



BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORAL HISTORY PROJECT OFFERS SPACE TO LISTEN TO VOICES OF CROWN HEIGHTS, PAST AND PRESENT

Brooklyn Historical Society, Weeksville Heritage Center and Brooklyn Movement Center partner on series of public programs showcasing oral histories

February 3, 2017 Brooklyn, NY— On February 11, 2017, Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS), Weeksville Heritage Center and Brooklyn Movement Center (BMC) will launch a series of public programs that introduce audiences to oral histories in the Voices of Crown Heights collection.

Voices of Crown Heights is a multi-year oral history project that explores the history and future of Crown Heights, a neighborhood that has taken on continued national significance in conversations on ethnic relations, racial justice, and gentrification.

The Voices of Crown Heights project seeks to engage community members in deep listening and conversation concerning their experiences of issues such as education, police accountability, community safety, and civic responsibility. Deep listening means grappling with uncomfortable stories, poignant observations, and opinions one might not agree with. In partnership with Brooklyn Historical Society, Weeksville Heritage Center and Brooklyn Movement Center will each host a “listening session,” featuring deep listening of oral history selections and facilitated conversation, and an additional public program where community members, activists, and others will be in dialogue about community issues.

Education as Community Building: A Listening Session & Discussion

Sat, Feb 11, 2pm

Weeksville Heritage Center

158 Buffalo Avenue

FREE: [Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Weeksville Heritage Center and Brooklyn Historical Society host this Voices of Crown Heights event featuring deep listening and discussion about educational experiences in the community. Participants will hear oral history selections centered on education, at all levels, collected by Weeksville Heritage Center. These oral history clips chronicle coming of age in Crown Heights from the 1950s to the present, highlighting experiences as students, teachers, and school staff, and the centrality of formal and informal education in the foundation of community. Guided by these clips, participants will explore, through intergenerational dialogue, the pressing

issues that have shaped education and community life over time, including demographic change and gentrification, electoral politics, community activism, and more. All ages are welcome.

Future Voices of Crown Heights programs:

Community Classroom: Ideas, Innovation, and Education Equity with Weeksville Heritage Center

Sat, March 11, 10am

Weeksville Heritage Center

158 Buffalo Avenue

FREE: [Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Join community leaders, teachers, students, and residents of Crown Heights as we explore these pertinent questions: What have we learned from the past? What should we learn today? How should we learn? Under what conditions should we learn? What stands in the way of learning? How do we create just and equal educational opportunity in spite of the obstacles we face?

April 25: Listening Session: Oral Histories on Police Brutality and Community Safety, with Brooklyn Movement Center

May 16: Public Program on Police Brutality and Community Safety, with Brooklyn Movement Center

For more event information, please visit: <http://brooklynhistory.org/projects/crownheights>

About Voices of Crown Heights

Voices of Crown Heights is made possible through the generous support of the [New York Community Trust](#), the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), the [National Historical Publications and Records Commission](#), the [Nissan Foundation](#), and Brooklyn Community Foundation in partnership with its [Neighborhood Strength initiative](#).

About Weeksville Heritage Center

Weeksville Heritage Center, Brooklyn's largest African-American cultural institution, is a multidisciplinary museum, historic site, and archive dedicated to preserving the history of the 19th century African American community of Weeksville, Brooklyn - one of America's first free black communities. Weeksville advances its mission through history, preservation, visual and performing arts, ecology and the built environment.

About Brooklyn Movement Center

Brooklyn Movement Center (BMC) is a membership-led, direct-action, community organizing body based in Central Brooklyn (Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights and the surrounding area). We bring together residents to develop local leadership, identify important issues in their lives, win concrete improvements in the community, and build power.

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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