

SPRING 2026

# OFF THE SHELF

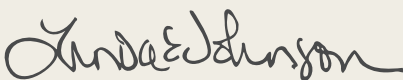
A LOOK INSIDE  
BROOKLYN PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

**Bklyn**  
Public Library

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The promise of a public library is grounded in literacy, broadly defined. But the extraordinary benefit of our sacred public spaces, where all are welcome, is that libraries elevate humanity. Libraries inspire us to be our best selves, to be imaginative, creative, curious and engaged. We help our patrons search for new perspectives, find an escape or rediscover a favorite book. And we ask for nothing in return.

This year, as we gather across Brooklyn Public Library's (BPL) 62 locations, we reflect on the past 250 years of our country's history. We opened an exhibition about the Battle of Brooklyn and how our borough has celebrated the nation's founding over the years. At the same time, we are hosting related community discussions, teach-ins and reading campaigns as we continue to defend democracy, promote civic participation and champion free expression. I hope you join us throughout the year, be it for a historical program, new class or simply a good book.



**Linda E. Johnson**  
President & CEO

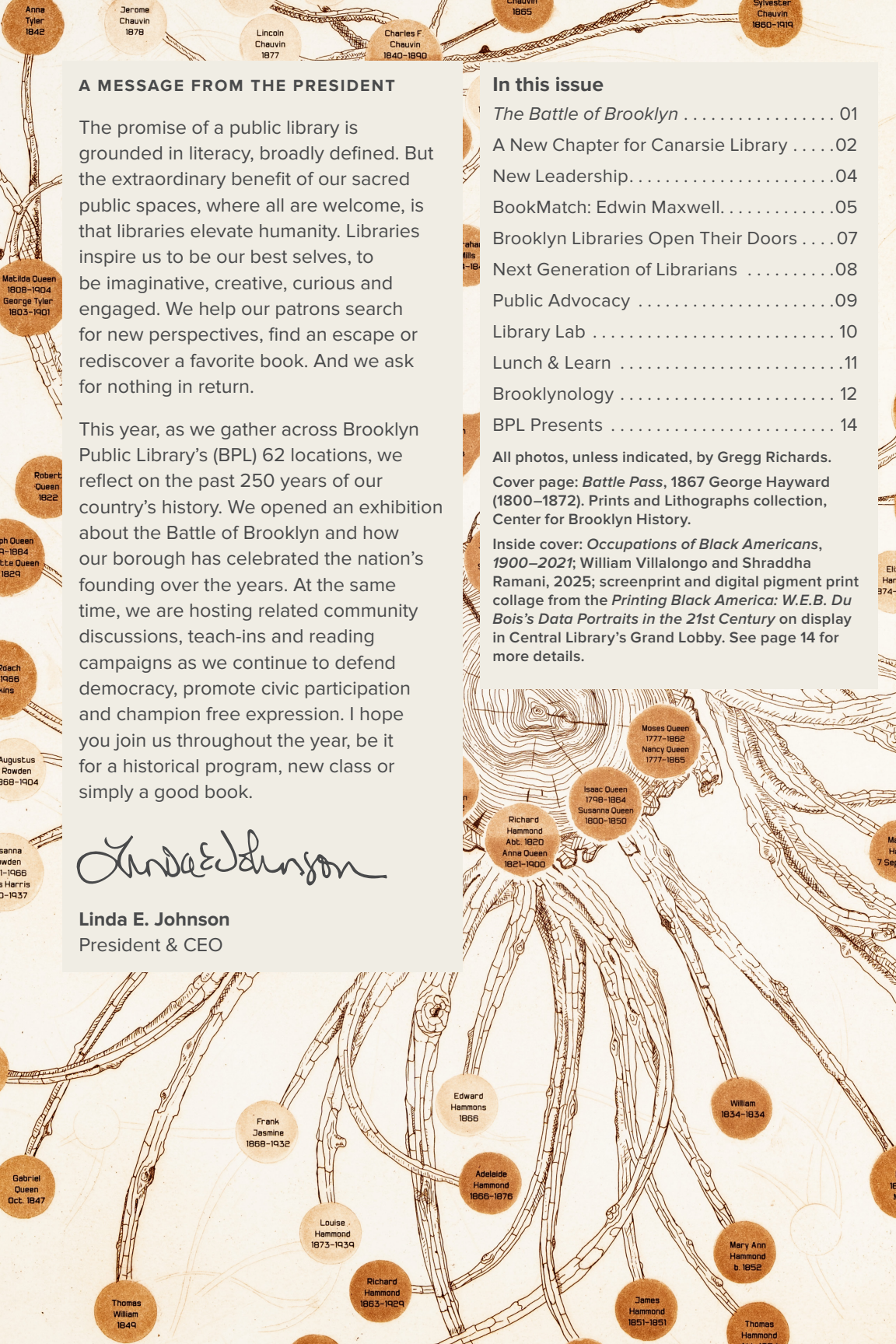
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All photos, unless indicated, by Gregg Richards.

Cover page: *Battle Pass*, 1867 George Hayward (1800–1872). Prints and Lithographs collection, Center for Brooklyn History.

Inside cover: *Occupations of Black Americans, 1900–2021*; William Villalongo and Shradha Ramani, 2025; screenprint and digital pigment print collage from the *Printing Black America: W.E.B. Du Bois's Data Portraits in the 21st Century* on display in Central Library's Grand Lobby. See page 14 for more details.



Anne Tyler 1842

Jerome Chauvin 1878

Lincoln Chauvin 1877

Charles F. Chauvin 1840-1890

Sylvester Chauvin 1860-1919

Matilda Queen 1808-1904  
George Tyler 1803-1901

Robert Queen 1822

ph Queen 1804  
the Queen 1829

Roach 1966  
kins

Augustus Rowden 1868-1904

Sanna Rowden 1-1866  
s Harris 5-1937

Moses Queen 1777-1882  
Nancy Queen 1777-1855

Isaac Queen 1748-1864  
Susanna Queen 1800-1850

Richard Hammond Abt. 1820  
Anna Queen 1821-1900

Edward Hammons 1866

William 1834-1834

Frank Jasmine 1868-1932

Adelaide Hammond 1866-1876

Louise Hammond 1873-1939

Mary Ann Hammond b. 1852

Gabriel Queen Oct. 1847

Thomas William 1849

Richard Hammond 1863-1921

James Hammond 1851-1851

Thomas Hammond

# THE BATTLE OF BROOKLYN

## FOUGHT AND REMEMBERED

**Widely recognized as the largest battle of the American Revolution, the Battle of Brooklyn unfolded in August 1776 across the very landscape that millions of Brooklynites now call home. This year, BPL's Center for Brooklyn History (CBH) marks the nation's 250th anniversary of independence with a landmark exhibition, *The Battle of Brooklyn: Fought and Remembered*, on view through December 2026 in CBH's Great Hall.**

Though pivotal to the nation's founding, the dramatic events of the Battle of Brooklyn remain surprisingly under-recognized. Drawing on rare primary sources, artifacts and interpretive tools, the exhibition restores this history to public view. Highlights include a cannonball believed to be a relic of the battle, a finely detailed ivory portrait miniature of George Washington by Charles Willson Peale, and a large 1896 bronze plaque depicting the Old Stone House, a defining site of the conflict.

Maps form a central interpretive thread throughout the exhibition, helping visitors envision how Brooklyn's geography shaped the battle. On loan from the private collection of Hank Gutman, and

seldom displayed publicly, these include multiple Revolutionary War-era maps and a striking 16th-century map that reveals early European perceptions of the land that ultimately became Brooklyn.

The exhibition also explores how each generation has remembered 1776, from the centennial commemorations of 1876 to the ways Brooklyn revisited the Revolution in 1976, itself a period shaped by the city's fiscal crisis and new waves of cultural expression.

This long view invites visitors to consider not just what happened during the Revolution, but how Brooklyn continues to reinterpret its past.

Presented throughout 2026, *The Battle of Brooklyn: Fought and Remembered* offers a vivid and timely reconsideration of a moment that helped shape both Brooklyn and the country.

*The Battle of Brooklyn: Fought and Remembered* is supported by the Peck Stacpoole Foundation, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, the Alvin and Fanny B. Thalheimer Foundation in memory of Bill Coleman, Dutch Culture USA, a program of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the United States, and by Hon. Robert C. Carroll, Chair, New York State Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology, the New York State Legislature and the Office of the Governor.

# A NEW CHAPTER FOR CANARSIE LIBRARY

**Construction is well underway at Canarsie Library, where a major renovation is reshaping one of southeast Brooklyn's most beloved community spaces. After years of planning and extensive community engagement, the branch is expanding to nearly double its previous size, creating almost 8,000 square feet of bright, flexible and welcoming public space.**

When Canarsie Library reopens in 2027, the renewed branch will include dedicated areas for all ages. Families can look forward to a spacious children's reading area with comfortable seating, stroller

parking and plenty of natural light. Teens will have a space of their own for studying, hanging out and exploring technology. A new community meeting room will give neighborhood groups a place to gather. Critically vital mechanical systems will be replaced throughout the space, ensuring comfortable temperatures year-round.

The renovation will also introduce a maker space equipped with state-of-the-art technology, a recording studio for creative projects and a second-floor outdoor terrace—a feature community members repeatedly said they hoped to see.



Architectural rendering of the planned new façade for Canarsie Library.

**In fact, residents' ideas helped shape each element of the new branch; these also included improved accessibility, more technology and flexible meeting spaces.**

The ambitious redesign is the result of a participatory process which gathered feedback from more than 280 community members through meetings, focus groups, workshops and surveys.

During construction, Canarsie Library patrons are accessing programs and services at nearby BPL branches, including Jamaica Bay, Paerdegat and Spring Creek Libraries. BPL staff continue to collaborate across these locations to ensure that

Canarsie residents stay connected to the Library's full range of events and resources.

Capital funding for the renovation was provided by the City of New York with additional support from Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and the branch's local Council Member, Mercedes Narcisse. Funding from the New York State Education Department was also allocated to the project. In announcing the state aid, Senator Roxanne J. Persaud noted, "This investment is a commitment to ensuring our libraries remain vibrant spaces for learning, innovation and connection."

BPL looks forward to welcoming patrons back to a revitalized, community-designed Canarsie Library that will serve generations to come.

## LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

**Remembering BPL in your will or estate plans secures your legacy while supporting the Library's vital work. Your contribution ensures that books, learning and our beloved branches will remain an important part of our borough's fabric for generations to come. Planned donations of any size can make a significant impact on BPL's future.**

By including BPL as a beneficiary of your will, estate plan or financial accounts, you join the Ingersoll Circle, a community of patrons who are helping provide for the long-term vitality of our beloved institution.

For more information, please contact Julia Tejada, Director of Individual Giving, at [jtejeda@bklynlibrary.org](mailto:jtejeda@bklynlibrary.org) or 718.230.2749, or visit [bklynlibrary.org/support/legacy-giving](https://bklynlibrary.org/support/legacy-giving)





Outgoing Chief Librarian, Nick Higgins



Incoming Chief Librarian, Edwin Maxwell

# BPL CELEBRATES OUTGOING CHIEF LIBRARIAN, WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

In September 2025, BPL bid farewell to Chief Librarian Nick Higgins, who concluded his tenure in the role after eight years of distinguished service and more than 15 years of dedication to the institution. Higgins leaves a lasting mark, particularly through his visionary commitment to intellectual freedom and youth empowerment.

In his previous role as the Library's first Director of Outreach Services (2013–2018), Higgins championed community-responsive services for older adults, individuals and families impacted by the criminal legal system, immigrants and people experiencing homelessness. His most widely recognized achievement, Books Unbanned, opened BPL's digital collections to young people facing book bans and censorship across the country. Since its launch in 2022, the initiative has offered thousands of teens unrestricted access to eBooks and audiobooks, establishing BPL as a national leader in the fight for the freedom to read. His advocacy earned him national recognition, including being named to the TIME100 Next list in 2023.

BPL now welcomes Edwin B. Maxwell as its new Chief Librarian. A deeply respected library leader with nearly two decades at BPL, Maxwell brings a broad range of experience from youth services and branch management to overseeing neighborhood libraries and satellite locations.

Maxwell has developed innovative teen financial literacy programming—for which he received *Library Journal's* "Mover & Shaker" award in 2014—and led branches recognized for outstanding community engagement. He also played a key role in expanding BPL's Teen Tech Centers.

As Chief Librarian, Maxwell will guide BPL into its next era, strengthening core services, deepening community partnerships and sustaining the Library's role as a welcoming, responsive and essential civic institution.

We extend our gratitude to Nick Higgins for his years of leadership, and a warm congratulations to Edwin Maxwell as he steps into this vital role.

# BKLYN BOOKMATCH CHIEF LIBRARIAN



BPL's new Chief Librarian, Edwin Maxwell, wants everyone to know that the Library is about so much more than books. Every day, we offer the public an open invitation to explore, learn and connect in new ways. Our spaces are here for whatever you need, whenever you need it.

Tap the QR code to browse Maxwell's full list of recommendations. Along with great reads like his picks below, you'll find vinyl records, tools, cultural events, classes and programs for all ages.



## ***The Alchemist***

**Paulo Coelho**

"When you want something, all the universe conspires to help you achieve it." This is one of my favorite books of all time: simple, poetic and wise. It contains words to live by and a story about life itself. A must-read.

## ***Between the World and Me***

**Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Toni Morrison called it "required re-reading," and she was right. Coates's letter to his son is one of the most moving, honest explanations of what it means to be Black in America. To me and many others, Coates is this generation's James Baldwin.

## ***David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants***

**Malcolm Gladwell**

What looks like a weakness can actually be your greatest strength. This book is for readers who want to flip their perspective and see the familiar differently, with a feel-good civic twist.

## ***Chronicle of a Death Foretold***

**Gabriel García Márquez**

This one is for my wife, who loves Márquez. It's short, sharp and unforgettable, with the kind of story that stays with you long after you've closed the book.

## ***Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance***

**Angela Duckworth**

This one is for anyone who has had to fight their way through tough situations. Perseverance can't be taught, but it can be admired. Duckworth masterfully explains why it matters and how to get it.

## ***For the Kid I Saw in My Dreams***

**Kei Sanbe**

From the author of *Erased*, this series is dark, suspenseful and full of twists. I wanted a manga that takes itself seriously. Something that shows just how deep and gripping the genre can be.

## ***The Complete Maus***

**Art Spiegelman**

One of the most powerful stories I've ever read. Spiegelman tells his father's Holocaust story through a graphic novel, and somehow that makes the pain and resilience hit even harder. It proves stories can carry the weight of history, no matter the format.

## ***Cashing Out: Win the Wealth Game by Walking Away***

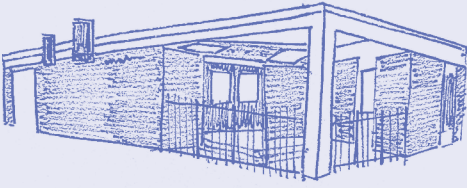
**Julien and Kiersten Saunders**

What makes this personal finance book special is that it's written by a couple, and reading it feels like you're sitting at the kitchen table with them, talking money the way you'd talk with close friends. It's honest, real and practical.

## ***Thinking, Fast and Slow***

**Daniel Kahneman**

This is a fundamental book! So many of my favorite authors in leadership and self-exploration point back to it. And a shout out to Kerwin Pilgrim, our Director of Literacy and Adult Learning, who practically quotes this one daily.



Ryder Library



Gerritsen Beach Library

©Kelsey Chan

## TWO BELOVED BROOKLYN LIBRARIES REOPEN THEIR DOORS

BPL is proud to celebrate the reopening of two cherished neighborhood branches: Ryder Library, in Bensonhurst, and Gerritsen Beach Library, a picturesque waterfront location. Following extensive renovations, both branches are now welcoming patrons back into bright, modern spaces that have been thoughtfully designed to serve community needs far into the future.



There were smiles all around at the official reopening celebration for Gerritsen Beach Library.

At Ryder Library, visitors will find a fully reimaged interior that features new shelving, furniture and dedicated areas for teens and children, along with a tech room for digital learning. “Designed with an eye toward sustainability, this renovation provides a modern space that meets the needs of the neighborhood today and for years to come,” noted Linda E. Johnson, BPL’s President and CEO.

To that effect, solar panels, new windows and an upgraded HVAC system will reduce the branch’s energy use and operating costs. Council Member Simcha Felder added “I’m thrilled to see the Ryder Library reopen, upgraded and ready to serve our community in a beautiful, comfortable space.”

Meanwhile, Gerritsen Beach Library’s major upgrades, which were completed ahead of schedule and under budget, feature a replaced roof, repaired masonry and a refreshed interior with a refurbished children’s area.

The branch’s outdoor spaces have been landscaped to foster community programming and social connection. “Gerritsen Beach deserves a library that reflects the strength and spirit of this community,” noted Council Member Mercedes Narcisse.

**At both reopening celebrations, BPL debuted Welcome Back kits for kids, which were assembled by corporate volunteers from Bloomberg and filled with playful, creative items like stickers, bubbles, bookmarks and art supplies to help make returning to the library extra fun.**



Neighborhood kids are entertained by a storyteller at the Gerritsen Beach reopening.



Local children join in at the ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Ryder Library.

These renovations reaffirm BPL’s commitment to creating safe, welcoming spaces where Brooklynites of all ages can learn, connect and grow. As these branches reopen, they stand as more than buildings; they are gateways to knowledge, opportunity and community. Visit Ryder and Gerritsen Beach Libraries, and rediscover the joys of your neighborhood branch!

# BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LIBRARIANS



BPL librarian trainees attending a Librarian Trainee Meet & Greet event at Central Library.

**Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) is proud to invest in the future of library services through our Librarian Trainee Program. The unique initiative prepares aspiring librarians for impactful careers by connecting them to empowering educational resources and offering them firsthand experience serving the community.**

The Librarian Trainee Program combines on-the-job training with structured learning opportunities. Trainees attend workshops, participate in branch rotations and engage in career-shadowing experiences to deliver essential services.

They work alongside experienced staff while pursuing graduate degrees in library science. From hosting programs and outreach events to managing collections and providing reference assistance, participants gain practical skills that reflect the evolving role of libraries in the digital age.

Maribel Nunez-Hyman, a program participant and trainee at Arlington Library, immigrated to the U.S. at age 12. Struggling in grade school, she found support from a Spanish-speaking librarian who helped her with homework and encouraged her potential. Today, Nunez-Hyman feels her journey has come full circle as she helps children realize their own potential. “I was so happy when they called me with the news [about being accepted into the program]. I cannot express how wonderful it feels coming to work every day, sharing all the programs that BPL offers.”

By training the next generation of librarians, BPL is striving to ensure that every neighborhood has skilled and dedicated professionals ready to foster literacy, learning and connection. “I’m thrilled to have this opportunity, and to help meet each patron’s individual needs,” Nunez-Hyman enthused. “Libraries truly serve the community and I’m ecstatic to be part of that.”

# PUBLIC ADVOCACY MATTERS— HERE'S WHY

Every year, New Yorkers help shape the future of their libraries by speaking up about why our spaces and services matter. As the City sets its priorities for the year ahead, your stories and support show decisionmakers the tangible impact libraries have in every neighborhood. By sharing your library appreciation, you help ensure that these vital spaces continue to receive the full, stable funding they need to thrive.

Public libraries have long exceeded their expected function as buildings filled with books. As a library patron recently noted, “It is not lost on me how local libraries serve our community beyond supporting a love of reading. From serving as a cooling station in summer, to hosting a birds of prey presentation and helping formerly incarcerated people successfully reenter society—the programming and support services offered through BPL are a lifeline to the community.”

But these essential services depend on strong, consistent funding. That's where advocacy comes in. When you share your library story—why you visit, which resources you use and how the library has impacted your life—you help city leaders understand the value libraries bring to our neighborhoods.

“Thanks for all you have nurtured in me since I was a little girl! From Wi-Fi to water,



BPL President & CEO Linda Johnson making the case for City support of libraries to Mayor Mamdani.

open hours to events for kids, and yes, thousands of books to expand the mind and stimulate the soul!” said another patron.

Your voice can make the difference between a thriving library system and one struggling to meet community needs. Libraries are for everyone—and with your vocal support, they will continue to be strong pillars of opportunity and equity across Brooklyn.

## How Can I Help?

**Speak Up:** Tell your story on social media or at community meetings.

**Stay Informed:** Follow BPL's advocacy updates and budget news.

**Take Action:** Join campaigns that call for full, stable funding for libraries.



For more information on how you can speak up for libraries, visit [bklynlibrary.org/standup](https://www.bklynlibrary.org/standup)

# LIBRARY LAB EXPANDS TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



Young minds are busy exploring and creating at Brooklyn Heights' Library Lab.

**Since 2018, BPL's Library Lab has been sparking curiosity and creativity for children ages 6–10 and their families. This dynamic program, created in partnership with the New York Hall of Science, offers hands-on activities that make science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) feel both fun and accessible.**

Last year, over a thousand children attended Library Lab sessions across Brooklyn. Now, BPL is taking the next big step: expanding Library Lab to also serve middle school-aged students (grades 6–8) in response to requests from parents and caregivers for free, quality after-school programming for this age group. The new initiative has transformed select branches into dedicated hubs for after-school enrichment, initially launched at three locations (Brooklyn Heights, Coney Island and Clarendon Libraries), with additional expansions planned for the coming year.

The updated Library Lab curriculum reflects lessons learned since 2018.

Librarians have reimaged activities, embracing a “kitchen sink science” approach that uses everyday materials. Activities have included building robots out of recycled supplies, making secret messages by weaving codes into fabric and a slime lab! The program integrates overlooked subjects and crafts into discussions about math and the history of computing—from the Jacquard Loom and punch cards to modern-day technology. These efforts help make STEAM education more inclusive and engaging.

The middle school expansion will feature:

- Maker spaces for hands-on exploration
- Career connections with STEAM professionals
- Homework help and open lab sessions
- Guest presenters to inspire future innovators

With these enhancements, Library Lab continues to be a cornerstone of BPL's STEAM offerings, empowering Brooklyn's youth to discover, create and dream big.

Library Lab is funded by National Grid Foundation and New York Life Foundation.

# LUNCH & LEARN WITH BPL



## DISCOVER HOW YOUR SUPPORT TRANSFORMS LIVES

As a BPL supporter, you are invited to attend Lunch & Learn, our virtual conversation series that offers a behind-the-scenes look at the impact of your generosity.

These sessions spotlight the programs and services that make BPL a vital civic anchor for our community, and are an intriguing behind-the-scenes peek at the work of our expert staff.

At our recent November Lunch & Learn, we heard from BPL's Justice Initiatives department, which provides essential resources to patrons impacted by incarceration.

From access to library services and free videoconferencing tools for staying connected with loved ones, to opportunities for publishing writing and artwork in a widely circulated zine, BPL ensures that incarcerated individuals—and those returning home—receive one-on-one support and pathways to reintegration.

Next up in the Lunch & Learn series will be Adult Learning at BPL. The program empowers adults to strengthen reading, writing and math skills; prepare for High School Equivalency testing; learn English; engage civically; and build the foundation for further education and employment.

Your support makes these transformative programs possible. Thank you for helping BPL open doors to opportunity for all Brooklynites.

**Join us for our next Lunch & Learn on March 19 from 1–2 pm ET on Zoom.**

Register here:



# BROOKLYN'S "BOY MAYOR" THE LEGACY OF SETH LOW



Seth Low, *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* photographs, Brooklyn Public Library, Center for Brooklyn History



*The Brooklyn Union*, Wednesday, November 9, 1881, page 5

*This article is based on an original post written by the Center for Brooklyn History's Chief Historian, Dominique Jean-Louis.*

In 1881, Brooklyn witnessed a remarkable political moment: Seth Low, just shy of his 32nd birthday, was elected mayor of the City of Brooklyn. Known as the "Boy Mayor," Low's rise to prominence reflected both his personal integrity and his commitment to reform during an era of rapid urban growth and political corruption. The Center for Brooklyn History's vast archives include a variety of photos, news clippings and ephemera that shed light on this auspicious moment in Brooklyn's history.

Born on January 18, 1850, Low came from a family rooted in Brooklyn's civic life. His grandfather helped incorporate the Village of Brooklyn into a city, and his father, Abiel Abbot Low, was a respected merchant and philanthropist. After excelling academically (he was valedictorian of his Columbia College class in 1870), Low initially tried his hand at business but soon found his calling in public service. His early work with charitable organizations laid the foundation for a career dedicated to social welfare and education.

Low's entry into politics was almost accidental. Initially uninterested in running for office, he was drafted by the Republican Party during the 1881 mayoral race. His reputation for honesty and his dynamic campaign style, marked by nightly public meetings and direct engagement with voters, won him the election. By age 34, he had completed two successful terms as Brooklyn's mayor.

**As mayor, Low championed education reform, making textbooks free for public school students and appointing Brooklyn's first Black member of the Board of Education, Phillip A. White.**

He also initiated the integration of public schools, a groundbreaking move in the early 1880s. His tenure coincided with the historic opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883, where he stood alongside President

Chester A. Arthur and New York City Mayor Franklin Edson—a symbolic moment of unity between Brooklyn and Manhattan.

After leaving Brooklyn politics, Low became president of Columbia College, transforming it into Columbia University and relocating it to Morningside Heights. In 1902, he returned to public office as mayor of Greater New York City, overseeing all five boroughs. His administration prioritized public health, introducing school immunization programs that dramatically reduced deaths from diseases like smallpox.

Though his political career ended after one term in New York City, Low continued to advocate for education, immigrant rights and labor reform. He served on the board of Tuskegee Institute and supported collective bargaining, earning respect across social and economic divides. Upon Low's death in 1916, figures as diverse as J.P. Morgan Jr. and labor leader Samuel Gompers attended his funeral—a testament to his lifelong commitment to cooperation and progress.

Today, Seth Low's influence endures in the bridges we cross, the schools we attend and the ideals of civic responsibility that shape our city. Brooklyn's "Boy Mayor" remains a symbol of youthful leadership and visionary reform.

# BPL PRESENTS

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

## PRINTING BLACK AMERICA: W.E.B. DU BOIS'S DATA PORTRAITS REIMAGINED

BPL is proud to host an extraordinary exhibition in Central Library's Grand Lobby: *Printing Black America: W.E.B. Du Bois's Data Portraits in the 21st Century*. The groundbreaking project, led by artist William Villalongo and data scientist Shraddha Rahmani, reinterprets Du Bois's iconic 1900 visualizations with modern data and printmaking techniques to explore contemporary Black life.

Du Bois's original data portraits, first displayed at the 1900 Paris Exposition, illustrated the social, economic and cultural contributions of Black Americans through striking visualizations. Today, Villalongo and Rahmani build on that legacy, creating 30 new works across six portfolios that merge art, scholarship and advocacy. These pieces address urgent themes—equity, representation, systemic change—through mixed media including silkscreen, lithography and photogravure.



*Reclaimed Family Tree: Ancestors Enslaved by Jesuits at St. Louis University and Region 1823–1865*; William Villalongo and Shraddha Ramani, 2025; etching and chine collé.

The exhibition pairs these new works alongside Du Bois's originals, inviting visitors to reflect on the enduring history and power of data storytelling. Public programs, workshops and talks will feature leading voices in social justice and art, including Mariame Kaba, Ruha Benjamin and Stefanie Dinkins, to deepen engagement.

By bridging historical and contemporary perspectives, *Printing Black America* reiterates the Library's role as a space for dialogue, discovery, equity and cultural innovation. This landmark exhibition will be open to the public through April 2026.

*Printing Black America* is supported in part by the Katowitz Radin Endowment.

# NIGHT IN THE LIBRARY: THE PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS

BPL's Night in the Library returns for its 10th anniversary. Coinciding with Pi Day (March 14), and running until 3:14 am, the overnight festival of ideas will explore the surprising ways mathematics shapes our world. Thousands of attendees are invited to experience lectures, panels and performances that blend art, culture and intellectual discovery.

Night in the Library transforms Central Library into an after-hours hub of conversation and creativity. Past themes have tackled sustainability, political crises and the philosophy of the sublime, featuring luminaries like Nobel laureate Esther Duflo and artist Laurie Anderson. For 2026, Night in the Library: The Philosophy of Mathematics asks us to contemplate the many

intersections of math and culture, bringing the beauty inherent in math to life through talks, music, workshops and in-person connection.

With over 4,000 attendees annually, Night in the Library exemplifies BPL's role as a civic and cultural anchor—bringing Brooklyn's diverse communities together for dialogue and discovery. Join us for an unforgettable night where equations meet imagination.

Learn more details and see the full schedule of events at [bklynlibrary.org/night-library](https://bklynlibrary.org/night-library)

Night in the Library: The Philosophy of Mathematics is generously supported by the Simons Foundation and is part of its "Infinite Sums" initiative.

The  
Philosophy  
of Mathematics

**NIGHT  
IN  
THE  
LIBRARY**

Saturday,  
March 14, 2026  
7 pm – 3:14 am

# THE PEOPLE'S BALL: BROOKLYN'S RUNWAY FOR EVERYONE

Every spring, BPL opens its doors for one of the city's most joyful and inclusive celebrations: The People's Ball. This free event transforms Central Library's Grand Lobby into a vibrant runway where fashion becomes a statement of individuality, creativity and community.

The People's Ball invites everyone to participate—no tickets, no barriers, just pure self-expression. Guests are encouraged to wear what makes them feel authentic and bold, turning the Library into a democratic stage for style. From dazzling couture to DIY creations, the event celebrates fashion as a form of freedom and storytelling.

The evening blends glamour with accessibility, featuring live music, performances and a runway where anyone can shine. Past editions have honored legendary designers and cultural icons such as Ruth E. Carter (the first Black woman to win multiple Oscars for her groundbreaking costume design) and Paul Tazewell (an Oscar, Tony and Emmy Award-winning designer) while spotlighting Brooklyn's diverse voices. More than a fashion show, The People's Ball is a movement, affirming that beauty and creativity belong to all.

Join us at 6:30 pm on Sunday May 3, 2026, for the next edition of this unforgettable celebration of style, community and imagination. At BPL, the runway is yours.



Fashion-forward attendees show off their outfits at last year's People's Ball.

Brooklyn Public Library gratefully acknowledges the many donors who have provided generous support for BPL Presents programs, including: Cheryl and George Haywood Endowment for Cultural Diversity, Dr. Beverly S. Jacobs, The Kahn Endowment for Humanities Programs, The Miriam Katowitz and Arthur Radin Fund, Mapleton Endowment, New York State Council on the Arts, Sandra and Peter Schubert Endowment Fund, The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund and the Estate of Pearl S. Reuillard in memory of her parents, Yetta and Louis Schwartz.

Programs are also supported by Brooklyn Public Library's Fund for the Humanities, which was established through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Hearst Foundation, Inc., Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Starr Foundation, The Leon and Muriel Gilbert Charitable Trust, Henry and Lucy Moses Fund, Inc. and a gift in memory of Samuel and Pauline Wine.



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