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Brooklyn Children's Museum Awarded Grant for Community Access Programs by Citizens Philanthropic Foundation

— Community Access Initiative at BCM enables almost half of visitors to access the Museum free of charge —



Child participating in Nature's Engineers exhibit at BCM (Photo credit: Winston Williams)

(Brooklyn, NY) – [Brooklyn Children's Museum](#) (BCM) is pleased to announce a \$5,000 grant made by the [Citizens Philanthropic Foundation](#) to support the Museum's Community Access initiative, which helps ensure that every Brooklyn family can experience the benefits of play-based learning, regardless of their ability to pay.

This funding will help sustain BCM's commitment to making the Museum accessible to all through programs such as Community Access Thursdays, which offer free admission every Thursday from 2:00–5:00 p.m. This initiative has enabled nearly half of the Museum's visitors this year to enjoy BCM free of charge, removing financial barriers so more children and caregivers can learn, play, and connect together.

"At Brooklyn Children's Museum, we believe every child deserves access to joyful, hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity and strengthen community," said **Atiba T. Edwards, President and CEO of Brooklyn Children's Museum**. "We're grateful to the Citizens Philanthropic Foundation for investing in our Community Access initiative and helping ensure that cost is never a barrier to discovery. This grant allows more Brooklyn families to see the Museum as a place where they belong."

"We are proud to support the Brooklyn Children's Museum's efforts to make education and exploration accessible to all children and families, said **Michelle Hecht, Board President of Citizens Philanthropic Foundation**. "Museums play a vital role in fostering curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning, and we believe every child deserves the opportunity to experience these enriching opportunities. We are honored to partner with the Brooklyn Children's Museum in helping create a more inclusive and engaged community."

BCM is committed to creating joyful learning experiences that reflect and serve the diverse communities of Brooklyn. Alongside free admission opportunities, the Museum partners with local schools, community organizations, and city agencies to expand access beyond its walls, while supporting neighborhood businesses, employing Brooklyn residents, and creating welcoming spaces where children and caregivers from every background can learn together.

Families can reserve free tickets for Community Access Thursdays in advance at brooklynkids.org.

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 brooklynkids.org.

About Citizens Philanthropic Foundation

The Citizens Philanthropic Foundation is a charitable organization funded by Citizens Financial Group, Inc. The Foundation's mission is centered in the belief that citizenship is at the heart of Citizens' identity, and when people and communities reach their potential, we all thrive. The Foundation currently focuses its giving on financially empowering our neighbors and

strengthening our communities through workforce development. By investing in these important issues, the Citizens Philanthropic Foundation strives to improve the lives of our fellow citizens through building partnerships with public, private, and community interests to develop neighborhoods, transform lives, and stimulate economic renewal.

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