LATEST INITIATIVES

Borough President Adams kicked off his partnership with Beneﬁt Kitchen, a Brooklyn-based technology platform that won the NYC BigApps contest in 2015, on Tuesday, January 17th, with the goal of helping identify millions of New Yorkers in need; the project fulfills a pledge he made during his campaign to renovate the historic open space, which had fallen into disrepair over a number of years and led to a variety of pedestrian injuries. The $11 million undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, is the largest undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, in the history of the city. The $11 million undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, is the largest undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, in the history of the city. The $11 million undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, is the largest undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, in the history of the city. The $11 million undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, is the largest undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, in the history of the city. The $11 million undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, is the largest undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the state, in the history of the city.

On Friday, January 20th, Borough President Adams cut the ceremonial ribbons for the safety and resiliency enhancements that have been completed as part of the reconstruction of Columbus Park, a popular public plaza in Downtown Brooklyn that is adjacent to Brook-lyn Borough Hall and Kings County Supreme Court; the project fulfills a pledge he made during his campaign to renovate the historic open space, which had fallen into disrepair over a number of years and led to a variety of pedestrian injuries. The $11 million undertaking, funded by Mayor Bill de Blasio and Borough President Adams, replaced the cracked bluestone with granite pavers that can better withstand inclement weather, the high volume of foot trafﬁc associated with cross access to the surrounding business district and nearby transit lines, as well as the park’s use as home to the Brooklyn Borough Hall Greenmarket — open year-round on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays — and as a film shootings location for dozens of movies and television shows. He used the opportunity to highlight more than $1 million in allocations from his FY17 capital budget that were dedicated to improving parks across Brooklyn, including Prospect Park as well as open spaces in Bath Beach, Brownsville, Crown Heights, East Flatbush, East New York, Flatbush, Fort Greene, Prospect–Lefferts Gardens, and Sheepshead Bay. Coming together to study issues surrounding gifted and talented education in New York City public schools, as well as the admissions processes at city’s specialized high schools, Borough President Adams and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. announced their Gifted & Talented Education Task Force on Monday, January 23rd. The task force will hold public hearings in March, and will release a set of recommen-dations for the future of gifted education in New York City. Both borough presidents have been outspoken about the dearth of gifted and talented programs in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The Gifted & Talented Education Task Force will be made up of both borough presidents, as well as three parent leaders from each borough. Borough President Adams’ appointees from Brooklyn are Nikki Lucas, a parent at JHS 88 Peter Rouget, Malveina Mendonca, president of Community Education Council (CEC) District 23, and Ralph Yozzo, a member of CEC District 16. Borough President Diaz’s appointees from The Bronx are Stephen Francisco, a member of CEC District 10, Nancy Khosh, a member of CEC District 11, and Kate Speiling of the Parent Alliance for Collaborative Education (PACE).

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall
Chinese New Year Celebration

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall - Community Room Uniform Land Use Review Procedure Public Hearing

TUESDAYS, FROM FEBRUARY 7TH TO MARCH 28TH
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall - Community Room Free Parenting Workshop

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall - Community Room Brooklyn Borough Board Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall - Community Room Free Tax Preparation

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Brooklyn Borough Hall
Black History Month Celebration

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 brooklyn-usa.org to sign up for Borough President Adams’ paperless notiﬁcations, like his Facebook page, and follow @BPEricAdams on Twitter.

WHAT’S UP AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL?

Brooklyn Borough Hall is the People’s House for creative expression and community building. It is a dynamic space for Brooklyn residents to gather, learn, create, and express themselves. It is a place where artists, performers, and creators can come together to share their work and connect with the community. From public art exhibits to live music performances, there is always something happening at Brooklyn Borough Hall. On January 11th, Borough President Adams celebrated his latest crop of Heroes of the Month at a ceremony inside Brooklyn Borough Hall. His diverse array of honorees included Luis Ruiz and his step-son Antonio Piña, a pair of karate instructors from East Williamsburg who rescued a woman from an attempted rape; Ahmed Khalifa, a Muslim high school student from Midwood who has been celebrated at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in Fort Greene; and NYPD Detective Steven Franzel, the lead investigator on an operation that resulted in the apprehension of more than 40 gang members and associates.

On Thursday, January 12th, the Free Portrait Project finished up a two-week exhibition at Brooklyn Borough Hall, showcasing a selection of local artist Rusty Zimmerman’s 200 paintings of his Crown Heights neighbors. Borough President Adams was proud to host the artwork as part of his ongoing commitment to open the People’s House for creative expression and community building.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed nationwide on the third Monday of January, has been celebrated at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in Fort Greene for the past 31 years with one of the nation’s most significant tributes to the civil rights champion. On Monday, January 16th, Borough President Adams was proud to serve as co-host and master of ceremonies for the event, which featured music from the Campbell Brothers and Institutional Radio Choir as well as a keynote address from Black Lives Matter co-founder Opal Tometi.

“The Greatest,” a.k.a. Muhammad Ali, was the subject of an art exhibition at Brooklyn Borough Hall that ran from Thursday, January 19th through Friday, January 27th. Borough President Eric L. Adams’ Message of the Month

Eric L. Adams’ Message of the Month

© Photo Credit: Gregory Ingram

BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
ERIC L. ADAMS’ MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

IFU DIA DE RAYOS! Three Kings Day, in many communities, marks the end of the holiday season. Borough President Adams joined Williamsburg residents in their annual celebration on Sunday, January 8th as he participated in the Brooklyn Three Kings Day Parade along Graham Avenue, a festival for which he proudly served as Grand Marshal in 2015.

These heroes are super! On Wednesday, January 11th, Borough President Adams celebrated his latest crop of Heroes of the Month at a ceremony inside Brook-lyn Borough Hall. His diverse array of honorees included Luis Ruiz and his step-son Antonio Piña, a pair of karate instructors from East Williamsburg who rescued a woman from an attempted rape; Ahmed Khalifa, a Muslim high school student from Midwood who helped cops arrest the assailant of an Orthodox Jewish woman on the subway, and NYPD Detective Steven Franzel, the lead investigator on an operation that resulted in the apprehension of more than 40 gang members and associates.

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Adams, in partnership with Inspirational Arts, presented a visual depiction of courage and confidence focused on the life of the legendary world champion boxer.

Our future is “steam-powered!” Borough President Adams is deeply committed to advancing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) education in order to prepare students for the careers of the future.

Building bridges for small businesses, Borough President Adams has teamed up with the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) on a variety of forums aimed at helping entrepreneurs respond to notices and summons. The most recent assembly took place at Mesa Azteca Restaurant in Bushwick on Friday, January 27th.

Brooklyn is home to everyone from everywhere, with a rich immigrant tradition that Borough President Adams continues to support and advance. He hosted a naturalization workshop on Saturday, January 28th at Brooklyn Borough Hall, working with lawyers and volunteers from Catholic Migration Services, the New Americans Campaign, and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. The clinic assisted more than 150 individuals with their naturalization and fee waiver applications.

Community boards, which have existed in their current form for more than 40 years following the Charter Revision of 1975, are the most local representative bodies of government in New York City; they are responsible for addressing community concerns, assessing neighborhood needs, and dealing with land use issues. Borough presidents are responsible for the appointment of each of their community boards’ 50 unsalaried members, half of whom are nominated by local members of the City Council. On Tuesday, January 30th, Borough President Adams announced that his office has completed its commitment to a paperless application process this year, following last year’s landmark digitization of the forms on his website; hard copies will still be provided, but only by special request. The application deadline for those interested in being appointed or re-appointed this year is Wednesday, February 15th.

A construction-focused town hall was held at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, January 31st, sponsored by Borough President Adams and the Stand for Tenant Safety Coalition. Brooklynites who have been impacted by the actions of bad-acting landlords discussed the impact of dangerous construction behavior in their apartment buildings, as part of a greater conversation surrounding a proposed package of City legislation to address these issues.

On Monday, December 30th, Borough President Adams joined New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Lorelei Salas and Grow Brooklyn, the largest non-paid tax preparer in the borough, to officially open the NYC Free Tax Prep site at Brooklyn Borough Hall, as they reminded the roughly 1.1 million eligible New Yorkers to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). With around 325,000 returns claiming the EITC in 2015, according to the IRS and Brookings Institution, Kings County has more residents claiming the credit than any other county in New York State and is amongst the highest in the nation. In partnership with Grow Brooklyn’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, Borough President Adams is offering a number of free tax preparation sessions for eligible residents, including single filers who earned $30,000 a year or less, families with dependents who earned under $55,000 a year, and families who are self-employed with expenses of $5,000 or less. Applications are also available from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Friday, February 17th; Friday, February 24th, and Monday, April 17th, as well as from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Thursday, March 16th; Thursday, March 23rd; Thursday, April 6th, and Thursday, April 13th. Those seeking more information, including necessary documentation, are asked to call (347) 682-5606 or visit growbrooklyn.org.

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 topics such as alternate side parking, sidewalk pickup, or other community matters, including the topics in this month’s update, call the Center at (718) 802-3700.