** from the Brownsville Community Justice Center, and **David Burney**, Mayor Bloomberg's Commissioner of the Department of Design & Development and the current Director of Pratt's Urban Placemaking and Management program, exploring the successes and challenges of placemaking in Brownsville.

The Brownsville Community Justice Center is a multi-faceted initiative that seeks to prevent crime by investing in local youth and improving the physical landscape of the neighborhood. Their innovative work in Brownsville serves as a model for neighborhoods across the city and around the country on effectively fostering organic community change, youth engagement, and crime prevention.

WHAT: *Unlocking Public Space: Placemaking in Brownsville*

WHEN: Mon, December 18, 6:30 pm

WHERE: Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street Brooklyn, NY 11201

TICKETS: \$5 / Free for Members <http://brooklynhistory.org/visitor/calendar.html>

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. In May 2017 BHS opened a second site in DUMBO's Brooklyn Bridge Park.

About Center for Court Innovation

The Center for Court Innovation seeks to help create a more effective and humane justice system.

About the Brownsville Community Justice Center:

The Brownsville Community Justice Center works to reduce crime and incarceration, and strengthen community trust in justice in central Brooklyn.

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