



## Project Overview

In 2017, Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) launched **Muslims in Brooklyn**, a two-year, public history project to amplify stories of Brooklyn’s diverse Muslim communities. For well over a century, Muslims have lived, worked, and prayed in Brooklyn, making it a major center of Muslim life for NYC and the nation. As such, the histories and experiences of Brooklyn’s Muslim communities hold great resonance for national conversations on religious diversity and pluralism.



“An Ummah, In Conversation” by Mohammed Fayaz

**Muslims in Brooklyn** centers on the following three premises:

- ❖ **Muslims in Brooklyn have a long history. Muslim communities have been a part of American life since before the nation’s founding; and established Muslim Communities have been in Brooklyn for over a century.**
- ❖ **Muslims in Brooklyn are a diverse people. The lives and work of Muslims in Brooklyn span many ethnicities, cultures, and nationalities.**
- ❖ **Muslims in Brooklyn are Brooklynites. Muslims have both shaped and been shaped by life in Brooklyn.**



Muslims in Brooklyn Oral History Listening Party

**Muslims in Brooklyn** consists of several project elements which will provide multigenerational learning experiences, challenge assumptions, and promote understanding about Brooklyn’s rich ethnic and religious heritage. Project components include:

- ❖ **A collection of oral histories and primary source records**
- ❖ **A web-based educational curriculum**
- ❖ **Educational programs**
- ❖ **An arts-focused exhibition**
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- ❖ **Dynamic public programming**
- ❖ **Dedicated segments in BHS’s Flatbush + Main podcast series**
- ❖ **A publication**

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## Project Components

### Oral History Collection

BHS will conduct oral history interviews with up to 50 Muslim narrators from many different Brooklyn neighborhoods. Interviews will be guided by the themes of migrations, cultural formations, neighborhood change, civic engagement, and artistic creativity. Oral histories will be transcribed, cataloged, and made publicly available online and onsite at the BHS Othmer Library.

### Web-based Educational Curriculum

An extensive web-based curriculum for K-12 teachers and students will provide timely historical context about Islam and diverse cultural expressions of Muslims in NYC. Curriculum materials will include a timeline and geographies of local Muslim communities in Brooklyn and a teacher's guide with background information on the histories of Muslim traditions.

### Educational Programs

BHS education staff will work with a teaching artist to develop multi-part, in-class programs for NYC public school children. Over the course of 3 - 4 sessions, the teaching artist will guide students in listening to *Muslims in Brooklyn* oral histories; develop an artist study related to the collection's themes; and provide hands-on instruction in art exploration and production.

### Arts-focused Exhibition

BHS will work with Brooklyn artists to create media and visual arts content inspired by narratives from the *Muslims in Brooklyn* oral history collection. Their works will be displayed, along with the stories that inspired them, in a Listening Parlor exhibition on location at BHS, and other spaces with partner organizations. In this Listening Parlor, BHS will also host programs, discussions, and educational opportunities for viewers to connect with the art, the stories, and each other.

### Public programming

BHS will present events that encourage audiences to connect unique stories of Muslim narrators to shared American experiences. Performances will include discussions with scholars, artists, and community members

### Podcast

Curated audio clips from the *Muslims in Brooklyn* oral history collection will be featured in a series of "Voices of Brooklyn" segments of BHS's monthly podcast, *Flatbush + Main*, which features scholarly conversations, and uses archives and oral histories to explore Brooklyn's past, tying it to the most salient issues facing New Yorkers and Americans today.

### Publication

An accompanying publication will highlight artists' work featured in the exhibition; excerpts from oral history transcripts; a timeline of the history of Muslims in Brooklyn; as well as essays written by scholars, community leaders, and BHS staff.



## Sponsorship

Sponsorship of *Muslims in Brooklyn* is an excellent opportunity for businesses to support this powerful work and align themselves with a high-profile public history project that is sure to garner national and international attention.

**To learn more about sponsorship of *Muslims in Brooklyn*, please contact:**

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