

# OFF THE SHELF

A LOOK INSIDE  
BROOKLYN PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

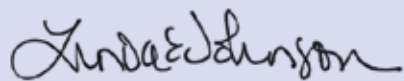


**Bklyn 125<sup>th</sup>**  
Public Library

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this issue, you'll see how the celebrations surrounding BPL's 125th anniversary have continued into the summer. At our annual Gala we honored 125 years of service by recognizing the contributions of artists and institutions committed to making the world a more just and joyous place. Our yearly Summer Reading outreach has been an extended birthday party inviting all—especially our younger readers—to keep reading and expanding their minds and perspectives. The grand opening of our newly rebuilt Brooklyn Heights branch provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of public spaces that are beautiful, state-of-the-art and open to all.

Throughout history, celebrations not only mark significant milestones but can also serve as defiant expressions of hope in the face of an existential threat. The rise of book bans over the past few months has certainly tested our resilience as an institution devoted to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge. I am gratified to see how strongly the Library has pushed back against these efforts through Books Unbanned and other anti-censorship programming. We recognize these challenges, but we rise to meet them.



**Linda E. Johnson**  
President & CEO

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All photos, unless indicated, by Gregg Richards.  
Cover: Families and staff celebrating at Central Library's Summer Reading Kick-Off event  
Inside front cover: Gala attendees celebrate on the plaza



Honoree Jon Batiste

# BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION

**As dusk turned to starry skies over Grand Army Plaza, over 350 Library supporters gathered for BPL's Gala Celebration—our first in-person Gala in two years! The event commemorated 125 years of BPL's service to the borough and paid tribute to the 2022 honorees: Jon Batiste and Suleika Jaouad and Goldman Sachs One Million Black Women.**

Batiste and Jaouad are Brooklynites and partners who have made important contributions in the worlds of art, music, literature and journalism. Batiste is a five-time Grammy winner who has played some of the biggest stages around the world, including the Grammys and Kennedy Center Honors, and is the band leader of CBS's *Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Jaouad is the author of the best-selling memoir *Between Two Kingdoms* and creator of the Emmy Award-winning *New York Times* video series "Life, Interrupted." Jaouad also serves on BPL's Arts and Letters Committee. Internationally acclaimed musician, composer and educator Wynton Marsalis presented Jaouad and Batiste with the honor. In his remarks, Batiste noted, "Libraries are an

oasis in our culture and one such as the Brooklyn Public Library is leading the way."

Goldman Sachs has committed \$10 billion in direct investment capital and \$100 million in philanthropic support over the next decade to address the dual, disproportionate gender and racial biases that Black women have faced for generations. BPL, in partnership with Goldman Sachs, will work to develop new programs, partnerships and pathways to provide opportunities for Black women and girls. Asahi Pompey, Global Head of Corporate Engagement and President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation noted, "Institutions like BPL serve as critical anchors of our communities. Working together, we can realize our shared goal of ensuring opportunity is available to all."

BPL President & CEO Linda Johnson added, "We are thrilled to be back in person to celebrate BPL's 125th anniversary and the individuals and organizations in the borough whose talent, perseverance and commitment to justice inspire us." Baratunde Thurston was the evening's host, and Mayor Eric Adams also delivered remarks. The Brooklyn Youth Chorus and Brass Queens entertained guests during dinner and djFRITzo had everyone dancing during the after party. Thanks to the generosity of the guests, the 2022 Gala raised more than \$1.3 million to support the Library's critical programs and resources.



Brooklyn-based Brass Queens entertaining Gala guests



Summer Reading kick-off celebrations at Sheepshead Bay Library

# SUMMER READING KICK-OFF CELEBRATIONS!

**IF YOU WERE WANDERING AROUND BROOKLYN ON JUNE 4, YOU MIGHT HAVE OVERHEARD NUMEROUS RAUCOUS RENDITIONS OF “HAPPY BIRTHDAY” ECHOING ACROSS THE STREETS.**

**If so, you were passing by one of the many Summer Reading kick-off events held at branches across the borough celebrating BPL’s 125th birthday.**

Summer Reading is the Library’s annual, boroughwide effort to promote recreational reading during the summer months. By providing children and youth from birth to 18 years with branch programs, online activities, and recommended reading lists and collections, Summer Reading helps to offset the “summer slide” of reading setbacks that disproportionately impacts disadvantaged students.

Every branch has its own celebration to mark the start of Summer Reading. The 2022 theme, tied to BPL’s birthday milestone, is “You’re Invited!” At branches from Bay Ridge to Brooklyn Heights and everywhere in between, families were invited to participate in a wide assortment of activities and giveaways including books, scratch art pads, make your own catapult, word puzzles, friendship bracelets, pipe cleaner snakes, pencil cases and origami birthday cupcakes.

Attendees enjoyed live performances of magicians, storytellers, puppeteers and dancers as well as musical performances such as a steel drum band. BPL’s neighborhood libraries also celebrated Summer Reading in their own unique ways. A few examples include:

- Macon Library held an Author Fair featuring books written by local independent writers
- Kensington Library offered a giveaway of 125 dragons made by their 3D printer
- Kings Highway Library featured t-shirt tie-dyeing and dance lessons
- Brighton Beach Library offered a smoothie-making demonstration and Ukrainian folktales
- Adams Street Library conducted a mermaid crown workshop
- The Flatbush Region branches (Borough Park, Clarendon, Cortelyou, East Flatbush, Flatbush, Flatlands, Mill Basin, Paerdegat, Rugby and Windsor Terrace Libraries) hosted a combined event at Marine Park that included a scavenger hunt in partnership with New York City Park Rangers.

“Summer is a time for children to reset, renew, and grow and learn in different ways. Libraries provide thousands of children with reading and learning opportunities that help build a strong foundation for social and academic growth when the school year begins,” said Marlyn Torres, senior program officer, New York Life Foundation. “We continue to support this initiative, which strongly aligns with the Foundation’s educational enhancement focus to support youth during the critical out-of-school hours.”



Scenes from Summer Reading kick-offs at (top) Kensington Library and (bottom) Flatbush Region

An estimated 2,500 people joined us for this year’s Summer Reading kick-off events. We were delighted that so many Brooklynites shared in the Library’s birthday celebration.

➔ Visit [bklynlibrary.org/summer-reading](https://bklynlibrary.org/summer-reading) to discover what’s happening at your local library all summer long!

Major support provided by the New York Life Foundation, the 2022 city-wide sponsor for Summer Reading and Learning Programs. Lead support for Brooklyn Public Library’s Summer Reading 2022 program provided by the National Grid Foundation. The program is supported by Con Edison and Macy’s.

# NICOLE BRYAN 2022 Mover and Shaker!

In May of this year, *Library Journal* published its 2022 list of Movers and Shakers. This annual award recognizes emerging and inspiring leaders from around the world who are moving libraries forward for the next generation. A mover and a shaker can be defined as an individual who is active or influential in a particular field of endeavor. Someone who gets things done, sets an example and inspires others. If you look up this term in the dictionary (or more realistically, if you Google it) you might see a picture of Nicole Bryan, Macon Library's Supervising Librarian, who was featured in the *Library Journal's* list this year.

Bryan, who has been at BPL since 2015 in various roles, became the Supervising Librarian at Macon Library in Bedford-Stuyvesant in January 2020. When the pandemic shut down the city shortly after her new job began, she didn't hesitate to leap into action, arranging to block off the street in front of her branch and creating an outdoor library with browsable book carts and programs for families. "We made it our mission to be outside with the community," Bryan said.

Bryan's ingenuity and sense of community building goes beyond her responses to COVID-19. To encourage community members to complete the 2020 census, she arranged a roller-skating block



Nicole Bryan

party complete with skate rentals and local performers. Acknowledging the growing impact of the Black Lives Matter movement, Bryan was instrumental in the creation of BPL's Black American Library Card, which launched on Juneteenth 2021 to celebrate and raise awareness of Macon Library's African American Heritage Center.

To ensure she has her finger on the pulse of the community she serves, Bryan is a fixture at her local community board's meetings, has developed relationships with the surrounding block associations and stays engaged with her branch's volunteer group, the Friends of Macon Library.

**"I feel honored and humbled by this experience," said Bryan.**

"To be recognized for doing what I truly love is such an honor." We are, in turn, honored to have Bryan as part of BPL and look forward to her continued leadership at Macon Library.

# SENIOR DEBATE



A BPL senior debater at an event held on Central Library's plaza

When you hear the term "Senior Debate Team," you probably picture studious high schoolers who are preparing to head off to college in the fall. The individuals who participate in BPL's Senior Debate program, however, are more likely to be known as "grandpa" or "abuela."

Senior Debate at BPL is designed for older adults interested in joining a virtual community to intellectually challenge themselves through practice debate sessions culminating in a championship tournament. The program, initially suggested to BPL by former New York University President John Sexton, launched online in the fall of 2021 and to date has engaged dozens of individuals across Brooklyn in a multitude of debate topics, including:

- Should the District of Columbia be admitted to the Union as the 51st state?
- Are books more powerful than movies as a means of telling a story with deep and lasting impact?
- Are apprenticeships a viable alternative to a college education?
- Should public college be free for anyone who wants to attend?

The teams vary in size from two to four people, but one of the characteristics that sets Senior Debate apart from other debate formats is that it also offers a research and analysis option for those who want to participate in the program without directly participating in the debates themselves.

The debate tournament judges are former high school and/or collegiate debaters recruited by Kieran Larkin, a moderator of speech and debate at several schools across NYC, and include a Bronx Family Court Justice as well as faculty from Columbia, Cornell and NYU.

Individuals like Charlie Briggins, who frequents Brighton Beach Library, participate in Senior Debate with the help of the branch staff, who are attentive to his technology needs and help ensure he successfully signs into each Zoom session. Participants learn about the program through email blasts targeted toward older adult patrons along with fliers that have been distributed to every Neighborhood Library Supervisor within Brooklyn Public Library's system.

Some of the program participants were on debate teams back in their high school and college days, while others are eager to improve their public speaking and research skills. What they all seem to appreciate is learning how to craft both pro- and con- arguments, and how their preparation and research has opened them up to perspectives and viewpoints that they may not have considered or explored. BPL's Senior Debate program proves that at any age, BPL can offer new horizons to discover and fresh ideas to explore. And that is not up for debate.

# Books Unbanned.

According to the nonprofit organization PEN America, 1,586 book bans targeting 1,145 unique books occurred in the nine months prior to April 2022; most of the books focus on race, sex, sexual orientation and gender. This is the highest number of removals and book challenges recorded in a single year since the American Library Association (ALA) began tracking book censorship more than 20 years ago.

In response to this disturbing trend, BPL launched Books Unbanned in April 2022. The initiative invites young adults (ages 13 to 21) nationwide to request a free BPL eCard for one year, unlocking access to the Library's collection of 350,000 eBooks, 200,000 audiobooks and 100+ databases.

While challenges to books and ideas are not new, the urgency of the initiative was driven by the increasingly coordinated and worryingly effective efforts to remove books tackling a wide range of important and relevant topics from library shelves across the country. Through BPL's Books Unbanned booklist, many of these frequently challenged titles are available to cardholders with no holds or wait times.

The response to Books Unbanned has been overwhelming, with thousands of email inquiries, over 4,000 eCards requested and 2,800 issued to teens from every state in the nation. In May alone, over 6,000 books were checked out by Books Unbanned eCards. In addition, BPL formed an Intellectual Freedom Teen Council, which provides a space for teens across the country to discuss book challenges, their favorite banned books and the Books Unbanned project. Plus, BPL's Report a Challenge connects youth to ALA's website, where individuals can report new book challenges.

"Removing these stories from library shelves sends a message that these experiences don't matter, that they have no place in the community. Libraries instead should be sanctuaries for these stories," said Nick Higgins, BPL's Chief Librarian. "We fight to protect a person's right to read whatever they choose, and we honor the voices of those who some may try to silence. I am so proud to work with the small-but-mighty Books Unbanned team to push back on censorship efforts here and across the US."

➔ To learn more about Books Unbanned, visit [bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned](https://bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned)

## BKLYN BOOKMATCH BOOKS UNBANNED



BookMatch is a readers' advisory service that uses what readers like (and dislike) to create customized reading recommendations based on the interests or needs of patrons. As part of the Library's Books Unbanned project, BPL librarians assembled a comprehensive list of titles that have faced censorship across the country. Below are excerpts from that list. Learn more about Books Unbanned and view the complete booklist at [bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned](https://bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned). You can also request your own BookMatch here: [bklynlibrary.org/bookmatch](https://bklynlibrary.org/bookmatch)

### *Out of Darkness*

by Ashley Hope Pérez

Loosely based on a 1937 school explosion in New London, Texas, this is the story of two teenagers: Naomi, who is Mexican, and Wash, who is Black, and their dealings with race, segregation, love and the forces that destroy people.

### *Speak*

by Laurie Halse Anderson

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. After calling the cops to an end-of-summer party, Melinda is now an outcast at Merryweather High. Through her work on an art project, she is finally able to face what happened and gain the courage to fight back.

### *Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir*

by Liz Prince

Eschewing female stereotypes throughout her early years and failing to gain acceptance on the boys' baseball team, Liz learns to embrace her own views on gender as she comes of age in this anecdotal graphic memoir.

### *All American Boys*

by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely

In an unforgettable novel from award-winning authors Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely, two teens—one Black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school and their community bitterly divided by racial tension.

### *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*

by Malinda Lo

America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone, including Chinese Americans like Lily. With deportation looming over her father—despite his hard-won citizenship—Lily and Kath risk everything to let their love see the light of day.

### *Lawn Boy*

by Jonathan Evison

For Mike Muñoz, life has been a whole lot of waiting for something to happen. Not too many years out of high school and still doing menial work—and just fired from his latest

gig as a lawn boy on a landscaping crew—he is smart enough to know that he needs to shake things up if he's ever going to change his life. But how?

### *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*

by Susan Kuklin

Author and photographer Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young adults and used her considerable skills to represent them thoughtfully and respectfully before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference.

### *All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto*

by George M. Johnson

In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson explores his childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia. From the memories of getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, this young-adult memoir weaves together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys.

# The American Library of Nazi-Banned Books

Banning books and restricting access to information is not a new phenomenon. Did you know that in 1934, the Brooklyn Jewish Center founded the American Library of Nazi-Banned Books? Though it's little-remembered today, the initiative was championed by such luminaries as Albert Einstein, Theodore Dreiser and Upton Sinclair, and was celebrated nationwide.

Founded after World War I by a group of prominent Eastern European Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Jewish Center was a precursor to the modern Jewish Community Centers, or JCCs, that are now common across the United States. The idea was to create “not just a synagogue, but...a community” and provide a place for “everything in Jewish life,” as Rabbi Nosson Blumes stated in his interview for the Center for Brooklyn History’s Brooklyn Jewish History Project. Former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz described his memories of the Brooklyn Jewish Center from his Crown Heights childhood as “a must-go-to place” and “certainly the center of [Jewish] life in Brooklyn.”



A poster from 1942

“Dort, wo man Bücher verbrennt, verbrennt man am Ende auch Menschen.” (Where one burns books, one will soon burn people.) —Heinrich Heine, 1821

In May 1933, Germany’s Nazi regime ran rampant through the nation’s libraries, universities and bookstores, removing “un-German” books and in some cases burning them publicly. The most infamous such incident took place on May 10, 1933, in Berlin’s Opera Square. It was a spectacle that shocked and horrified the world. Almost one year later, in April 1934, the Center announced their Library of Nazi-Banned Books.

By September, the Center had organized an advisory board for the library which included the previously mentioned intellectuals along with other prominent voices. In December, the Center formally

launched the library at a dinner in honor of Einstein, which was widely covered in Brooklyn newspapers. At the dinner, the Center’s leader, Rabbi Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, gave a rousing speech in which he referenced a story from the Talmud when God exhorted his people to choose either the book or the sword. Nazi Germany, he claimed, had chosen the sword, while American Jews had chosen the book.

With the outbreak of World War II, the American Library of Nazi-Banned Books had amassed about 500 titles. In a speech commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 1933 Berlin book burning that was broadcast by New York Public Radio, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt famously declared, “Books cannot be killed by fire. People die, but books never die. No man and no force can put thought in a concentration camp forever.

**No man and no force can take from the world the books that embody man’s eternal fight against tyranny.**

In this war, we know, books are weapons.”

In a 2007 article on the Center’s banned books library for *Library Trends*, Nikola von Merveldt wrote, “By transcending linguistic, religious, and racial boundaries, the Library of Nazi-Banned Books and the activities linked to it truly symbolized democratic American values.” Nikola von Merveldt further expanded on this point by quoting from an essay published in March 1935 that was written by an anonymous Black man:



The Brooklyn Jewish Center circa 1922

“If we all fight together, not with weapons but with the privilege of every citizen, then, and only then can we blot this awful blur [sic] on history’s records. Voting, keeping active in our political circles, being conscious of what’s happening around us, these are our weapons. Arm yourselves immediately—Make right the wrong done.”

These powerful words still resonate for Brooklynites today, and illustrate the ways in which, as Nikola von Merveldt wrote, “In times of war, revolution, and social change, books and libraries gain a symbolic dimension precisely because their physical existence is threatened. As symbols or counter-symbols, they can act as a powerful force to shape identity and create community even under adverse circumstances...they represent communities and symbolize values in need of defense.”

The Library of Nazi-Banned Books was transferred to the Jewish Theological Seminary in the 1970s. Its legacy lives on in efforts like BPL’s Books Unbanned initiative and countless other projects that fight against intellectual oppression.

# PATHWAYS to LEADERSHIP

In the summer of 2020, four organization-wide “Real Talk” sessions were held for all BPL employees to discuss how our institution can better live up to its values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. A lack of diversity was noted among librarian staff (88 percent of American librarians are white!) and staff urged BPL to “play a role in picking up the slack of library schools” and “create paths for education and employment” for racially and ethnically diverse librarians. And so in 2021, BPL initiated a new program—Pathways to Leadership—to assist non-librarian staff in pursuing this career while also helping to diversify the field of librarianship.

The Pathways to Leadership scholarship program supports staff from traditionally underrepresented groups (including but not limited to Asian, Black, Latino, Native American and Pacific Islander heritage) in pursuing a Master of Library Science (MLS) degree and covers the entire cost of an MLS program at Queens College (or it can be used to cover partial tuition at a different institution). The scholarship is open to all non-librarian staff members, and staff members of marginalized groups are especially encouraged to apply.

With generous support from BPL board member Susan Marcinek and her husband David, the program is designed to fund



The inaugural class of Pathways scholars I-r Amen Emile, Nikeisha Smothers, Kesha Powell, Avigail Najjar (not shown: Kay Jordan-Wilkie and Freddie Rivera)

five members of BPL’s staff as they pursue their MLS degrees. This year, thanks to additional funding from BPL Board Chair Nina Collins, BPL was able to add a sixth scholarship spot. This first group of awardees matriculated in January 2022 and consists of:

**Amen Emile**, Technical Resource Specialist at Brower Park Library

**Kay Jordan-Wilkie**, Office Associate in the Office of Neighborhood Services

**Avigail Najjar**, Assistant Library Custodian

**Kesha Powell**, Office Associate at Clinton Hill Library

**Freddie Rivera**, Bookmobile Operator

**Nikeisha Smothers**, Manager of Operations at the Adult Learning Center at Central Library

Some are native New Yorkers, while others hail from more distant places. Their time at BPL ranges from four to 25 years!

Some started as volunteers or part-timers, while others joined as full-time staff. Yet for all of them, libraries and BPL itself have been central to their lives. Powell, whose family moved to Bedford-Stuyvesant from her native Maryland when she was 12, spent her teenage years at Clinton Hill and Bedford Libraries. Emile shared that the day after his family arrived in Brooklyn from Haiti, his father took him to visit Central Library.

The idea, and for some, the dream of working at BPL was there from the start. Emile noted, “When I first stepped into the library, I immediately felt that I belonged with this organization.” Added Najjar, “The public library was one of the only places in Brooklyn that I knew to be free, beneficial and open to all.”

The Pathways to Leadership scholarship has opened doors in a variety of ways. Rivera had previously begun to pursue his degree, but his mother became ill and he had to drop out to become her caretaker. When he learned about this program, however, “I couldn’t let this opportunity pass,” he said. “BPL has given me another bite at the apple, and I have help with Mom now, so I’m going to finish this time.” Similarly, Smothers initially enrolled at Queens College a few years ago, but had to withdraw due to hardship. “When I learned about the Pathways program, I knew that it was a sign for me to put my name in the hat. I was so excited when I found out!” Added Jordan-Wilkie, “Receiving this scholarship is a great morale booster. I feel valued by the organization.” When librarians and staff in Central Library’s Youth Wing nudged Najjar to consider this career path, “The Pathways to Leadership program made it possible for me to afford grad school without burying myself under a mountain of debt.”

And once they’ve graduated, what next? What does the future hold? Stated Emile, “Once I have attained my master’s degree, I will be steps away from being that Children’s or Young Adult librarian I dreamed of.” Echoed Najjar, “The current plan is graduate, become a Children’s or Young Adult librarian at BPL, keep learning and keep moving into new roles within the organization.”

As a group, the Pathways scholars expressed a desire to be of service to their communities. Powell articulated this beautifully: “When children come in, I want them to see someone like them working at the library—a Black woman behind the desk to inspire them and increase the number of people of color who become librarians.” Rivera noted, “I will have an opportunity to enhance the lives of others in our communities throughout the borough of Brooklyn and beyond.” Added Jordan-Wilkie, “As a librarian, my hope will be to find new and innovative ways to deliver necessary services to underserved communities.”

All of the current Pathways scholars encourage their peers with similar aspirations to “go for it.” Rivera shared this advice: “Believe in yourself and when an opportunity comes along that betters your life, don’t be afraid to take it. The work is hard, but the reward is worth it in the end.” The next round of applications and info sessions for Pathways to Leadership began in early July and we look forward to announcing the next cohort of scholars by the end of August.

For more information and to contribute, please contact Lexy Mayers, Chief Development Officer, [lmayers@bklynlibrary.org](mailto:lmayers@bklynlibrary.org) or 718.230.2009.



# A Brand New Brooklyn Heights Library

BPL President & CEO Linda E. Johnson, Supervising Librarian Rachel Tieman and City Councilmember Lincoln Restler cutting the ribbon with students from P.S. 8

**Don't you love that new library smell? The next time you're near Cadman Plaza, be sure to check out the new Brooklyn Heights Library, which opened to the public in June 2022. It features over 26,000 square feet of library goodness including dedicated spaces for children and teens, a reading circle, private meeting rooms and a multipurpose room that can accommodate over 200 attendees.**

BPL President & CEO Linda E. Johnson remarked at the branch's June 8th opening, "Today we celebrate a milestone, completing a vision to turn an outdated library into a bright and inspiring space for the 21st century. In so doing, not only are we delivering a beautiful new Brooklyn Heights Library, we have generated funds for the renovation of nine other branches, benefitting our patrons throughout the borough and marking the most important moment in rebuilding since Brooklyn Public Library was founded 125 years ago."

Amazingly, the Brooklyn Heights Library redevelopment project, which generated resources for the construction, also raised funds for capital improvements at libraries across Brooklyn, including doubling the size of Sunset Park Library and making Pacific Library fully accessible with a new elevator.

In fact, the Brooklyn Heights Library redevelopment project is part of an even larger, systemwide initiative that will revitalize more than a third of BPL's spaces over the next several years. This work includes a major renovation of Central Library and redeveloping several branches from the ground up, such as Adams Street Library—Brooklyn's first brand new library location since the 1980s—as well as Greenpoint Library and Environmental Education Center, in addition to many other capital improvement projects across the borough.

Deborah Hallen, the chair of the Friends of Brooklyn Heights Library, proudly noted that "patience and hard work and dedication got us to this beautiful library." Added Rachel Tiemann, the branch's Supervising Librarian, "I've got goose-bumps!" She shared that the library serves

as a second home for herself and so many others.

The light-filled branch offers floor-to-ceiling windows, a sunlit reading room, double-height ceilings and *Something Borrowed, Something New*, an installation by Brooklyn-based artist Jean Shin created in honor of BPL's 125th anniversary. The art piece, shaped like an upside-down tree, "acknowledges the library's roots in the community and Brooklynites' generations of shared history with the library and literature."

Attending the ribbon cutting on June 8 was the 4th grade class from nearby P.S. 8, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, former District 33 City Council Member Stephen Levin, who was instrumental in supporting the project, and newly elected City Council Member Lincoln Restler.

As Lenny H. Singletary of Community Board 2 observed, "Not only is Brooklyn Heights receiving a beautiful new library, but neighborhoods and residents across the borough are also benefitting from this project."



A view of the new Brooklyn Heights Library's interior



# BPL PRESENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all events are virtual or take place at Central Library. All programs are free and reservations are required for most adult programs. For complete listings visit: [bklynlibrary.org/bplpresents](http://bklynlibrary.org/bplpresents)



## THE PEOPLE'S BALL

On May 1, hundreds of fashionable Brooklynites posed, peacocked and partied at The People's Ball at Central Library. Hosts Isaac Fitzgerald and Scaachi Koul cheered on patrons as they walked the catwalk and shared the inspiration for their fierce lewks. Performances by Opera Gaga, Inyang Basse and Paris the Hip Hop Juggler entertained the crowd, while Rimarkable kept the crowd dancing.

Special guests included fashion curator Souleo, Grandassa models from the historic African American fashion show, Naturally '62, countertenor and star of the Phillip Glass opera, Akhnaten, Anthony Costanzo and Lenape Center co-founder, Joe Baker.



## NIGHT OF IDEAS BROOKLYN

In person once again, the 2022 Night of Ideas, co-presented with Villa Albertine on May 21, featured a keynote address on the overturn of Roe v. Wade by celebrated reproductive rights lawyer Kathryn Kolbert and a concert by poet and musician Patti Smith, who was honored with the French Order of Merit by France's Ambassador to the U.S., Philippe Etienne. Offerings included lectures, concerts and performances by scholars, journalists, authors and musicians.

## MALI MAGIC

On March 17, BPL Presents was proud to welcome Dr. Kader Abdel Haidara, Director of SAVAMA and keeper of hundreds of Malian manuscripts dating back to the 1400s, for an engaging discussion with Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah and our partner at Google Arts & Culture, Chance Coughenour, to unpack the significance of these remarkable masterworks of cultural heritage and Google's digital platform, Mali Magic. To view Google's digital platform, visit: [artsandculture.google.com/project/mali-heritage](http://artsandculture.google.com/project/mali-heritage)

For additional programming in the series, please check BPL Presents' Mali Magic page at [bklynlib.org/mali](http://bklynlib.org/mali)



## YOUNG COMPOSERS FESTIVAL: PERSIST

Sunday, Oct 16 / 4 pm  
Dweck Center

In celebration of the courage, patience and resilience that arise in people in times of great difficulty, ETHEL, the

genre-defying string quartet, has joined forces with Allison Loggins-Hull—composer, flutist, producer and Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellow to the Cleveland Orchestra. The centerpiece of the program will be Loggins-Hull's NEA-commission "Persist" for which the program is named. ETHEL and Loggins-Hull have also commissioned new works from four brilliant composers whose passionate, hopeful and inspiring works will round out the evening. They include: Migiw Miyajima, Xavier Musik, Sam Wu and Leilehua Lanzilotti (runner-up for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in Music).

## CLASSICAL INTERLUDES

Sundays / 4 pm  
Dweck Center

INESA SINKYEVICH  
November 6

LLEWELLYN  
SANCHEZ-WERNER  
December 11



## TALKS IN THE OTHMER

This fall series takes place in the Center for Brooklyn History's exquisite Othmer Reading Room on weekday evenings at 6:30 pm. Here are just some of the Talks in store:

### BILL KELLER ON PRISON REFORM

Wednesday, Oct 12

### THE RISE AND FALL OF PROTESTANT BROOKLYN

Thursday, Oct 20

### PHILIP DRAY ON RACIAL VIOLENCE THEN AND NOW

Wednesday, Oct 26

# EVENTS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES



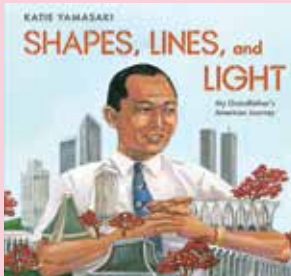
**TAMMY NGUYEN: Original print works from *O* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2022)**  
**Sept 19 – Dec 3 / Central Library**  
 Foyer exhibition cases and 2nd Floor Balcony cases

Tammy Nguyen is a multi-media artist whose work spans painting, drawing, print and book making. The exhibition features images from her second work of literary fiction, *O*, published this September. The words and images sound the depths of the personal, mineral and geopolitical histories of Vietnam: a wind that carved mountains whistles through a young girl's teeth; the electric green of a plastic forest glints off of glazed porcelain; the shape of a bowl becomes the mouth of a cave. These images serve to illustrate Nguyen's anti-allegory, which finds its meaning in echoes and refracted light.

**Saturdays / 1 pm**  
**Dweck Center**

## Shapes, Lines, and Light: My Grandfather's American Journey

Katie Yamasaki's newest picture book celebrates the life of her grandfather, the acclaimed Japanese American architect Minoru Yamasaki. Plus experience the original artwork from the new book on display in Central Library's Youth Wing this Fall.  
**October 1**



**Chamber Music Society by Lincoln Center**  
**October 8**

## STOMP, CLAP & SING

**Tuesdays / 10:30 pm**  
**Dweck Center**

**October 11**  
**FLOR BROMLEY**

**Hispanic Heritage Month: Martina, The Little Roach / La Cucarachita Martina by Teatro SEA**  
**October 15**

**Musical Performance / Book World Launch**  
**October 22**

**Bubbles Halloween Booooo Bash**  
**October 29**

**El Día de los Muertos**  
**November 5**

**The Great Ball Game: How Bat Settles the Rivalry between the Animals and the Birds; A Circle Round Book**  
**November 19**



**October 25**  
**LITTLE ROCKERS**  
**November 8**  
**SUZI SHELTON**

For complete listings:  
[bklynlibrary.org/event-series/events-for-youth-and-family](https://bklynlibrary.org/event-series/events-for-youth-and-family)

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# Bklyn Public Library

## Central Library

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Brooklyn, NY 11238

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