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Brooklyn Children's Museum Celebrates its Milestone 125th Anniversary as World's First and Oldest Children's Museum with a Fun-Filled Weekend for All

—BCM is offering FREE Admission to its Birthday festivities on Saturday, December 21 and Sunday, December 22 —



Photo by Winston Williams.

(Brooklyn, NY)—On Monday, December 16, 2024, [Brooklyn Children's Museum](https://www.brooklynchildrensmuseum.org/) (BCM) will turn 125 years old, marking a milestone anniversary for the world's first children's museum. To celebrate, BCM is throwing a birthday party for the visiting public throughout the weekend of

Saturday, December 21 and Sunday, December 22, when the Museum will throw open its doors for a free, [fun-filled extravaganza](#).

From 10 am to 5 pm on both days, children, families, and caregivers will enjoy moving and grooving at dance programs, sliding around BCM's ArtRink skating rink, meet-and-greets with the artists behind BCM's newest exhibit, *In The Works*, screenings of birthday episodes from fun throwback Saturday morning cartoons in BCM's movie theater—plus art-making, photo ops, animal programs, and more.

Admission is free for the birthday party weekend. All programs and experiences will be free as well, with the exception of entry to ArtRink, which is \$5 per person. Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP online at www.brooklynkids.org/125. Walk-ins on the day of the event are welcome.

At 125 years old, Brooklyn Children's Museum is far older than the toddlers and elementary schoolers who frequent the Museum, and older, too, than the parents and grandparents happily tagging along behind them (many of whom hold treasured memories of their own childhoods spent visiting BCM). For well over a century, generations of Brooklynites, New Yorkers, and tourists to the Big Apple have enjoyed its exhibits, multicultural festivals, educational programs, and play spaces.

"Brooklyn Children's Museum was the world's first museum designed specifically for children when it opened in 1899, and today, at 125 years old, remains the oldest children's museum in existence," says its **President & CEO, Atiba T. Edwards**. "We are proud pioneers in this field and are thrilled to count hundreds of children's museums throughout the country and across the world as our partners. Together, we deliver joyful learning experiences to the wonderful children of our communities. It is the honor of my career to lead this historic institution in its second century of life and to serve the diverse and vibrant families of Brooklyn and this great city. My parents often brought my siblings and I to BCM so it holds a deep place in my heart and has contributed greatly to my entire life's journey. Though 125 years old, we remain young at heart and ready to inspire the next generation of curious minds!"

"For 125 years, Brooklyn Children's Museum has always put community first, so hosting a free weekend-long birthday party is only fitting," said **Board Co-Chair Amanda Sue Nichols**. "But birthdays are also a time of reflection, and I could not be more grateful to be part of an organization that has brought joy, culture, and education to multiple generations of families from Brooklyn and beyond."

"Brooklyn Children's Museum is celebrating an extraordinary milestone—125 years as the world's first and oldest children's museum, enriching the lives of children and families across New York," said **Board Co-Chair Michael Frazier**. "As a member of this dedicated Board, I am honored to celebrate BCM's legacy and the joy it has brought to generations of families by inviting everyone to mark this historic anniversary with free admission this weekend."

“For 125 years, the Brooklyn Children’s Museum has served our city and its families as a cultural institution, providing a safe, dynamic space for all,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “For our city’s youngest, aspiring artists, the museum often ignites a spark and first introduces children to the beauty of art. As the world’s first children’s museum, I applaud the Brooklyn Children’s Museum for their continued commitment to the city and wish them a happy birthday, with many more to come.”

“Brooklyn Children’s Museum was the first of its kind in the nation, and for 125 years it has been inspiring young people, uplifting families, and building community across Brooklyn and beyond,” said **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Laurie Cumbo**. “The city is proud of its long-term partnership with and investment in this institution, which is a model for how culture can be at the center of strong, healthy communities while playing a critical role in educating and engaging young people. I had my own early career experience at the Museum, and my young son has spent many happy hours under its iconic yellow roof. So many New Yorkers have similar stories to tell about this extraordinary place. Happy 125th to Brooklyn Children's Museum!”

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso said, “Happy anniversary, Brooklyn Children’s Museum! For 125 years, BCM has been a pioneer in the field of children’s museums and an integral part of our borough’s cultural might. With a mission to ignite curiosity, celebrate identity, and cultivate joyful learning, they have inspired generations of Brooklyn’s youth to deepen their understanding of their world and their community. I am deeply grateful to BCM’s years of service to our borough and wish them many more years of success for Brooklyn’s children!”

New York State Senator Zellnor Myrie said, “I’m so proud to represent Brooklyn Children’s Museum, which has been delighting young New Yorkers and their families for 125 years! Congratulations to the Museum, its leaders and staff, and to all Brooklynites who have access to this incredible community treasure.”

“From singalongs and pajama parties to movies about friendship, trust, exploration, and adventure, Brooklyn Children’s Museum has long been a beloved gathering spot. Equipped with toys and technology, it encourages young people to unapologetically tap into their boundless curiosity—curiosity that could one day transform them into scientists, botanists, writers, or creators of the unimaginable,” said **New York State Assemblymember Brian Cunningham**. “For 125 years, young people from across New York and around the globe have visited the Museum to awaken their senses and discover joys that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. We hope to preserve this cherished community fixture for another 125 years—and beyond.”

NYC Council Member Chi Ossé said, “Brooklyn Children’s Museum has a special place in my heart, as it does for countless children and adults dating back 125 years. It was central to my own childhood, as I got to experience its world class exhibits and programming first-hand for years. Representing the museum as a New York City Council Member has been an absolute privilege. I am grateful for the opportunity to support and invest in this proud institution, and

watch it improve and expand toward its limitless potential. Our city and borough are better places for having Brooklyn Children’s Museum exist and thrive for so long, and I am thrilled to celebrate the beloved Brooklyn gem with the whole community.”

About Brooklyn Children’s Museum

Inspired by the energy and diversity of our borough, Brooklyn Children’s Museum creates experiences that ignite curiosity, celebrate identity and cultivate joyful learning. 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 performance, natural science, and world cultures. For more information, visit: www.brooklynkids.org.

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