On Thursday, November 2nd, Borough President Adams unveiled a historic investment of more than $55 million in the future of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education at more than 150 schools across Brooklyn ranging from pre-kindergarten to higher education, including public, charter, and private institutions. The figure represented more than half of his Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) capital budget and a doubling of his STEAM-focused educational spending from last year. He joined school principals, superintendents, teachers, students, and parents in making the announcement at P.S. 56 Lewis H. Latimer and Urban Assembly Unison.

State-of-the-art greenhouse to be built at the co-location of New York Sun Works’ educational curriculum at Edward R. Murrow High School in Midwood on Friday, joined faculty, students, and school administrators at Brooklyn’s capacity to compete in the innovation and continuing projects such as the One Brooklyn for challenges to come. Through the expansion of Board 16 and the East New York Business Improvement District (BID), as well as New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) President James Patchett and Council Member Rafael Espinal, in touring the subway station and surrounding area on Monday, November 6th as part of their launch of the Broadway Junction Planning Study and Working Group. The announcement comes after years of advocacy from Borough President Adams in seeding a vision and set of recommendations to guide future infrastructure improvements to enhance the area in and around the under-utilized transportation hub at the gateway to Brooklyn-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Bushwick, Coney Island, East New York, and Ocean Hill through revitalization of key City agencies in the neighborhood. The study will help identity potential public realm and transportation infrastructure improvements to enhance the area in and around the transit hub as well as increase connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods.

The working group will bring together elected officials, community boards, and local stakeholders to develop a comprehensive vision for the surrounding neighborhoods. The working group will focus on questions and recommendations to guide future development in and around Broadway Junction.

In response to the Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers, Borough President Adams called for an expansion to the commission’s mandate and recommended new, diverse figures for memorials. He submitted testimony on Tuesday, November 7th to a hearing held at Brooklyn Borough Hall, which focused on building or renaming sites for underrepresented New Yorkers, including immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people of color. He stated that “I believe that there are more than enough historical figures and campaigns that worked underrepresented or collectively to build a Brooklyn and New York City that accommodates all and reflects of our diverse history and community fabric. At the same time, New York City has more than enough venues to honor these individuals or movements. Imagine, for example, the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Municipal Building in Downtown Brooklyn, the Lane Home Bandshell in Prospect Park, or perhaps the future archway in Sunset Park named in honor of NYPD Detective Wenjian Liu.”

Borough President Adams allocated more than $8.7 million for the creation and preservation of more than 4,000 affordable housing units across a dozen new and existing developments in Brooklyn as part of his FY18 capital budget. The funding will help enable construction of more than 1,500 new affordable and supportive housing units throughout the city. Borough President Adams made the announcement on Tuesday, November 21st at the future site of the Bishop Philips and Helen Nicolas Senior Residence, which is expected to be a 230-bed affordable housing development in East Flatbush for low-income elderly Brooklynites. The BEL Community Housing LLC-led project, a partnership between Lemle & Wolff Development Company, Brisa Evergreen LLC, and the Evangelical Crusade Christian Church, is part of his groundbreaking Faith-Based Development Initiative which pursues partnerships with Brooklyn’s houses of worship to deliver affordable and supportive housing on available parcels of land across the borough.

In celebration of El Dia de Los Muertos on Wednesday, November 1st, Borough President Adams celebrated the Mexican Day of the Dead in the Rotunda of Brooklyn Borough Hall. This year, festivities, which traditionally coincides with All Saints Day, featured fruit and sweet bread offerings from Asociacion de Mujeres Poblanas de Brooklyn, and was dedicated to the victims of the devastating September earthquake in Mexico.

Borough President Adams hosted an evening of praise at his annual Celebration of Thanksgiving and Praise concert on Sunday, November 5th, featuring uplifting gospel music within the halls of the historic Kings Theatre in Flatbush. He was joined by interfaith leaders as well as local Muslim and Uzbek community members to offer healing prayers for the victims of October’s West Side Highway terror attack.

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Plant power! Hundreds of health-conscious New Yorkers came out to Brooklyn Borough Hall for two November events hosted by Borough President Adams. His first event—a Plant-Based Meetup on Monday, November 6th brought together health care practitioners, nutritionists, and retired NFL lineman David Carter to discuss the benefits of a plant-based diet. Additionally, on Thursday, November 30th, Brooklyn Borough Hall was the site of Plantgiving, a celebration of plant-based culture. On Wednesday, November 8th, Borough President Adams was featured at a Barclays Center Impact Zone Alliance meeting inside TerraCGR’s Prospect Heights office with local residents to discuss issues regarding the arena and nearby Atlantic Yards, including arena operations, environmental compliance, housing construction, infrastructure, transportation, and related quality-of-life matters. Subsequent to the community conversation, one of the key concerns that had been expressed was rectified, as the longstanding construction fence on Dean Street. Keep the faith. Borough President Adams hosted a Bishops of Brooklyn Roundtable on Thursday, November 9th at P.C. Richard & Son in East New York to discuss faith and community preparedness and security. On Thursday, November 16th, the NYC Agency Forum for Houses of Worship took
were crocheted by dozens of local seniors for the holiday season. Sponsors and volunteers that are serving Brooklynites in need this holiday season. Sponsors and volunteers gathered at Old Fulton Alley in Downtown Brooklyn on Friday, November 17th to give out the donations to more than 100 organizations across the borough.

14-year-old Guatemalan immigrant Edwin Ajealon lost his life after being struck and dragged by a driver while cycling through Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street in South Slope. On Monday, November 27th, two days after the fatal crash, Borough President Adams held a community vigil with Ajealon’s family, community leaders, and local residents, where they raised more than $1,700 for the funeral while urging State lawmakers to permit increased installation of speed cameras citywide.

Teaming up with the New York City Office of Administrative Trials & Hearings (OATH), Borough President Adams co-hosted two forums to help Brooklynites better understand how to respond to summonses from City enforcement agencies. Their “Building Bridges for Small Businesses” event was held on Wednesday, November 22nd at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Bushwick, and their “Hearings Support for Veterans” gathering took place at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Thursday, November 30th.

On Wednesday, November 8th, Borough President Adams joined the American Red Cross and the Brooklyn Park Jewish Community Council (BPJCC) on the corner of 16th Avenue and 50th Street in Borough Park to announce a new partnership on fire safety and emergency preparedness. The initiative was organized in response to a recent spate of house fires in the neighborhood, which tragically resulted in the loss of lives and property. New measures will include local canvassing and online outreach, providing residents with information about fire prevention and safe use of candles during the holidays. Borough President Adams will assist the American Red Cross and BPJCC in registering local families to have free smoke alarms installed in their homes by volunteers, as well as to provide fire safety education to the community. For a free smoke alarm installation, visit redcross.org.

In the spirit of giving, Borough President Adams is hosting a Holiday Drive Collection, which is accepting new books or pajamas for children ages 3 to 11 until Friday, December 15th. Drop-off sites can be found at Brooklyn Borough Hall as well as at locations in Bay Ridge, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Borough Park, Canarsie, Coney Island, Clinton Hill, Crown Heights, Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO, East New York, Fort Greene, Greenpoint, Midwood, Prospect Heights, Prospect Park, and Williamsburg. The drive is being supported by partners such as Green-Wood Cemetery and Movers, Not Shakers! For a full list of drop-off sites, visit brooklynusa.org.

In response to a series of house fires in Borough Park, Borough President Adams participated in a fire safety initiative kickoff in partnership with the American Red Cross and the Brooklyn Park Jewish Community Council outside the Boro Park YM-YWHA. Photo Credit: Erica Sherman/Brooklyn BP’s Office

On Monday, November 20th, the Trump administration announced an end to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for almost 60,000 Haitians living and working across the United States, giving them and others within the TPS program 18 months to leave the country. Borough President Adams responded by emphasizing the need for unity in support of the thousands of Haitians who call Brooklyn home. He stated that “while many of us had feared this, we are no less heartbroken over the impact this will have on thousands of immigrant families in our borough. Brooklyn is the Port-au-Prince of America, and we will not abandon our Haitian brothers and sisters in the callous manner that this White House plans to do. My administration will work closely with our legislative partners and local stakeholders to provide the legal intervention and support needed to stem this impending crisis and keep families together.” If you will be impacted by this policy change, call the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) at (718) 788-7654.

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.

COMMUNITY ALERTS