



BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY RAISES \$590,000 FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING DURING THIRD ANNUAL FALL GALA

Proceeds will fund youth initiatives and the forthcoming Muslims in Brooklyn oral history project

October 31, 2018 Brooklyn, NY— On Monday, October 29, Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) hosted nearly 300 guests for an evening of dinner and dancing during the third annual Fall Gala at The Liberty Warehouse in Red Hook, Brooklyn. The fall fete garnered financial support for education-based programming at BHS such as the award-winning Teen Innovators program and the current *Muslims in Brooklyn* oral history project.

This year's gala raised \$590,000 for the institution's various education programs including school tours at BHS and Brooklyn Navy Yard, the Young Scholars and Young Curators programs, Teen Thursdays for middle schoolers, Teen Innovators for high schoolers, in-class programs for all ages, digital curricula, and professional development for educators. These programs empower children, youth, teachers and families to participate in the interpretation of Brooklyn history as they build critical thinking skills that will shape their present.

In addition to funding programs for school age children, proceeds from the gala will support *Muslims in Brooklyn*, an oral history project that includes significant educational components, including curricular resources and in-school programs.

The evening commenced with a welcome from Steven M. Cohen, chief administrative officer and general counsel at MacAndrews & Forbes Incorporated who served as the gala emcee, and BHS Chairman Jim Rossman. Opening remarks were followed by a presentation on *Muslims in Brooklyn* by Oral Historian & *Muslims in Brooklyn* Project Director Zaheer Ali and BHS Trustee Wes Jackson. Guests were then treated to dinner before the award presentation acknowledging guests of honor Christopher O. Ward and Tracy Cook-Person.

This year's celebration honored Christopher O. Ward, an urban infrastructure visionary whose 30-plus-year career includes a successful tenure at Port Authority of NY and NJ where he led the World Trade Center rebuilding effort. Brooklyn Historical Society also recognized Tracy Cook-Person, an educator who has collaborated with Brooklyn Historical Society and the Brooklyn Navy Yard to launch and evaluate the award-winning Teen Innovators program.

Notable guests in attendance included Council Members Jumaane D. Williams and Laurie Cumbo, Chief Administrative Officer of Brooklyn Navy Yard Jocelyne Rainey, and President of Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation Eric Landau.

Images from the gala are available on [DropBox](#).

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.

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