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Brooklyn Children's Museum Announces the Launch of *Haven: Reunification*

—The program is offered in partnership with NYC Department of Correction with support from the Social Justice Fund founded by Clara Wu Tsai—

[Images/Video available here](#)



(Brooklyn, NY)—[Brooklyn Children's Museum](#) (BCM) announces the launch of its new program *Haven: Reunification*, in partnership with the New York City Department of Correction. The

initiative is made possible by generous support from [the Social Justice Fund founded by Clara Wu Tsai](#), which has awarded the Museum a two-year grant of \$160,000.

Haven: Reunification is a bimonthly program that welcomes fathers who are incarcerated at Rikers Island to spend an afternoon with their families at BCM and designed to facilitate bonding, learning, and imaginative play. It is held on days when the Museum is closed to the public, enabling a safe and private experience for the families, with on-site supervision provided by the NYC DOC.

Through shared meals, art therapy workshops, reading together, and open-ended play throughout the Museum's exhibits, families can learn, grow, and create enduring memories together in a warm and inclusive space in the community.

Each session provides a unique opportunity for fathers to strengthen relationships with their children and caregivers. The program's goals are to reduce the impact of incarceration on children and families and combat recidivism through positive, restorative engagement.

Each participating family receives a complimentary Museum membership, supporting continued engagement with BCM's play-based learning and cultural exploration opportunities throughout the year.

"This partnership with the Brooklyn Children's Museum takes aim at the terrible toll incarceration can take on families," said **Department of Correction Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie**. "By providing a safe, comfortable, dignified, and most importantly, fun place for incarcerated parents to visit with their children, BCM and DOC will jointly strengthen family bonds while paving the way for successful, supportive community reentries. I am truly thankful to BCM for this program; the men and women in our care, and their families, deserve nothing less!"

"All children and families deserve access to safe third spaces that foster joy, development, and healing, and especially families impacted by incarceration who too often feel alienated and unseen. Our new program, Haven: Reunification, intends to reconnect these children and parents to each other and to a community institution that cares about them," said **Atiba T. Edwards, President and CEO of Brooklyn Children's Museum**. "For 125 years, Brooklyn Children's Museum has proudly served a vital role in strengthening the village required to raise up healthy, thriving children, and we are deeply grateful to the Social Justice Fund for making this critical program possible."

"Strong families are the fabric of thriving communities" said **Gregg Bishop, Executive Director of the Social Justice Fund**. "By supporting Haven: Reunification, we are equipping families with resources to promote connection, resiliency, and healing with dignity. We are proud to support Brooklyn Children's Museum in its endeavor to meet the needs of justice impacted individuals on Rikers and their children."

The Social Justice Fund invests in programs that address the root causes of racial gaps in education, health, and wealth to support economic mobility within the borough of Brooklyn. The Fund's investment in **Haven: Reunification** underscores a shared belief in the power of community, dignity, and second chances.

The New York City Department of Correction

The New York City Department of Correction (DOC) is dedicated to creating a safe and supportive environment while providing individuals in our care with a path to successfully re-enter their communities.

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.

About the Social Justice Fund

Clara Wu Tsai launched the Social Justice Fund in 2020 in Brooklyn to support economic mobility within communities across the borough. Driven by a \$50 million commitment over ten years, the Social Justice Fund invests in programs that are scalable and confront the root causes of racial gaps in education, health, and wealth.

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