

BROOKLYN

CHILDREN'S

MUSEUM

ACTIVITY KIT

Designed
for children
4 and up

BLOCK PARTY

BCM Activity Kit: *Block Party*

Dear Families,

Every summer the streets of Brooklyn are filled with block parties. Neighbors of all ages jump in bounce houses, eat ice cream, make music and play games together to celebrate our communities.

A few years ago Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) worked with photographer Anderson Zaca on an exhibit that brought the block party experience to our building in the middle of December! It was cold outside, but we could pretend we were having summer fun in the warmth of our museum.

We might not have been able to have block parties this past summer of 2020, but we hope that BCM's *Block Party* activity kit helps you imagine being at a street festival any time. Try the activities in this booklet or create your own projects using the kit materials.

Let us know what you think about this activity kit by tagging **@bcmkids** and **#brooklynchildrensmuseum** or e-mailing: **education@brooklynkids.org**. We look forward to seeing you at Brooklyn Children's Museum again soon!

Love,
Your friends at Brooklyn Children's Museum

***BLOCK PARTY* is a portable kit of materials and ideas for hands-on fun.**

This kit includes activities and tools to create your own artwork.

Block Party was an exhibit presented at Brooklyn Children's Museum in 2017 in partnership with Anderson Zaca, a Crown Heights-based photographer and artist who has documented summer block parties throughout New York City for the last 15 years. The exhibit brought the fun of Brooklyn summertime indoors and featured elements of the iconic Brooklyn block party- stoops, street games, DJ tunes, and neighborhood celebration. Many thanks to Anderson Zaca for his continued artistic partnership and generous support.

STOOP SELFIES
Take a picture of
yourself on your stoop
and share the fun!
Tag your selfie:
@bcmkids and **#brooklyn
childrensmuseum**



STREET GAMES

The sidewalk is your surface for play!

HIT THE PENNY

1. Place the penny on the sidewalk.
2. You and a friend stand on opposite sides with the penny in between you.
3. Take turns throwing the rubber ball at the penny. Each hit is worth 1 point. Flipping the penny from heads/tails or tails/heads is worth 3 points!
4. First person to 15 points (or however many points you decide to reach) wins!

MATERIALS

- a penny
- small rubber ball

TABLE SOCCER

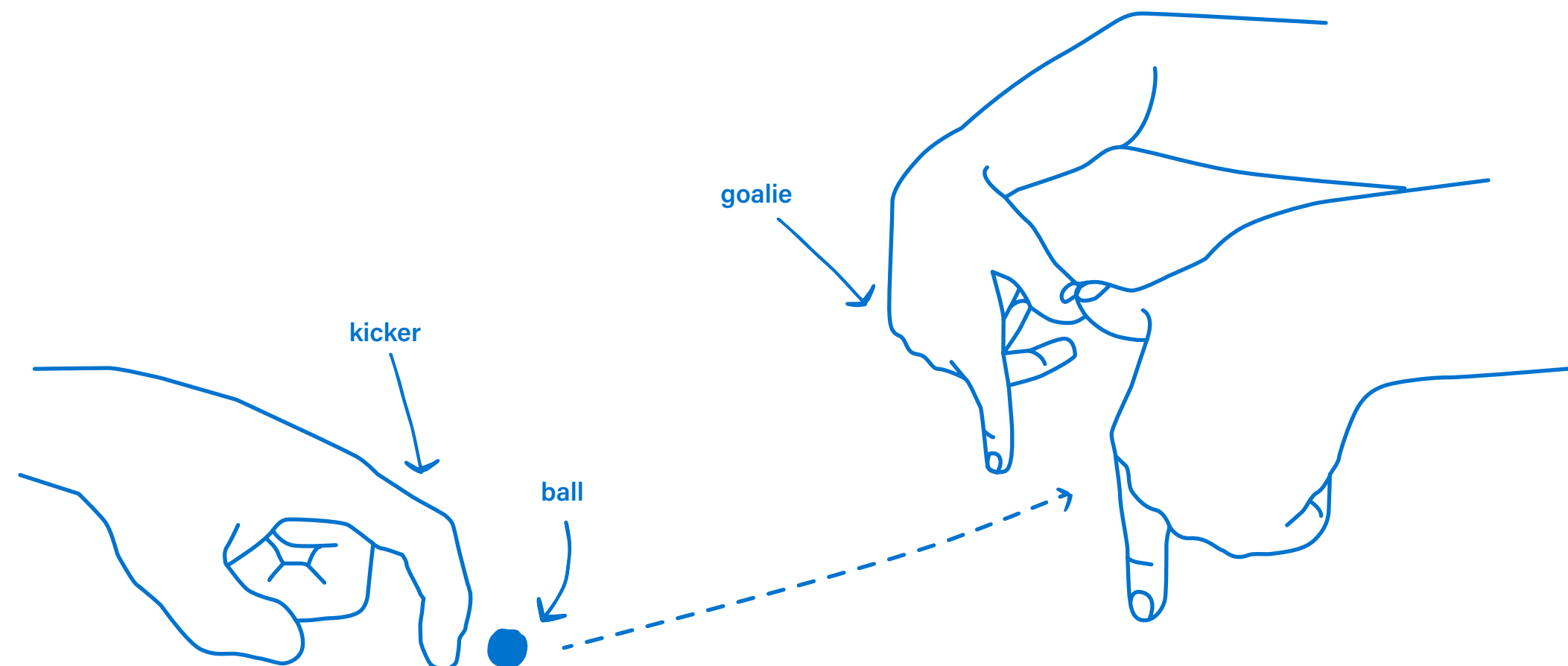
If it's too cold to play outside, try this game that requires nothing but two players and a recycled foil or paper ball.

With a friend, have one player be the kicker and the other the goalie. The *goalie* creates a "goal" by creating an upside down "U" or "V" with their

thumb and pointer finger. The kicker flicks the crumpled foil ball trying to make it in the net. You can create the rules and system of points for the number of kicks it takes to make a successful goal!

MATERIALS

- recycled foil or paper ball



HOP SCOTCH

1. Anderson Zaca's photo shows a typical hop scotch board. Try drawing your own using this as an example. If you want, you can change the shape of the boxes or orientation of the board.
2. Once your board is complete, hop on one foot from one box to another in order. When you get to the number "10" turn around and hop back to "1" again.
3. Take turns hopping with a friend. Sing a song you both know while the other is hopping. Who can complete the board first?

MATERIALS

- chalk
- a surface to draw on—sidewalk, concrete, school yard or closed street

HOP(E) SCOTCH

Try this variation of hop scotch: write messages that make people feel happy on your hop scotch board.

As you hop from space to space, call out the words or message in the space you've landed.

What are three positive messages you want the world to hear?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



HEY NEIGHBORS!

Use chalk and other materials to create messages to connect with your neighbors.

CREATE A CHALK MESSAGE

Write a large chalk message or question on the sidewalk for your neighbors.

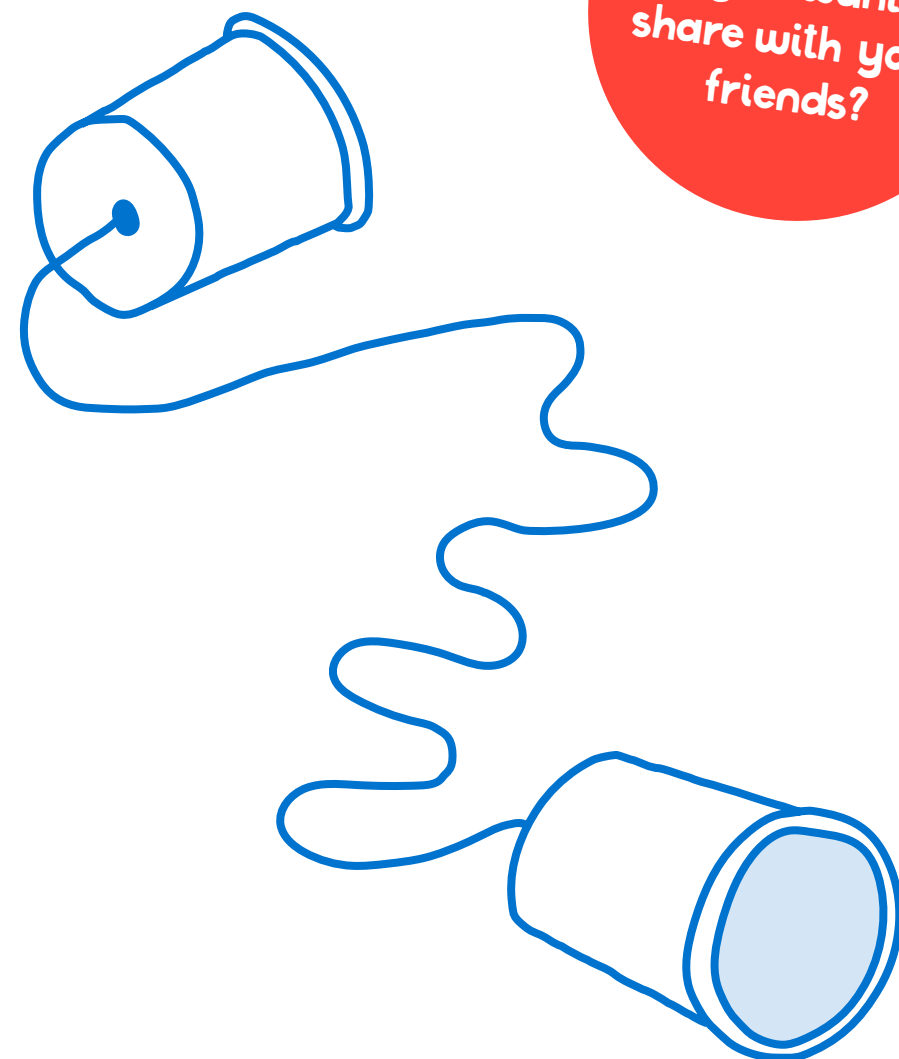
What would you like to say to your community?

HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Use paper cups and a piece of yarn to make homemade “telephones” so you can connect with your neighbors, family and friends.

MATERIALS

- 2 paper cups
- yarn
- scissors or skewer



What messages do you want to share with your friends?

1. Use the end of the scissors or a skewer to carefully poke one hole in the middle of the bottom of each paper cup.
2. Thread the yarn through one of the holes of the paper cup and tie a knot so the yarn cannot be pulled out of the hole.
3. Cut the yarn to the length you want for your telephone.
4. Thread the yarn through the hole of the second paper cup and tie the end with a knot.
5. Have one person hold one paper cup telephone while you hold the other. Make sure the yarn is pulled tight and is not touching anything.
6. Start chatting! Take turns speaking and listening into the cup.

SENDING SUMMER

Pretend you are on a summer vacation and send a postcard to someone you love!

1. Using the blank postcard as your canvas, paint or draw a picture of a happy memory.
2. Let the postcard dry.

3. Send some love by mail. Choose who you will send the card to- a friend, neighbor, or family member. Write a message, add the address, and a stamp, and drop in your local mailbox. Your card will make someone's day!

MATERIALS

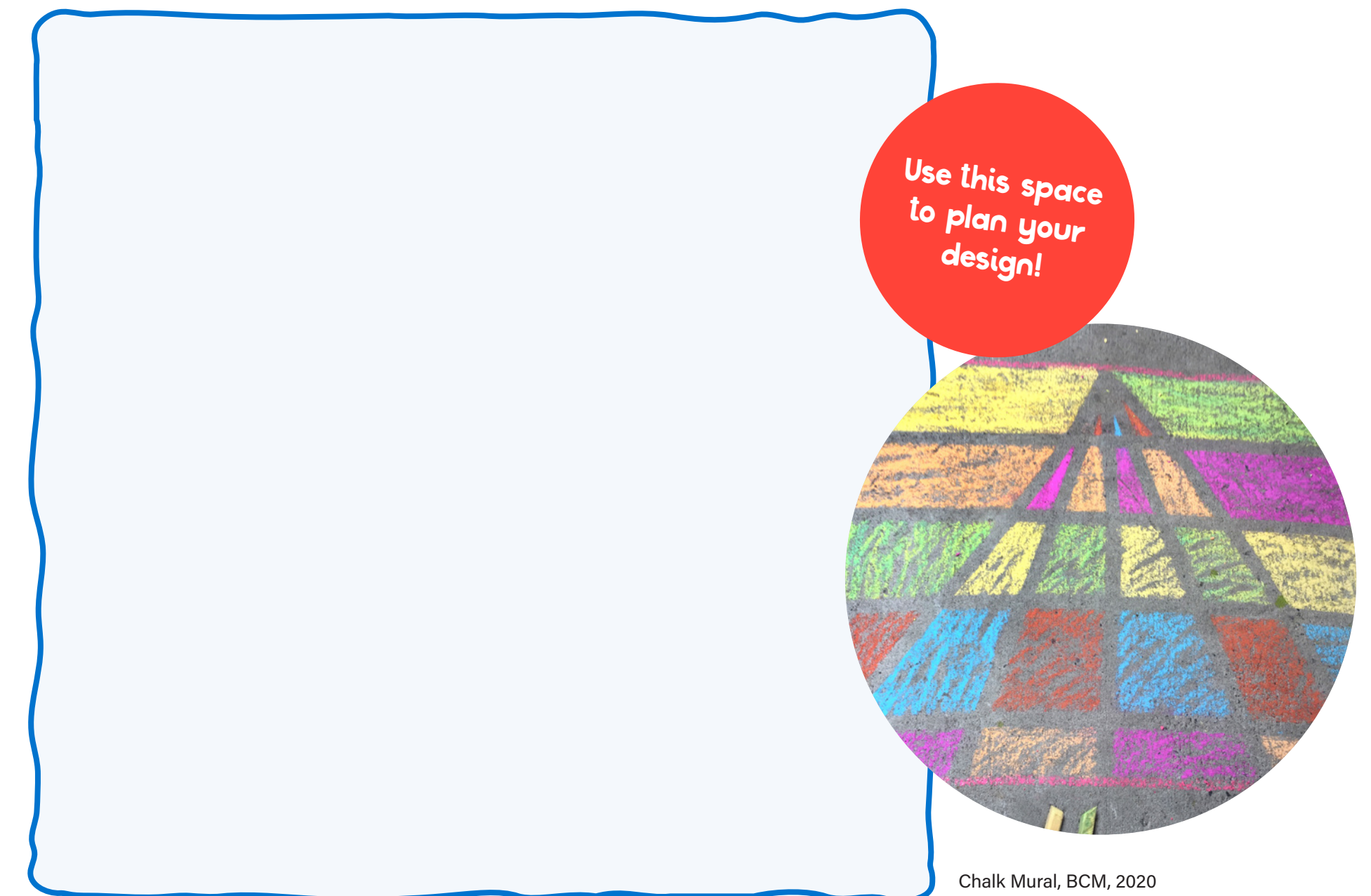
- blank watercolor postcard
- watercolors
- paintbrush and water cup
- pencil
- stamp to send by mail (or drop off locally)

SIDEWALK CHALK “QUILT”

Using chalk and tape, create a pattern, or a design with a message for your community.

Quilts are made for warmth and tell stories through their shapes, colors, and images.

1. Find an area on the sidewalk or in the park to create the quilt.
2. Draw the shape of your quilt's outline.
3. Make a pattern on the ground using tape.
4. Color in the sections around the tape.
5. Pull the tape off to see your community chalk quilt!



Use this space to plan your design!

Chalk Mural, BCM, 2020

JUMP AROUND!

JUMP ROPE

Jump rope and double-dutch are longtime sidewalk traditions. The rhymes and songs that kids sing are passed down from generation to generation.

Do you know some of these classic rhymes or a variation? Try making up your own song or chant.



*Down by the banks of the Hanky Panky,
Where the bullfrogs jump from bank to banky,
With a hip, hop, hippity, hop,
Leap off a lily pad and go KERPLOP!
Down by the banks of the Hanky Panky,
Where the bull frogs jump from bank to banky,
With a flip, flop, flippity, flop,
Leap off a lily pad and go KERPLOP!
Down by the banks of the hanky panky
Where the bullfrogs jump from bank to banky
With an eep, ipe, ope, op,
Ee-sock-a-diddly and go KERPLOP!*

*Miss Mary Mack Mack Mack
All dressed in black, black, black
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons
All down her back, back, back.*

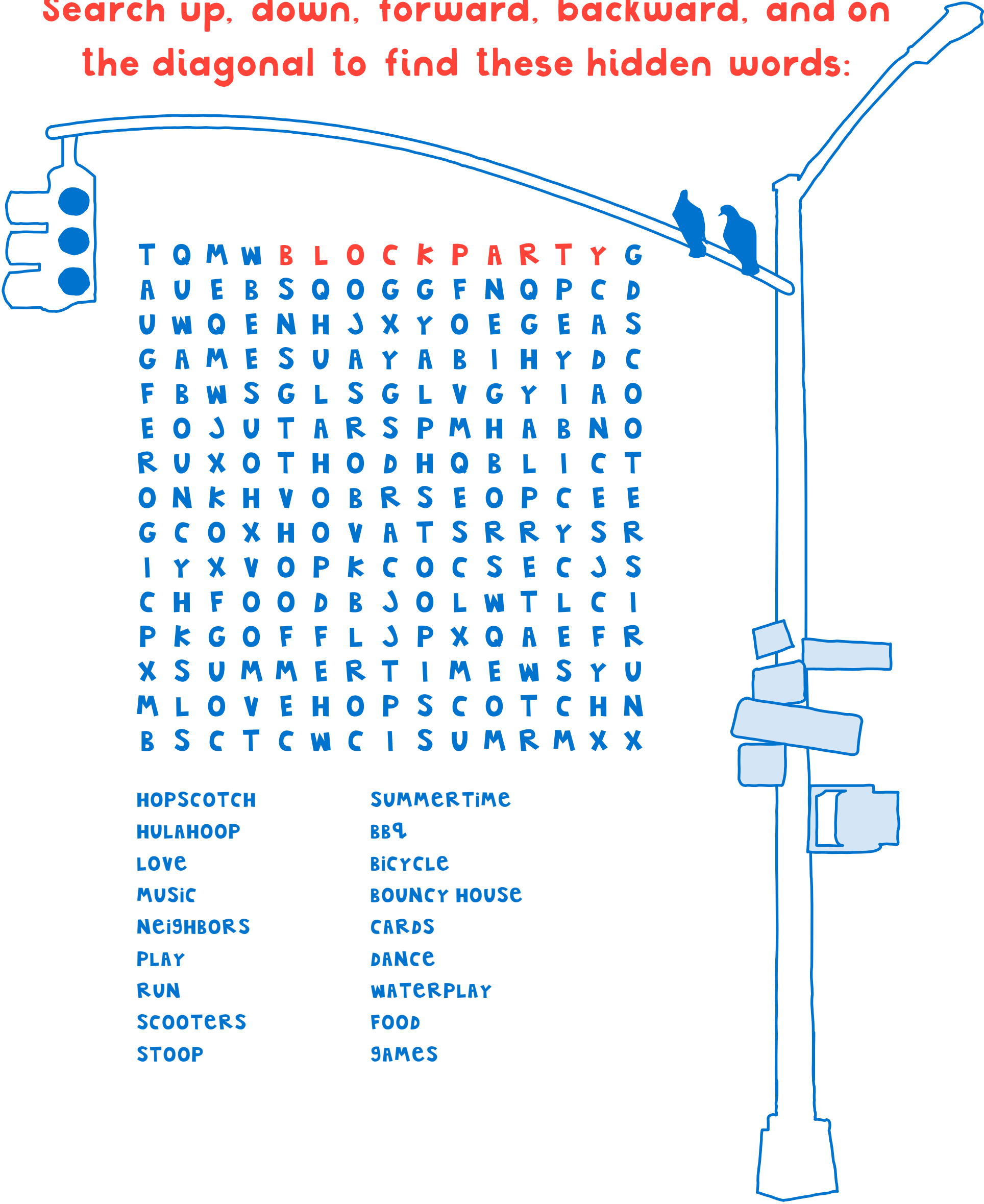
*She asked her mother, mother, mother
For 50 cents, cents, cents
To see the elephants, elephants, elephants
Jump over the fence, fence, fence.*

*They jumped so high, high, high
They reached the sky, sky, sky
And they didn't come back, back, back
'Til the 4th of July, ly, ly!*

*Cinderella dressed in yella,
Went upstairs to kiss her fella.
By mistake she kissed a snake,
How many doctors will it take?
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, etc.*

BLOCK PARTY WORD SEARCH

Search up, down, forward, backward, and on the diagonal to find these hidden words:



T O M W B L O C K P A R T Y G
A U E B S Q O G G F N O P C D
U W Q E N H J X Y O E G E A S
G A M E S U A Y A B I H Y D C
F B W S G L S G L V G Y I A O
E O J U T A R S P M H A B N O
R U X O T H O D H Q B L I C T
O N K H V O B R S E O P C E E
G C O X H O V A T S R R Y S R
I Y X V O P K C O C S E C J S
C H F O O D B J O L W T L C I
P K G O F F L J P X Q A E F R
X S U M M E R T I M E W S Y U
M L O V E H O P S C O T C H N
B S C T C W C I S U M R M X X

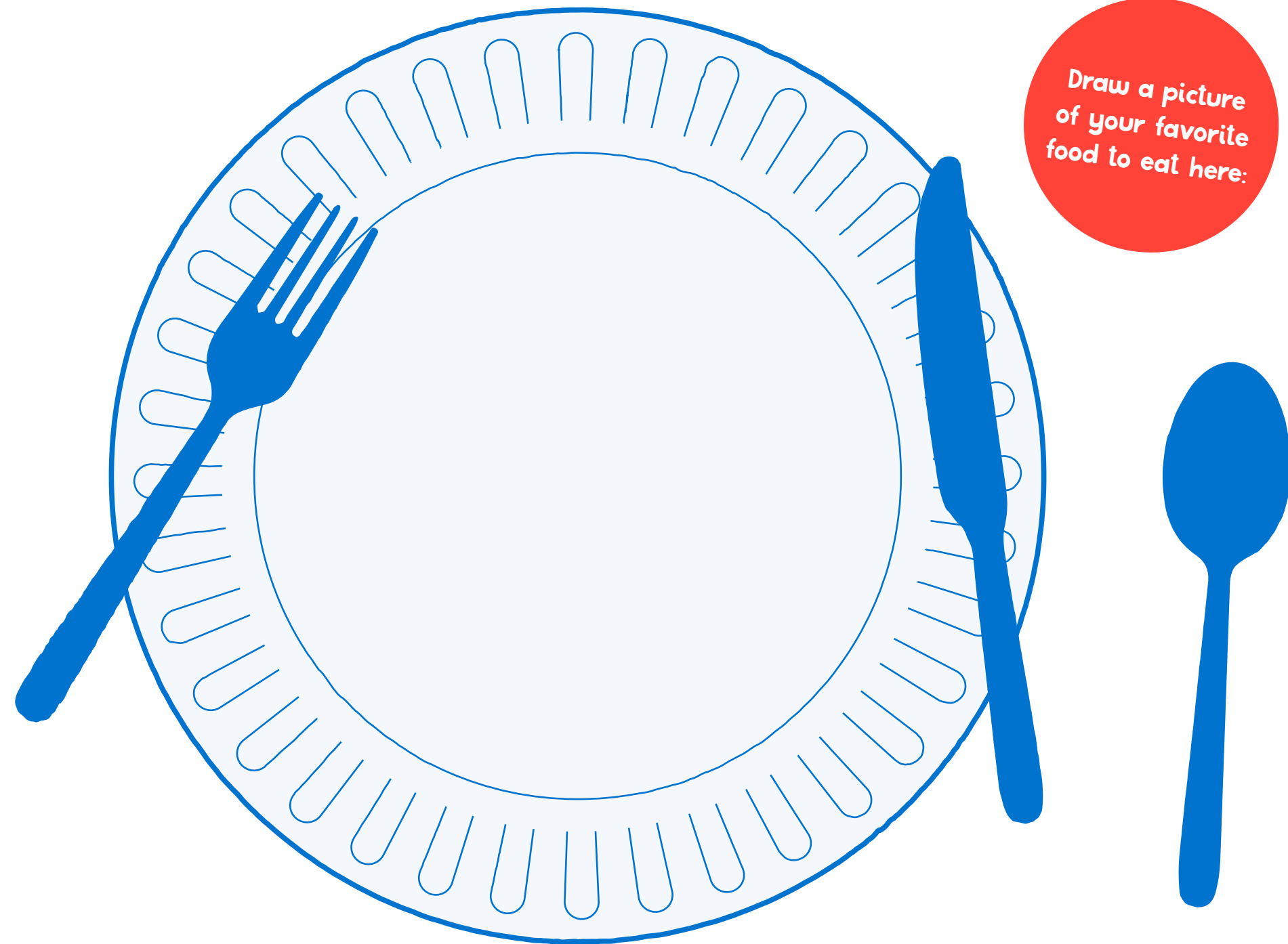
HOPSCOTCH
HULAHOOP
LOVE
MUSIC
NEIGHBORS
PLAY
RUN
SCOOTERS
STOOP

SUMMERTIME
BBQ
BICYCLE
BOUNCY HOUSE
CARDS
DANCE
WATERPLAY
FOOD
GAMES

WHAT'S COOKiNg

Depending on where you live, and what you and your neighbors like to eat, there are all kinds of different food at block parties or community gatherings. There might be chicken or hotdogs on the grill, tacos, falafel, popcorn or an ice cream truck.

When you celebrate, what kinds of foods do you like?



Draw a picture
of your favorite
food to eat here:

JUICE POPSICLES

**Cool off with these fruity
homemade popsicles**

1. Pour the juice into your ice-cube tray and place in the freezer for 1 hour.
2. Take the ice-cube tray out of the freezer and place the popsicle sticks into the half-frozen cubes. If the juice is not frozen/ slushy enough to hold the sticks, then wait a little longer.
3. Place the ice-cube tray back into the freezer.
4. Wait until the cubes are completely frozen and enjoy your cool treat!

MATERIALS

- ice-cube tray (or small paper or plastic cups)
- your favorite juice
- popsicle sticks

WHAT'S HAPPENiNg ON THE BLOCK



What's
happening
in these
photos?

Which one is
your favorite
photo and
why?

Can you find: a guitar double dutch sidewalk chalk playing dominoes
a unicycle hula hoops water play grilling

Images from the book *Block Party NYC Soul of Summer* by Anderson Zaca.

1. Halsey Street between Ralph and Patchen Avenue, Brooklyn, 2009
2. 52nd Street between 6th and 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, 2009
3. MacDougal Street between Thomas Boyland Street and Saratoga Avenue, Brooklyn, 2009
4. Macon Street between Malcolm X Blvd and Patchen Avenue, Brooklyn, 2010
5. Crown Street between Franklin and Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, 2009
6. Dekalb Avenue between Irving and Wyckoff Avenue, Brooklyn, 2011

7. Park Place between Saratoga Avenue and Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, 2009
8. Midwood Street between Albany Avenue and Troy Avenue, Brooklyn, 2011
9. 51st Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn, 2009
10. Norman Street between Wyckoff and Cypress Avenue, Brooklyn, 2009
11. Oakland Avenue between Harvest and Mathews Avenue, Staten Island, 2011
12. 223rd Street between Bronxwood and Paulding Avenue, Bronx, 2010

WATER PLAY

The first fire hydrant in New York was installed in 1808 and was probably made of wood.

Today, hydrants are made of iron and weigh around 500 lbs. Fire hydrants are used by the New York City Fire Department to access water to fight fires. At block parties, hydrants are sometimes opened up to spray water for people to cool off and play, but be careful—an open hydrant uses as much water in one hour as an entire family uses in a year! If you want to use a fire hydrant to cool off on hot summer days, visit your local New York City Fire Department and ask them to install a sprinkler cap and open the hydrant for you. Never open a fire hydrant on your own.

SPRINKLER FLIP BOOK ANIMATION

**Make your own flip-book
animating a fire hydrant sprinkler!**

1. Draw a fire hydrant on 10-15 pages in the lower right corner of your notebook. Try to make your drawing on each page the same size and shape.
2. Now, it's time to spray the water! Starting on the first page, gradually draw more and more water coming out of the fire hydrant per page, so on the last page there is a lot of water.
3. Flip through the pages rapidly and watch your flip book animation come alive.
4. Add other drawings to add more action to your animation!

MATERIALS

- notebook
- pencils, crayons, or other art supplies

BUBBLES EVERYWHERE

Recipe for Bubbles

Mix gently together:

- 2 cups warm water
- 1/3 cup dish soap
- 1/4 cup corn syrup

This mixture works best if you can let it sit for a few hours in an air-tight container, but you can also use right away!

GIANT Bubble Wand

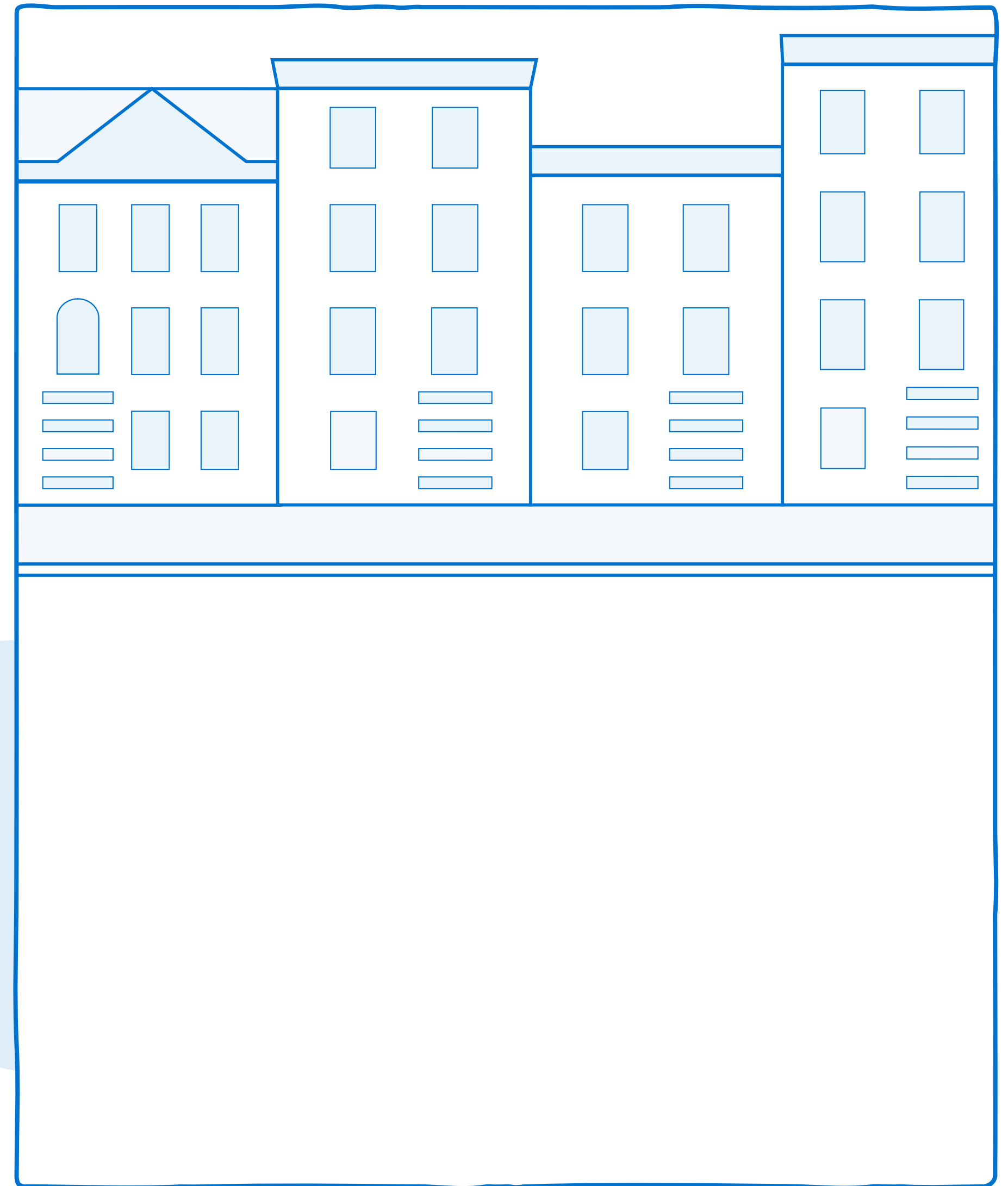
1. Pour your bubble solution into a large tray.
2. Thread the string through both straws and tie a knot at each end. This will form a rectangular wand.
3. Put a straw in each hand and lower them into your bubble solution.
4. Bring the straws together in the solution, making sure the entire wand is submerged.
5. Lift the wand up into the air. As you raise the straws up, move your hands away from each other.
6. Move your hands together and let your bubble fly through the air.
7. Experiment with different techniques to get bigger and better bubbles.

MATERIALS

- 2 straws
- piece of heavy string or yarn about 36-48 inches long



**Write or draw your favorite thing to do
on your block and send it to us!**





About Brooklyn Children's Museum

Our mission

Inspired by the energy and diversity of our borough, Brooklyn Children's Museum creates experiences that ignite curiosity, celebrate identity, and cultivate joyful learning.

Our work

Founded in 1899 as the world's first children's museum, Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) is New York City's largest cultural institution designed especially for families. Proudly based in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, BCM serves 300,000 children and caregivers annually with exhibits and programs grounded in visual arts, music and performances, natural science, and world cultures. Visit us at www.brooklynkids.org and share your work with us on Instagram by tagging @bcmkids #brooklynchildrensmuseum. Tell us what you thought of this kit! E-mail us at education@brooklynkids.org.

Block Party Activity Kit Education team:

Hana Elwell *Vice President, Exhibits & Education*

Alexandra Bynoe-Kasden *Coordinator of Public Programs*

Kate Calleri *Curator and Manager of Collections Interpretation*

Mia Beurskens *Graphic Designer*

About the Artist

Anderson Zaca has been documenting block parties in NYC tradition since 2005, capturing over 200 block parties in all of their revelry. Using a 35mm camera and audio recorder he traveled to every borough with a quest and a camera, capturing the interactions and energy of neighbors of all ages. Zaca's book of block party photographs was published in 2015, and a screenplay based on the book is in pre-production, with filming planned for 2018. Zaca's documentary film

based on the creative competitions of Brazil's annual carnival celebration will be released in January 2019.

Born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil, Zaca immigrated to New York in 1995 and completed degrees in photography and film. These days, Brooklyn-based Zaca works as a photographer and film director when not spending time with his son, Ocean.

www.andersonzaca.com
[@zacalaca](https://www.instagram.com/zacalaca)

THANK YOU

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