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Annual Spring Gala Brings Together Over 400 Guests to Celebrate Brooklyn Children's Museum

—Funds raised will support play and joyful learning opportunities for every child—



Atiba T. Edwards Presents Bobye List with BCM Champion Award at 2026 Gala (Photo Credit: Kenzi Hajar/BFA.com)

[Photos from the 2026 Gala Are Available Here](#)

(Brooklyn, NY) — On **Thursday, June 11, Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM)**, the world's first children's museum in its 126th year, celebrated its impact as a community and cultural anchor for young children and families at its annual [Spring Gala](#).

The event brought together more than 400 community, business, and philanthropic leaders who raised more than \$640,000 in support of the Museum's mission to cultivate joyful learning and inspire curiosity in the next generation. The Spring Gala raises critical funds for BCM's

programs, including its Community Access initiative, which enabled nearly half of this year's visitors to access the Museum free of charge.

"Tonight's gala was a celebration of what's possible when a community believes in its children," said **Atiba T. Edwards, President and CEO of Brooklyn Children's Museum**. "BCM has been a place where curiosity is sparked, identity is celebrated, and every family is welcomed through the door to cultivate joyful learning. The support raised tonight is what makes that possible. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are ensuring that BCM remains accessible to every family. Support raised tonight helps us continue creating a space where all families can learn and play, see their culture celebrated, and experience belonging. Tonight reminds us why we show up everyday"

The event honored **Boby List** with the **2026 BCM Champion Award**. List is an Emeritus Board member and former Executive Director of Brooklyn Children's Museum, serving from 1995-97. She has over 50 years of experience in nonprofit management, most recently serving as the Executive Director of the [Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation](#).

"Here's to the future of the Brooklyn Children's Museum," said **2026 BCM Honoree Bobye List**. "You were the first children's museum in the world, and you will always be setting the bar for educating children with excellence and excitement for all!"

Guests at the Gala enjoyed Brooklyn's best cocktails and food, music by **DJ Suga Ray**, and performances from the local Caribbean community-based organization, [Sesame Flyers](#), and the WNBA New York Liberty's [Timeless Torches](#), the dynamic dance team featuring performers ranging in age from 40 to 89 years young.

Funds raised from the gala will help the Museum continue to offer exhibits, cultural festivals and programs grounded in visual and performing arts, natural science, and world cultures.

BCM's 2026 Spring Gala supporters included:

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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.

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