On Monday, May 30th, Borough President Adams marched in the 149th Kings County Memorial Day Parade in Bay Ridge to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women who have served our nation as members of the United States Armed Forces. After the parade, during a ceremony at John Paul Jones Park, he discussed our shared responsibility to support veterans who have returned from their service to become full participants in our civil society.

Batsman up! Borough President Adams joined members of the Metropolitan Cricket League on Monday, May 30th for their annual six-a-side competition at the cricket fields near the Gateway Center in East New York. Villagers Cricket Club was the winner of the tournament’s inaugural Borough President’s trophy. Cricket, a bat-and-ball game similar to baseball, is increasingly popular in Brooklyn among immigrants from various cultures, especially those from Caribbean and South Asian nations.

Calling on immigrants to “Embrace Your Hyphen,” Borough President Adams and Deputy Borough President Reyna hosted an inaugural citizenship drive at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Saturday, June 6th, during which time 30 participants received free assistance with their naturalization applications and had legal questions answered by experienced immigration attorneys.

School’s out! Borough President Adams welcomed hundreds of local children and their families to his free celebration of Brooklyn Day in McCarren Park in Williamsburg on Thursday, June 9th to encourage active, outdoor recreation, particularly as families prepare for summer. The holiday was created by the New York State Legislature in 1902 based on Rally Day parades held by Sunday schools in Brooklyn dating back to 1829. Today, students across the city celebrate the holiday as Chancellor’s Day with the closure of all New York City public schools.

Ramadan Kareem! To honor the blessed month of Ramadan, Borough President Adams hosted an Iftar dinner in the courtroom of Brooklyn Borough Hall on Thursday, July 9th, to break the daily fast with more than 100 Muslim Brooklynites, including local religious leaders and ambassadors from Middle Eastern and Asian nations. The celebration was sponsored by more than 25 area mosques and cultural organizations,
Kicking off the borough-wide celebration of NYC Dance Week on Friday, July 17th, Borough President Adams released “All the Right Moves: Advancing Dance and the Arts in Brooklyn,” a report examining the challenges facing artists in the borough and accompanying recommendations. The event featured a public demonstration of dance that included Borough President Adams himself dancing in support of the 10-day, five-borough celebration with local studios opening their doors to the public for free or discounted dance, fitness, and wellness classes and exhibitions. The report describes the benefits of dance to maintaining physical fitness and enjoying creative self-expression, as well as its contributions to the vibrant culture of Brooklyn, and offers recommendations for eliminating the obstacles that have limited the participation of some communities, particularly people of color, in dance.

Borough President Adams and Council Member Vincent J. Gentile rallied on Monday, June 20th, with members of the Dyker Heights community in support of City Council legislation they introduced for free or discounted dance, fitness, and wellness classes and exhibitions. The report describes the benefits of dance to maintaining physical fitness and enjoying creative self-expression, as well as its contributions to the vibrant culture of Brooklyn, and offers recommendations for eliminating the obstacles that have limited the participation of some communities, particularly people of color, in dance.

Calling on the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to prepare students for the economy of the 21st century, Borough President Adams released a report on digital learning in schools on Monday, June 20th, which examines issues and strategies related to the introduction of tablet devices and related technology into New York City classrooms. As explained in the report, even as students have transitioned to digital technology at home, schools are not yet fully integrating technology into the curriculum, often as a result of concerns about costs and continuing professional development needs. Borough President Adams called his administration’s review of best practices in digital learning a critical supplement to properly planning for the allocation of public and private funds available from Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Computer Science for All (CS4All) initiative, which aims to bring computer science education to every New York City public school student in the next 10 years, as well as for achieving greater success with classroom instruction across a wide range of academic disciplines that could benefit from digital integration.

On Friday, June 24th, Borough President Adams finished wrapping Brooklyn Borough Hall in a rainbow ribbon inscribed by tens of thousands of Brooklynites with messages of hope and solidarity for the victims of the nightclub massacre in Orlando on Sunday, June 12th, in which 49 people were killed and another 53 people were wounded, many of them members of the LGBTQ+ community. The more than 800-foot ribbon — made of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple segments — was displayed at Brooklyn Borough Hall through the end of June, and Borough President Adams intends to deliver sections of it to families in Orlando as well as to elected officials to urge them to support gun safety measures. Borough President Adams explained that the memorial demonstrates the shared commitment of Brooklynites to fighting gun violence and hate crimes, which have imperiled a number of communities, including local Latino, LGBTQ+, and Muslim populations that have been personally impacted by the tragedy.

LATEST INITIATIVES

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have an interest in any of these events, please contact us by visiting brooklyn-usa.org for more information or by calling our event hotline at (718) 802-2328. Additionally, to stay up-to-date with the office, visit www.brooklyn-usa.org to sign up for Borough President Adams’ paperless notifications, like his Facebook page, and follow @BPEricAdams on Twitter.
Borough President Adams celebrated the grand finale of the BK Sings Karaoke Competition, a borough-wide contest in which more than 300 amateur singers participated, where Christine Thomas of East Flatbush, who performed “And I Am Telling You” by Jennifer Holliday, was crowned the champion, and received a karaoke machine, $500, and an opportunity to sing at MCU Park in Coney Island.

Photo Credit: Erica Sherman/Brooklyn BP’s Office

Hill Country was alive with the sound of music! Borough President Adams celebrated the grand finale of the BK Sings Karaoke Competition, a borough-wide contest in which more than 300 amateur singers participated at Hill Country Barbecue Market in Downtown Brooklyn on Sunday, June 12th. Christine Thomas of East Flatbush, who performed “And I Am Telling You” by Jennifer Holliday, was crowned the champion, and received a karaoke machine, $500, and an opportunity to sing at MCU Park in Coney Island.

Celebrating local “she-ros” who made a difference in Brooklyn, Borough President Adams honored a local baker who organizes birthday celebrations for homeless children and an educator who has developed innovative programs to teach both children and adults during a ceremony on Tuesday, June 21st at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Maria Nitti, the owner of Isabella’s Creations in Bensonhurst, was declared “Hero of the Month” for May, while Rose Graham, vice principal of PS 399 Stanley Eugene Clarke in East Flatbush, was named June’s “Hero of the Month.”

On Sunday, June 26th, Borough President Adams held his inaugural Central Brooklyn Arts & Culture Walk (CBACW) on Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights between Grand Army Plaza and Dr. Ronald McNair Park, with fun activities for the entire family, including outdoor exhibitions at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Brooklyn Public Library; performances on three different stages; a Children’s Village with ice cream tasting for children and seniors; bouncy houses; rock climbing demonstrations; arts and crafts; family-friendly workshops; free health screenings and giveaways, and live entertainment. In addition, Borough President Adams held a ceremony at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden inducting comedian Joy Behar, a native of Williamsburg renowned for her success hosting “The View,” into the garden’s Celebrity Path.

Wah gwan Brooklyn? On Wednesday, June 29th, Borough President Adams hosted a Caribbean-American Heritage Month celebration in the courtroom at Brooklyn Borough Hall featuring delicious Caribbean cuisine, music, and a performance by vibrantly-costumed dancers. In addition to a panel discussion on the celebration of J’Ouvert, Borough President Adams presented the inaugural Cynthia Brown Franklin Service Award, a tribute to the Crown Heights-based advocate for the Panamanian-American community, to Reverend Robert Orlando Simpson, pastor of Janes United Methodist Church in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

which recognized community members for their advocacy on behalf of Muslim-Americans.

With thousands of spectators cheering for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) community, Borough President Adams marched on Saturday, June 11th, in the 20th annual Twilight Pride Parade in Park Slope, the culmination of Brooklyn Pride Week. The parade celebrated the many contributions of the LGBTQ+ community to Brooklyn, as well as their extraordinary success in securing rights such as same-sex marriage and their commitment to equality for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

¡Viva Puerto Rico! On Sunday, June 12th, Borough President Adams marched in the second annual Sunset Park Puerto Rican Day Parade to honor the many contributions of the nearly 190,000 individuals of Puerto Rican heritage in Brooklyn. Tens of thousands of Brooklynites lined Fifth Avenue to enjoy vintage automobiles, cultural performances, and plenty of flags.

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Добро пожаловать в Зал Бруклинской Области! In a ceremony in the courtroom at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Thursday, June 23rd, Borough President Adams celebrated Russian American Heritage Month in an event where he presented citations to community leaders and where guests enjoyed Russian cuisine, a fashion show, and a musical performance. Today, there are more than 88,000 people in Brooklyn of Russian heritage.
On Tuesday, June 7th, Borough President Adams and Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito unveiled the impact of a trailblazing expansion of participatory budgeting (PB), a democratic process in which local residents directly decide how to spend part of a public budget, which increased the number of community-driven projects funded in council districts that now include more than 60 percent of Brooklyn. A record 26,000 Brooklyn residents cast ballots at locations across the borough — including at Brooklyn Borough Hall — during the 2015-2016 participatory budgeting voting period. The projects selected will be funded with $15,549,000 of taxpayer dollars, including a $1 million contribution from Borough President Adams apportioned equally to winning projects from the votes conducted by the 10 council members in the borough who are participating in PB this year. To learn more about PB or to become involved in the next cycle, please visit labs.council.nyc/pb.

On Friday, June 17th, Borough President Adams joined residents of Greenpoint and Williamsburg to unveil a giant countdown banner, ticking off the days that the owner of the 11-acre CitiStorage site has to accept the City’s offer of $100 million for the parcel needed to complete the long-promised Bushwick Inlet Park. A record 26,000 Brooklyn residents cast ballots at locations across the borough — including at Brooklyn Borough Hall — during the 2015-2016 participatory budgeting voting period. The projects selected will be funded with $15,549,000 of taxpayer dollars, including a $1 million contribution from Borough President Adams apportioned equally to winning projects from the votes conducted by the 10 council members in the borough who are participating in PB this year. To learn more about PB or to become involved in the next cycle, please visit labs.council.nyc/pb.

Celebrating innovative restaurants and delicious cuisines of Brooklyn, Borough President Adams on Wednesday, June 22nd announced the winner of his contest to create a new logo for Dine In Brooklyn, the borough’s premiere restaurant week celebrating and promoting the local foodie culture, in anticipation of the 2016 kickoff later this summer. The winning entry was designed by Jeffrey Rosenkrantz, a Pratt Institute-trained freelance graphic designer who lives in Park Slope, and will be used to advertise Dine In Brooklyn, held in partnership with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce with exclusive sponsorship from Visa and contributing support from Schneps Communications and Yelp. Rosenkrantz received a $1,000 prize for his design. From Thursday, August 11th to Monday, August 22nd, Dine In Brooklyn will offer diners a prix fixe menu for brunch, lunch, and dinner. Borough President Adams encouraged diners and restaurateurs to visit brooklyn-usa.org for additional information about Dine In Brooklyn.

Alongside Mayor Bill de Blasio and former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Borough President Adams cut the ribbon for Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk, a 5,000-seat music venue with sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean that will allow the community to host internationally-renowned performing artists, including those playing at the Seaside Summer Concert Series for which he serves as host. The opening of the amphitheater builds on efforts by Borough President Adams to expand access to music in Brooklyn, including his support for a variety of free performances inclusive of the Martin Luther Concert Series at Wingate Park in East Flatbush. To find the schedule for these two concert series in particular, visit brooklynconcerts.com.

Our Constituent Assistance Center is here to serve all of Brooklyn. If you or someone you know are having any issues, or if you have questions about issues like alternate side parking, sidewalk pickup or other community matters, such as the matters in this month’s update, call the Center at (718) 802-3777.

As a memorial for the victims of the nightclub massacre in Orlando, Borough President Adams wrapped Brooklyn Borough Hall in a rainbow ribbon inscribed by tens of thousands of Brooklynites with messages of hope and solidarity.

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