Overview

Brooklyn Connections is a program conducted by the Brooklyn Public Library’s Center for Brooklyn History (formerly Brooklyn Collection) with the goal of raising academic achievement in K-12 classrooms using a culturally responsive curriculum and access to original archival materials. The program includes a field trip to the Brooklyn Public Library’s archive to introduce students to archival research, as well as instructional materials for partnered teachers and support from the Brooklyn Connections staff. Students in the program complete a final research project related to Brooklyn history.

Knology researchers designed and Brooklyn Connections distributed a short survey to all teachers who had participated in the Brooklyn Connections program (past and present) for whom contact information exists. The survey asked questions related to both the teachers’ experience and their perceptions of the students’ experience with the program. It also invited teachers to indicate interest in a follow-up interview. These interviews further explored survey findings regarding program impact as well as ideas for adapting to a new virtual model.
## Table of Contents

**Overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Appendix A – Survey of Partner Teachers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email invitation to survey</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module: Experience with Brooklyn Connections</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module: Program Components and Activities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module: Overall Program Experience</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module: Program Engagement for 2020-2021</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module: Interview Opt-in</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Appendix B - Teacher Interviews**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consent Form</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview Protocol</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A – Survey of Partner Teachers

Visual Survey Display

This survey used a drag-and-drop function that is difficult to capture in a text document. Survey respondents saw a screen that looks like Figure 1 below. They were presented with a list of options as shown on the left, and were able to drag responses into the box on the right, as shown in Figure 2.

The next set of questions ask you to rank how you felt about various parts of the program. Please click on the phrase on the left and drag it to the box on the right and place it in the order that best corresponds to your opinion.

What do you consider to be the **most valuable** parts of the program? (select 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>The most valuable parts of the program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student folder materials (project packet, field guide to research, bookmark)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies (reference books, posters, pencils, project supplies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In class materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library educator visiting your classroom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your class visiting the library Archive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project implementation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convocation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.
Email invitation to survey

Dear teacher –

Thanks so much for partnering with Brooklyn Connections over the years. Like you, we are figuring out what our future holds and taking some time to thoughtfully evaluate and improve our work. To best do that, we’d like to hear from our new and legacy teachers about your experiences with the Brooklyn Connections program at Brooklyn Public Library.

Following this survey (link below), we will contact select teachers for a 30-minute phone interview. This is completely voluntary, and interviewees will receive a $50 gift card to show appreciation for their time.

Click on the following link to begin the survey.

<link>

Thank you for your time and willingness to participate.

Survey

Please note that module names were not visible to participants but are provided here for ease of reading. Similarly, text that is enclosed with triangular brackets (i.e. <text>) are explanatory notes for the survey programmer. Participants did not see these notes.
Module: Experience with Brooklyn Connections

Did you partner with Brooklyn Connections in the 2019/2020 school year?

- Yes; 2019/20 was my first year of Brooklyn Connections
- Yes, 2019/20 was not my first year (i.e., I've been a partner for 2 or more years)
- I did not partner with Brooklyn Connections in 2019/2020, and no interest in partnering again in the future
- I did not partner with Brooklyn Connections in 2019/2020, but I am considering partnering in the future
- I don’t remember / None of these describes my situation <respondents will be routed directly to the survey exit page>

<If NOT currently partnered> Approximately how many years ago did you stop participating in Brooklyn Connections?

- 1-2 years
- 3-4 years
- 5-6 years
- 7 or more years

<If NOT currently partnered> Select the reasons that best match why you decided not to continue with Brooklyn Connections. (Select all that apply)

- The program was too much work for me
- The program was too much work for my students
- My students didn’t enjoy it
- The content did not align well with my curriculum or teaching goals
- My administration was not supportive
- It was too hard to fit into my teaching schedule
- I teach a different grade or subject than I did previously
- I switched schools and my new administration is not supportive
- Other (Please Explain ________________ )
<If currently partnered> Which grade(s) participated in Brooklyn Connections during the 2019/20 school year? (Select all that apply)

- 4th
- 5th
- 6th
- 7th
- 8th
- 9th
- 10th
- 11th
- 12th

<If partnered before 2019/20 school year> Which grade(s) participated in Brooklyn Connections in past years, (anytime before the 2019/20 school year)?

- 4th
- 5th
- 6th
- 7th
- 8th
- 9th
- 10th
- 11th
- 12th
Module: Program Components and Activities

<Note: This module was displayed if respondents were currently partnered with Brooklyn Connections OR were considering partnering again in future.>

The next set of questions ask you to rank how you felt about various parts of the program. Please click on the phrase on the left and drag it to the box on the right and place it in the order that best corresponds to your opinion.

What do you consider to be the most valuable parts of the program? (Select up to 3)

- Student folder materials (project packet, field guide to research, bookmark)
- Supplies (reference books, posters, pencils, project supplies)
- In class lesson materials
- Brooklyn Connections educator visiting your classroom
- Field trip to the Brooklyn Collection (library archive)
- Teacher led project implementation
- Convocation Ceremony exhibition and presentation

Thinking again about the various parts of the program, this question asks you to rank them on a second criterion. Please click on the phrase on the left and drag it to the box on the right and place it in the order that best corresponds to your opinion.

What were the easiest program components to implement in your classroom? (Select up to 3)

- Working through the student folder materials (project packet, field guide to research, bookmark)
- Utilizing the classroom supplies (reference books, posters, pencils, project supplies)
- Having a Brooklyn Connections educator visit to deliver in-class lessons
- Field trip to the Brooklyn Collection (library archive)
- Teacher led project implementation
- Participating in the Convocation Ceremony exhibition and presentation

Thinking one last time about the various parts of the program, this question asks you to rank those part on a third criterion. Please click on the phrase on the left and drag it to the box on the right and place it in the order that best corresponds to your opinion.

Which program components are you most likely to use in other classes? (Select up to 3)

- Student folder materials (project packet, field guide to research, bookmark)
- Supplies (reference books, posters, pencils, project supplies)
- In class lesson materials
- Field trip to the Brooklyn Collection (library archive)
- Teacher led project implementation
- Convocation Ceremony exhibition and presentation
Now, think about how you felt about the program’s field trip activities. Please click on the phrase on the left and drag it to box on the right and place it in the order that best corresponds to your opinion.

Which **field trip activities** do you believe were most **meaningful for your students**? *(Select up to 3)*

- Handling archival materials
- Introduction to the archive
- Visiting a public library location
- Examining and analyzing archival documents
- Filling out research focused handouts
- Small scale, guided research through station work
- Leaving the school building
- Focus on Brooklyn history

Now, think about how you felt about the program’s classroom activities. Please click on the phrase on the left and drag it to box on the right and place it in the order that best corresponds to your opinion.

Which **classroom activities** during the classroom visit **helped you most**, as a teacher? *(Select up to 3)*

- Bringing an outside perspective to students
- Having someone else prepare and deliver a lesson
- Examining and analyzing archival documents
- In class lesson materials/activities
- Focus on Brooklyn history
Module: Overall Program Experience

<Note: This module was displayed to all respondents.>

Please give an example of something you learned through being a Brooklyn Connections teacher that you applied to a different class or teaching environment. Options could include teaching with primary sources, incorporating local perspectives into your lessons, re-using Brooklyn Connections materials in other settings, etc.

__________________________________________________________________________________

What would be the **one change you would make** to the program to make it an even better experience for you and your students?

__________________________________________________________________________________

What **5 words** would you use to describe Brooklyn Connections?

_________     ___________      ___________      ___________      ___________

Module: Program Engagement for 2020-2021

<Note: This module was displayed if respondents were currently partnered with Brooklyn Connections OR were considering partnering again in future.>

We know that the 2020-2021 school year is still very much in the air; however, Brooklyn Connections is excited to use this uncertainty as an opportunity to explore new and creative models for virtual engagement. We have outlined a few possible scenarios below and would love your input as we navigate this process. Know that filling out this survey does not commit you to anything, but will help us understand how we can best support you and your students in the coming school year.

If school resumes **in person** in September 2020, we understand there may be limitations on field trips or outside visitors, such as Brooklyn Connections educators. If this is the case, would you be interested in (please select all that apply):

- **One-off engagement with Brooklyn Connections**, through video instruction from a Brooklyn Connections Educator (either live or pre-recorded) and activity materials designed to support learning a research skill or studying a Brooklyn history topic

- **Sustained engagement with Brooklyn Connections**, over a series of lessons involving video instruction from a Brooklyn Connections Educator (either live or pre-recorded) and activity materials designed to support your students in completing a Brooklyn history research project

- **Delivery of electronic materials for independent instruction** (lesson plans, graphic organizers, and any other necessary instructional aids) so that you can independently teach a lesson or series of lessons created by Brooklyn Connections, to support learning a research skill, studying a Brooklyn history topic, and/or completing a research project
Delivery of physical materials for independent instruction (lesson plans, graphic organizers, and any other necessary instructional aids) so that you can independently teach a lesson or series of lessons created by Brooklyn Connections, to support learning a research skill, studying a Brooklyn history topic, and/or completing a research project

Something else (please let us know what would be helpful): __________

If school remains online for some or all of the 2020-2021 school year, would you be interested in (please select all that apply):

- One-off engagement with Brooklyn Connections, through video instruction from a Brooklyn Connections Educator (either live or pre-recorded) and activity materials designed to support learning a research skill or studying a Brooklyn history topic

- Sustained engagement with Brooklyn Connections, over a series of lessons involving video instruction from a Brooklyn Connections Educator (either live or pre-recorded) and activity materials designed to support your students in completing a Brooklyn history research project

- Delivery of electronic materials for independent instruction (lesson plans, graphic organizers, and any other necessary instructional aids) so that you can independently teach a lesson or series of lessons created by Brooklyn Connections, to support learning a research skill, studying a Brooklyn history topic, and/or completing a research project

- Something else (please let us know what would be helpful): __________

Sustained engagement with Brooklyn Connections, whether virtual or through ongoing material support will include a final research project. What kind of project formats do you feel most comfortable utilizing within these contexts (select all that apply):

- One project template I can contribute to on behalf of my class

- One project template I can assign to students to complete independently

- Multiple project templates I can choose one option from and contribute to on behalf of my class or assign to students

- Multiple project templates my students can choose from to complete independently

- Project option(s) of my own choosing

- Project option(s) of my students' choosing

- I and/or my students won't be able to complete a final research project.
Which of the following additional resources would be helpful?

- Locating relevant primary source material online
- Ideas for developing engaging assignments online
- Successfully adapting in-person lessons for online instruction
- Developing engaging online presentations

Is there anything else Brooklyn Connections can do to support your classroom instruction, either online or in-person (i.e. one-on-one meetings, weekly office hours, etc.)?

_____________________________________________________

Module: Interview Opt-In

<Note: This question was displayed to all respondents.>

Thank you for your responses to this survey. Based on the results, we will be selecting several teachers for a 30-minute follow up interview. If you are willing to be contacted regarding this opportunity, please provide your contact information below. Your information will not be shared beyond the research team. If selected, you will receive a $50 gift card as a thank you for participating.

Name: _________________

Phone number: _________________

Email address: _________________
## Appendix B - Teacher Interviews

### Consent Form

You have been invited to participate in a study to improve how Brooklyn Connections engages students and teachers in archival research. The research is being undertaken by Knology, a nonprofit that produces social science research for a better world.

Participation in the research is entirely **voluntary**, and you may withdraw from the research at any time or skip any question. If you do not participate or choose to withdraw, there will be no negative impact for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Activities:</strong></th>
<th>You will be asked to participate in a brief interview that will be recorded with your consent.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration:</strong></td>
<td>Approximately 30 to 45 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefits:</strong></td>
<td>There are no direct benefits to participating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risks:</strong></td>
<td>This activity poses minimal risk or discomfort, no more than what you would experience in your daily work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payment:</strong></td>
<td>You will receive a $50 gift card from Brooklyn Library through Tango Card approximately 1-2 weeks after your interview. Tango card allows you to select from over 100 types of gift cards (<a href="https://www.tangocard.com/">https://www.tangocard.com/</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Privacy:</strong></td>
<td>Your responses will be handled as confidentially as possible. We may use your responses either individually or in the aggregate in reports, articles, blog posts, and other publications. If results of this study are published or presented, we will not use individual names or other personally identifiable information. Brooklyn Connections will know who participated in interviews but will not have direct access to your responses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data storage:</strong></td>
<td>Electronic files of raw data and analysis files will be stored in a secured cloud location that is password protected. Knology will preserve raw data and analysis files for as long as the data may have value to the field. Prior to archiving, all personally identifying information will be removed from any data files.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reports:</strong></td>
<td>If you’d like copies of reports or publications from this project, please contact Joanna Laursen Brucker, <a href="mailto:JoannaLB@knology.org">JoannaLB@knology.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Completion:</strong></td>
<td>If you decide you cannot or do not want to complete the interview, you may withdraw at any time by contacting Joanna (info below) or telling your interviewer. All incomplete data will be disregarded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any questions regarding this interview and/or your participation, please contact Knology’s project manager, Joanna Laursen Brucker. Phone: 215-313-7045. Email: JoannaLB@knology.org. If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this study, you may contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB): Solutions IRB (phone: 1-855-226-4472, email: participants@solutionsirb.com).
Check the appropriate box, return this form to JoannaLB@knology.org, and keep a copy for your records.

[ ] I consent to participate in this research.

[ ] I consent to being recorded knowing that the audio recording will only be used for research purposes*.

[ ] I do not consent to participate in this research.

Name (sign): ____________________________________________ Date: __________

Name (print): ____________________________________________

*Participation is not dependent upon recording.
Interview Protocol

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed today, we’re really interested to hear your thoughts about the Brooklyn Connections program. My name is [interviewer name] and this is [notetaker’s name, if any] – we are researchers at Knology. We’re a nonprofit research organization that’s working with the library to help improve the way Brooklyn Connections engages students and teachers in archival research.

As mentioned in the consent form you signed, when we write a report about what we discovered during these interviews we won’t mention anyone by name. In our conversation today, if there’s something that you’d like to tell me but don’t want me to write down or include in our report, that’s fine too. Just let me know.

We’re doing today’s call on [Zoom or other video recording platform]. In your consent form you indicated that you [were/were not] ok with us recording.

<If recording> We won’t share the recording, it’s just so we can check out notes later and make sure we capture your comments accurately.

<If consent was given for recording, begin recording; if not, take written notes only>

Do you have any questions for me before we get started? Our conversation should take about a half hour to forty-five minutes.

Great, let’s begin.

1) Please tell me a little bit about the school where you work and your job there. If you are no longer at the same school, can you tell me about the school you worked at when you were involved with Brooklyn Connections?

2) In your survey you said that <Summarize survey response(s) on current/past experience with Brooklyn Connections>. Is there anything else you’d like us to know about how you’ve been involved with Brooklyn Connections?

   <probe If no longer partnering with Brooklyn Connections> Can you tell me more about why you decided to stop working with Brooklyn Connections? What were the factors that influenced your decision?

3) Tell me how you feel Brooklyn Connections benefits/benefited your students?

   <probe> Can you think of an example of a moment where you saw these benefits in action?

   <probe> Did you use any of the folder materials? How exactly did you use them?

   <probe if yes> How did you find the folder materials to be most useful for students? Did you find the folder materials useful as a teacher?

4) Do you feel that the research skills they learn/learned can be applied elsewhere?
5) Do you think your students understand the broader usefulness of the skills they learn during the program (beyond archival research)?

6) *If students visited the archive* Do you think your students valued the archive? The library?

7) Do you think Brooklyn Connections has made them more likely to use the library in the future? In what ways / to what end?

8) Do you have the sense that students are able to connect history / historical events to their own lives?

9) Do you think participating in Brooklyn Connections has shifted their sense of identity?

10) What's the relationship you see – if any – between your students learning about Brooklyn history and becoming more engaged citizens?

11) *If teachers expect to remain involved with the program going forward* Now that school programming and infrastructure is in the process of shifting online in response to COVID-19, you shared in your survey that *Summarize survey response(s) on program engagement for 2020-2021*. What else should we know about your preferred involvement with Brooklyn Connections moving forward?

   <probe> *If teacher indicated interest in online engagement options* Do you feel Brooklyn Connections could be as successful if conducted virtually?

   <probe> What concerns you about moving forward with Brooklyn Connections under these different circumstances?

12) Looks like we are nearing the end of our time for this interview. Is there anything else I haven't asked about that you think it's important I know (to understand your students’ experience with Brooklyn Connections)?

As a reminder, you will receive a $50 gift card from Brooklyn Library through Tango Card approximately 1-2 weeks after your interview. Tango card allows you to select from over 100 types of gift cards (https://www.tangocard.com/).

Thanks again for your time.