



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Jessica Meditz / [jessica@anatgerstein.com](mailto:jessica@anatgerstein.com) / 347-907-0568

## **Brooklyn Children's Museum Presents Black Future Festival: A Week-Long Celebration of Black History During Midwinter Recess**



Photo credit Winston Williams / Brooklyn Children's Museum.

**(Brooklyn, NY)** — [Brooklyn Children's Museum](https://www.brooklynchildrensmuseum.org/) (BCM) will honor Black History Month with a week-long celebration, **Black Future Festival**. Taking place during the DOE Midwinter Recess from February 16 to February 22, the festival is presented in partnership with guest curator [Kendra J. Bostock](#) and [STooPS](#).

Black Future Festival is a week of reflection and future-forward fun, inspired by the national celebration of the African Diaspora and Black History Month. Families are invited to visit the Museum for a one-of-a-kind experience to envision a future that learns from the values and lessons of Black past, present, and future. Each day of the festival features a wide-ranging array of exciting programming, including live performances, dance programs, storytelling workshops, cultural experiences, art exploration, and more.

“Brooklyn Children’s Museum, together with STooPS, is honored to host Black Future Festival as part of our Black History Month celebration, highlighting the richness of the African Diaspora and its profound influence on the world. This collaboration underscores BCM’s commitment to fostering creativity, connection, and learning for all families in our vibrant and diverse community.” said **Atiba T. Edwards, BCM’s President and CEO**. “Through art, storytelling, and cultural exploration, BCM invites children and families to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and envision a brighter future during Black Future Festival.”

Said **Kendra J. Bostock, Founder and Director of StooPS**: “In her song *If You Can Dream*, Lena Horne reminds us that “If you can dream, the world’s a better place by far.” As we navigate this tumultuous climate, STooPS Art & Community wants to use this year’s Black Future’s Festival at Brooklyn Children’s Museum as a reminder for us all—especially Black and BIPOC folks who are under attack—that we must continue to dream as an act of manifestation and resistance. This year’s theme, *I Dream of Black Brooklyn*, is designed to have us access our dreams through performance, dance, music, and crafts as a way to harvest and put them into the universe, shifting the energy of our world. As Brooklyn Children’s Museum celebrates its 125th anniversary, we want people to continue to utilize this iconic space in Brooklyn as a repository of dreams, hopes, and desires of brilliant youth who will make Brooklyn and the world a better place in the future.”

“The Brooklyn Children’s Museum is a longstanding and ever-improving Brooklyn institution,” said **Councilmember Chi Ossé**. “Generations have enjoyed and relied on its services and programming. We are thrilled about the coming Black Future Festival and thrilled to support the program.”

“I am proud to partner with the Brooklyn Children’s Museum to celebrate Black History Month through the Black Future Festival. This inspiring week of reflection and creative exploration provides a unique opportunity for families to come together, celebrate the achievements of the past, and envision a brighter future for all,” said **New York State Senator Roxanne J. Persaud**. “By highlighting the vibrant cultural expressions of the African Diaspora, we can empower the next generation to dream, create, and lead with purpose. I look forward to seeing how this collaboration will spark the imaginations of Brooklyn’s youth and their families.”

**Black Future Festival** will pay homage to the role of art-making in the Black-led social movements that have shaped Brooklyn as we know it today. The program’s vibrant and varied workshops will feature dance, storytelling, music, poetry, and visual arts based in Afrocentric values and principles.

## **Schedule**

*All workshops and performances are 45 minutes long.*

## **Featured Performance**

### **BK Dreamers by KJB Works**

What are your dreams for a beautiful Brooklyn? Join dancers of Kendra J Bostock Works as we dance out our dreams of art, joy, love and spaces where Black folks thrive as we all thrive. Through dance, music, and text, let's explore our dreams and imagine how to make them come true together.

*Multiple performances:*

- Sunday, February 16: 11:00 am & 3:30 pm
- Monday, February 17: 11:00 am & 3:30 pm
- Thursday, February 20: 11:00 am & 3:30 pm
- Saturday, February 22: 11:00 am & 3:30 pm

## **Program Schedule**

### **The Art of Loving Oneself: 'If Brooklyn Were a Tree...'**

*Thursday, February 20: 2:30 pm*

Transform Brooklyn into a mighty tree through art and storytelling! Create your own 'dream zine' combining illustrations, poetry, movement, and images, with tips on what makes a healthy tree grow. Together we'll explore themes of feeling confident with the unknown, the growth that occurs in darkness, and the relationships between water, air, earth, and fire. Led by M. Aleijuan King.

### **Black History Game Show!**

*Monday, February 17: 12:15 pm*

Time travel through Brooklyn's past and future in this hands-on Black history game for the entire family! Learn about the artists, activists, and scientists who have shaped our community while playing interactive trivia and games. Experience history, culture, and community changemakers who helped spread love, the Brooklyn way. Led by Wema Ragophala.

### **Exploring Block Printing**

*Tuesday, February 18: 2:30 pm*

Create unique prints on paper and fabric! Explore the basics of block printing using pre-cut blocks and washable ink. Led by Stephanie Oge.

### **Future Leaders Paper Crafts**

*Wednesday, February 19: 4:00 pm*

*Friday, February 21: 11:00 am*

Imagine your future self and the kind of career you might have. Are you a teacher? A doctor? An astronaut? Use a variety of materials to create a large paper doll of your future self! Receive a coloring sheet representing different careers to take home. Led by Ovilla Lemon.

### **Jazz Dance and Storytime**

*Friday, February 21: 4:00 pm*

Let's get jazzed up for swingin' storytime! Join STOOOPS Bedstuy performer/teaching artist Carmen Carriker as we explore jazz through dance, music, pictures, books, songs, and games. This fun workshop is designed for youth 0-10 years. Led by Carmen Carriker.

### **Let's Dance Brooklyn: Past, Present, Future**

*Tuesday, February 18: 12:15 pm*

*Thursday, February 20: 2:30 pm*

Try this dynamic workshop celebrating the vibrant evolution of dance. Through creative movement, participants will journey through Brooklyn's cultural roots, embrace the present, and envision a powerful future—all while having fun and staying active! Led by Leslie Alston.

### **Linoleum Printing Workshop**

*Thursday, February 20: 12:15 pm*

Create a unique star-inspired artwork through printmaking! Choose from different pre-carved linoleum blocks with images of stars, print your chosen designs on paper, and then draw things you wish for around your prints using crayons and colored pencils. This workshop introduces participants to printmaking concepts and is a fast way to create a unique souvenir. Led by Cecilia Caldiera.

### **Making Brooklyn Beats**

*Tuesday, February 18: 4:00 pm*

*Wednesday, February 19: 12:15 pm*

Explore sounds with us as we create beats that make you move your feet. Rock to instruments like the mbira, shakere, xylophone, various drums, and whistles. Create your own sustainable instrument using recycled materials to make music and take home. Led by PitsiRa Ragophala.

### **Making Colorful Mandala Ornaments**

*Sunday, February 16: 2:30 pm*

*Friday, February 21: 12:15 pm*

Create your own unique mandala ornament on a circular wood pine disc! Design your mandala pattern using washable markers and stencils on one side, add your name or initials to the other, and attach twine to hang your finished creation. Led by Ramona Kearns.

### **My Community Looks Like...**

*Thursday, February 20: 4:00 pm*

*Saturday, February 22: 2:30 pm*

Rep' your 'hood through paper collage! Use a variety of multi-colored, multi-patterned and multi-textured paper to represent who and what makes up your community. Add an instant photo of yourself to draw a personal connection to the place you call home. Participants may choose to take their collages with them or add them to a larger collective collage that will represent the community that attends the workshop that day. Led by Pia Monique Murray/PMMDC.

### **Printmaking on Paper**

*Wednesday, February 19: 11:00 am*

Create unique posters using simple printmaking techniques! In this workshop, create your own 'blocks,' roll paint onto them, and stamp the images onto poster boards using everyday materials. Led by Apryl Bruce.

### **The Possibilities of Dreams**

*Sunday, February 16: 12:15 pm*

*Wednesday, February 19: 2:30 pm*

Join this interactive movement and storytelling workshop where dreams become reality! Immerse yourself in a journey as we co-create a world together. Through movement and storytelling, interweave a tale that creates a bridge from the present to the possibilities. Using Nikki Giovanni's book, *Genie in the Jar*, let us begin to "weave the sky", celebrating the power of community. Led by Wema Ragophala.

### **Scribble Stories**

*Saturday, February 22: 2:30 pm*

Turn random scribbles into stories through the power of imagination! Start with simple scribbles on paper, transform them into faces or scenes, and create stories inspired by your drawings. This creative exercise helps develop storytelling skills through abstract line drawings. Led by Keisha Gaye-Anderson.

### **Wukkout!**

*Monday, February 17: 2:30 pm*

Wukkout! is a high energy, inclusive and dynamic, Soca dance fitness experience designed to make you sweat and have fun, just like you would at a Caribbean Carnival. No experience necessary and all levels are welcome so grab yuh rag, grab yuh flag and be ready to Wukkout! Led by Krista Martins.

### **Yoga For Kids**

*Tuesday, February 18: 11:00 am*

*Saturday, February 22: 12:15 pm*

Join us for a playful introduction to yoga designed just for kids! This workshop focuses on breathwork, meditation, stretch, and play as we go on yoga adventures to the jungle, under the sea, and more. Led by Carmen Carriker.

### **ColorLab and Nature's Engineers Workshops**

### **Future Reflections**

*Daily: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm & 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm*

Create future-forward “mirrors” inspired by artist Larry Brown’s “I See You” series! Using reflective paper, air-dry clay, beads, and twine, design mixed-media sculptures that give us a glimpse into the bright future ahead.

### **“I See You”: Workshop with Artist Larry Brown**

*Thursday, February 20: 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm*

Meet the artist behind our Future Reflections project! Join Larry Brown in ColorLab as he guides you in creating your own reflective sculptures inspired by his “I See You” series. Using reflective paper, air-dry clay, beads, and twine, design mixed-media artworks while learning directly from the artist about his creative process and vision.

### **Cool by Design**

*Daily: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm & 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm*

Discover the science of keeping spaces cool in our STEM makerspace! Design and build your own shade structure using textiles, then put your engineering skills to the test: Can your creation protect an ice cube from melting?

Black Future Festival activities will take place from February 16 to February 22. Tickets to the Museum grant access to all of the day’s events and are \$15 for general admission, \$14 for grandparents, and free for children under one year-old and BCM members. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: [www.brooklynkids.org/black-future-festival](http://www.brooklynkids.org/black-future-festival).

### **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 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](http://www.brooklynkids.org).

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