



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Black History Month's 100th Anniversary, Brooklyn Children's Museum Presents Annual *Black Future Festival*

— The week-long celebration takes place during NYC Schools' Midwinter Recess, from February 15 to February 21, 2026 —



Black Future Festival at Brooklyn Children's Museum. Photo credit Winston Williams

(Brooklyn, NY) – As Black History Month marks its 100th year, [Brooklyn Children's Museum](#) (BCM) presents [Black Future Festival](#), a week-long celebration giving young people the tools and space to envision and shape the next century of Black creativity, resilience, and innovation.

Taking place during NYC Schools' Midwinter Recess from February 15 to February 21, the Festival features over a dozen workshops, performances, and hands-on experiences, ranging from Hip-Hop and House dance to Afrofuturistic art, vision boarding, and printmaking.

Black Future Festival is presented together with guest curator [Kendra J. Ross](#) and [STooPS Art & Community \(STooPS\)](#), an outdoor arts organization that builds community through art in Bed-Stuy, connecting Brooklynites through annual block parties, classes, and creative opportunities in unconventional spaces. Ross is the founder/director of STooPS, whose work as a dancer and choreographer has been showcased around the world.

This year's Festival theme is **Black Resilience: Growing in Tough Terrain**. Through performances, workshops, and hands-on art-making led by guest artists and educators, the Festival celebrates how the African Diaspora has innovated and thrived in the face of adversity, and empowers young people and families to carry that creativity forward.

Schedule of Events:

Silver Linings: Triumph of Loss by KJB Works

Sun 2/15, Mon 2/16, Thu 2/19, Sat 2/21 at 3:30–4:15 pm | Thu 2/19, Sat 2/21 at 11:00–11:45 am

Silver Linings: Triumph of Loss is a multidisciplinary dance piece that explores our perspectives of loss. The work examines how individual loss and societal loss can be reframed through healing and joyful celebration of what can be gained because of the loss.

Printing On Da Block

Mon 2/16, 12:15–1:00 pm | Sat 2/21, 2:30–3:15 pm

Bring your imagination to block printing! Use everyday materials to create a collective mural with participants, their families, and communities as the focal points. Kids will receive their own "blocks," roll paint onto them, and stamp images onto poster boards.

Afrofuturistic Collages

Wednesday, February 18: 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm

Thursday, February 19: 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Learn about Afrofuturism through film, music, and imagery, then use mixed media to create your own Afrofuturistic face collage. Includes conversations about resilience, justice, and envisioning a brighter future.

Our Roots Run Deep: Kids' Vision Boards

Thu 2/19, 4:00–4:45 pm | Fri 2/20, 12:15–1:00 pm

Explore your dreams, strengths, and goals through art and guided reflection. Using the symbolism of trees and roots, participants will learn that growth is possible even in challenging environments—and that their roots in family, culture, and community help them stand strong. Children leave with a completed vision board, positive affirmations, and a deeper sense of confidence and possibility.

Yoga For Kids

Mon 2/16, 2:30–3:15 pm | Tue 2/17, 4:00–4:45 pm

Practice breathwork, meditation, stretching, and imaginative play through yoga adventures to the jungle, under the sea, and more.

Sparkle & Strength: Portraits Inspired by Mickalene Thomas

Wed 2/18 & Thu 2/19, 11:00 am–12:15 pm

Create expressive portraits inspired by Brooklyn artist Mickalene Thomas's bold, pattern-filled work. After a brief visual introduction, children use simple outlines, patterned papers, markers, and safe rhinestones to explore identity, color, and confidence.

Printed Heroes

Thu 2/19, 2:30–3:15 pm | Fri 2/20, 4:00–4:45 pm

Celebrate Black History Month through printmaking and storytelling. Using custom stencils inspired by figures like Serena Williams and Bessie Coleman, kids will create colorful prints while learning about creativity, courage, and imagination.

Art & Storytelling with Happy Island Books

Tue 2/17 & Wed 2/18, 2:30–3:15 pm

Explore resilience through drawing, imagination, and shared stories. Simple creative prompts encourage children to express how they grow, adapt, and find joy, even when things feel challenging.

Let's Dance Brooklyn: Past, Present, Future

Sun 2/15, 2:30–3:15 pm | Wed 2/18, 4:00–4:45 pm

Journey through Brooklyn's cultural dance roots, embrace the present, and envision a powerful future—all while having fun and staying active.

Hip Hop & House Dance Party

Tue 2/17 & Wed 2/18, 12:15–1:00 pm

Learn party moves from Hip-Hop and House Dance through exercises including a soul train line, a cypher, and across-the-floor combinations. Participants will also learn a partner/group routine they'll perform at the end of the session.

Making Brooklyn Beats

Sun 2/15 & Mon 2/16, 11:00–11:45 am

Explore sounds and create beats with world instruments like the mouth harp, mbira, shakere, xylophone, drums, and whistles. Make your own shaker to attach to your hands or feet and create your own percussion beat.

Memorable Art Journals

Sun 2/15 & Sat 2/21, 12:15–1:00 pm

Decorate a small book made from a paper bag with embellishments, sparkles, stickers, and magazine cutouts. These art journals will tell your own story!

“As Black History Month turns 100, we’re asking, ‘Who decides what the next 100 years looks like?’ BCM’s Black Future Festival gives kids the answer: they should and will,” said **Atiba T. Edwards, President and CEO of Brooklyn Children’s Museum**. “Black Future Festival gives young people and families the tools, the vision, and the support to imagine bold futures shaped by Black creativity and innovation. We're proud that BCM is the place where this work happens.”

"At STooPS Art & Community, our mission has always been to build community by connecting people through art in the spaces they call home. Partnering with the Brooklyn Children’s Museum for the Black Future Festival is a natural extension of that vision, and I am so grateful to continue this wonderful relationship. Having worked together on past festivals, it’s a joy to return as guest curator to explore this year’s theme, ‘Black Resilience: Growing in Tough Terrain’. Our goal is to provide a space where young people can see themselves as the architects of the next century, using their inherent creativity and resilience to shape a bold, innovative future” said **Kendra J. Ross, Founder and Director of STooPS**.

Black Future Festival takes place from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday, February 15 through Saturday, February 21. Museum admission includes access to all activities. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$14 for grandparents, and free for children under one year old.

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 through 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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