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Esther Akutekha

347-381-3712

eakutekha@brooklynhistory.org

BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES WORLD PRIDE NYC WITH WIDE-RANGING LGBTQ-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT JUNE 2019

Several exhibitions and public programs celebrate LGBTQ+ communities. Professional development for educators, a family program, and an afterschool program for teens brings the topic to NYC's youth.

[May 21, 2019] Brooklyn, NY— In honor of World Pride NYC and Stonewall 50, Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is presenting a full roster of commemorative initiatives throughout June to educate and engage people from all walks of life about the past, present, and future of LGBTQ+ life.

Two exhibitions at BHS's main location at 128 Pierrepont Street explore how queer lives have shaped history, and how history has shaped queer life. *On the (Queer) Waterfront*, curated by Hugh Ryan author of "When Brooklyn Was Queer," is the first exhibition ever to focus exclusively on Brooklyn's queer history. A complementary exhibit, titled *A Queer Look at Brooklyn* and curated by the 21 high school students participating in BHS' Teen Council afterschool program, focuses on overlooked LGBTQ+ history throughout the borough.

For educators, a full day of professional development on Chancellor's Day (June 6) will draw on BHS' collection of oral histories to explore gender and sexual identity through a historical lens. This training includes a workshop on introducing LGBTQ+ topics into the classroom, and takes place at BHS's partner institution, the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

For June's free family programming, BHS is partnering with the organization Drag Queen Story Hour. Drag Queen Story Hour gives children a space to see people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where people can present as they wish. This program will take place at BHS's second location in DUMBO.

Four evening public programs over the course of the month will dig deeply into various aspects of Brooklyn's LGBTQ+ culture. These programs include a curator tour of the exhibition *On the (Queer) Waterfront*, an exploration of the queer private life of literary icon Walt Whitman, a look at the relationship between nightlife and activism for queer people of color, and the inaccuracies that lead to social stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS.

In addition, BHS offers a number of listening experiences that celebrate and illuminate queer culture. In [episode 33 of BHS' podcast Flatbush + Main](#), co-hosts Zaheer Ali and Julie Golia explore Coney Island's queer history with Hugh Ryan, curator of *On the (Queer) Waterfront* exhibition. On BHS's award-winning Oral History Portal, listeners can find numerous anecdotes about queer identity, including from the [Muslims in Brooklyn](#) and [AIDS/Brooklyn](#) oral history collections.

The full schedule of Brooklyn Historical Society's LGBTQ+ programs and exhibitions is as follows:

- **Exhibition - [On the \(Queer\) Waterfront](#) (on display until August 4)** –The first ever exhibition to focus on Brooklyn's largely forgotten LGBTQ history explores the queer communities that thrived along Brooklyn's waterfront.

- **Exhibition - [A Queer Look at Brooklyn](#) (on display until Spring 2020)** – View the LGBTQ+ exhibition researched, written and curated by Brooklyn high school students, which expands on *On the (Queer) Waterfront* and emphasizes the ways race, class, and illness have uniquely impacted LGBTQ+ people from the 19th century to the present day.
- **Public Program - [Curator Tour: On the \(Queer\) Waterfront](#) (Sunday June 2)** – Curator Hugh Ryan leads a private tour sharing the many extraordinary stories he unearthed and describing his multi-year quest to bring this history into the light.
- **Professional Development - [Uncovering LGBTQ History at the Brooklyn Navy Yard](#) (Thursday June 6)** – A day of professional development aimed at classroom teachers and administrators uses the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a case study for exploring social history, oral history, and identity with students.
- **Family Program - [Drag Queen Story Hour at BHS DUMBO](#) (Saturday June 8)** – Drag queens and unabashedly queer role models **Harmonica Sunbeam** and **Cholula Lemon** will read *Rosie Revere, Engineer* during a free family program.
- **Public Program - [“Live Oak, With Moss”](#): [Uncovering Walt Whitman’s Queer Private Life](#) (Tuesday, June 11)** – Walt Whitman scholar **Karen Karbiener** and Illustrator **Brian Selznick** discuss Whitman’s revolutionary collection of poems portraying his most ardent explorations of same-sex love.
- **Public Program - [The Tea on Brooklyn’s Prismatic LGBTQ Nightlife](#) (Monday June 24)** – Explore the importance of queer POC dance scenes through clips from *We Came to Sweat*, the documentary on the storied Starlite Lounge that served as a black queer hub in Crown Heights, and a panel of queer POC nightlife experts **Calvin Clark** of the former Club Langston, **Mohammed Fayaz** of Papi Juice, and **Ryann Holmes** of Bklyn Boihood
- **Public Program - [Getting the History of HIV/AIDS Right](#) (Wednesday June 26)** – University of Illinois at Chicago professor and author **Jennifer Brier** and Northwestern University professor and journalist **Steven Thrasher** engage in a conversation that touches on gender, race, sexuality, political and social history, and the tension between complacency and urgency today.

More information about these exhibitions and programs, including registration links and hours of operation, can be found at brooklynhistory.org.

[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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