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**BROOKLYN COMMUNITIES COLLABORTIVE  
ANNUAL REPORT**

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## WHO WE ARE

Brooklyn Communities Collaborative (BCC) envisions a Brooklyn where all communities are healthy, economically sound, culturally vibrant, and civically engaged. Launched in 2019 in collaboration with longtime Brooklyn community leaders, BCC seeks to tangibly improve health and wealth in the Brooklyn neighborhoods where the intersection of poor health outcomes and racial inequity is most evident. BCC's programming is driven by years of participatory action research (PAR), BCC's key practice for harnessing community insight to solve problems and implement solutions.

BCC partners with fundamental Brooklyn institutions with significant economic capital, networks, and expertise through an anchor mission approach to collectively support the communities where they are based. BCC's institutional partners in advancing this work are 1199 SEIU, the City University of New York, Maimonides Health, One Brooklyn Health, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Berger MD, CEO, University Hospital of Brooklyn at SUNY Downstate

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Torian Easterling, MD, SVP, Population Health and Community Health/Chief Strategic and Innovation Officer, One Brooklyn Health System

Marilyn Fraser, MD, Chief Executive Officer, Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health

Colvin Grannum, Former President & CEO, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation

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Karen Nelson, MD, Former Chief Medical Officer, Community Care of Brooklyn

Maurice Reid, Advisor, Alliance for Healthy Communities, Former FQHC Director

Bruce Richard, Senior Advisor, 1199SEIU

From the Executive Director –

I am proud to share BCC's second Annual Report, highlighting a year of partnership and progress in building health and wealth in Brooklyn. The theme of this report is 'Convening Partners, Strengthening Communities', which celebrates a year in which we were able to host our first in-person convening and collaborate with longstanding partners and community leaders to advance our shared goals. We continued our efforts to address the effects of the pandemic by committing additional support and new resources to our network of community-based organizations (CBOs) working in underserved and under-resourced communities, and dug deeper to develop new programs that directly address the social determinants of health (SDOH).

In 2023, BCC will launch and expand initiatives that focus on healthy housing, workforce development, healthcare procurement and strengthening our network of trusted CBOs addressing the SDOH. The data and community insight gained through BCC's established PAR process will guide the development, implementation, and growth of each of these programs.

BCC has an ongoing commitment to new and existing partnerships with CBOs, local leaders, and community members dedicated to transforming health in Brooklyn. Many of these partnerships predate BCC's founding, having begun at a time when New York State recognized the need for greater collaboration to reduce health disparities and ushered in an era of collaboration between community members, private and public institutions through its Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP) 1115 waiver, launched in 2015. We're looking ahead to 2023 and the likelihood of a new 1115 Waiver and are excited about a new era of collaboration and partnership.

Over the past three years, BCC's purpose and methods have evolved to best reflect and address the needs of the communities in which we work. We enter 2023 energized and ready to tackle the opportunities ahead of us together. I would like to extend a thank you to our community partners, Board of Directors, committee members, and exceptional staff for both their support and hard work. I look forward to continuing our progress towards a healthy and equitable Brooklyn.

In partnership,



Shari Suchoff

## "CONNECTING PARTNERS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES"

After two years of fully virtual programming, BCC hosted its first in-person convening in June, bringing together many of Brooklyn's most vital organizations and institutions to advance our collective strategy to build health and wealth in Brooklyn. The theme for the day-long session, "Connecting Partners and Strengthening Communities," underpinned much of BCC's work throughout the year, with 65 participants representing 40 different organizations, including CBOs, hospitals, government agencies, and foundations. The convening highlighted the work of Brooklyn CBOs throughout the pandemic, innovative workforce development partnerships, networking break-out sessions, and announced a landmark commitment from Maimonides Health and One Brooklyn Health to achieve 10% of non-clinical procurement per year from local Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) by 2030.

In 2022, BCC and its partners continued to focus on the social factors affecting health by:

- Increasing employment opportunities and dismantling the barriers that contribute to income disparities;
- Aiding hiring and purchasing policies and practices;
- Championing housing policies that determine affordability, property maintenance, and reduce displacement and homelessness;
- Supporting policies and programs that support justice involved populations.





## **BCC PRIORITIES**

### THREE PILLARS

BCC's work is driven by three priority areas, which together support equitable health, economic opportunity, and engagement in Brooklyn communities: the Brooklyn Health Enterprise Hub, Healthy Housing, and Strong Communities Fund.

## BROOKLYN HEALTH ENTERPRISE HUB



The Brooklyn Health Enterprise Hub (the Hub) is a borough-wide, regional health-focused workforce development and enterprise ecosystem combatting systemic disinvestment in Brooklyn and responding to workforce needs and lost supply chain revenue of BCC's anchor partners. The Hub sets the stage for Central Brooklyn to more fully participate in the economy of the borough, city, state and region. Through recruitment and training tailored to immediate hiring needs and efforts focused on hospital procurement to local MWBEs, the Hub ensures that Brooklyn's healthcare institutions are positioned to continue delivering essential care to the community while redirecting the supply chain so that more dollars circulate locally and can be invested in neighborhoods challenged by structural economic inequality.

## HEALTHY HOUSING



BCC partners with public and private entities to expand housing stability and empower residents as advocates for healthy built environments. BCC facilitated a community-led participatory action research project in 2020-2021 that asked "What are the most effective ways to improve housing conditions—especially those that most affect health—in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, and East New York?" The community research team examined indoor housing conditions; how Vital Brooklyn development designs address the social determinants of health; what is in place to support health in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments; and what those carrying out the work believe will amplify their efforts. BCC's housing work also has a special focus on housing for low-income healthcare workers in East and Central Brooklyn.

## STRONG COMMUNITIES FUND



The Strong Communities Fund (SCF) addresses pressing community priorities with flexible funds and investments in civic infrastructure – to facilitate communication among and between community residents, activists, organizations, and other entities, and amplifying community-led voices. The SCF supports a network of nearly 100 CBOs throughout Brooklyn. To date, BCC has committed \$4 million through SCF to health and social services, youth services, digital resources, food security, and to support census work. Through its latest partnership providing technical assistance and capacity building, SCF builds capacity and efficiency for its partners by enabling these often under-resourced and volunteer-reliant organizations to focus on offering direct services and improving health care access to the community.



## INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

In support of these three priority areas, BCC has developed and launched a number of programs directly impacting the Brooklyn community.

### Economic Democracy Fellowship

In 2022, BCC launched the first cohort of its Economic Democracy Fellowship, a partnership between BCC and the City University of New York intended to promote economic democracy and racial equity in Brooklyn. The Fellowship is an academic credit-bearing certificate program of seminars, training, and fieldwork providing participants with the background, frameworks and networks needed to develop enterprises, with a focus on those addressing Brooklyn's healthcare system. The inaugural cohort of six Brooklyn-based fellows are working on areas highly relevant to BCC's goals, including healthy food, housing and the built environment, and green energy and infrastructure.

The Economic Democracy Fellows are: Leah Asha Allen, Natasha D. Joseph, Ellie Kahn, Androniki Lagos, Bill Oberkehr, and Nicolas Savvides.

In December BCC hosted a virtual event to showcase the projects of the Economic Democracy Fellows, who presented their enterprises and received feedback through a collaborative "Dolphin School" engagement and feedback model.

### Building Health, Wealth, and Equity in Brooklyn

This year, BCC completed an analysis and assessment of procurement data from two of our key anchor institutions, Maimonides Medical Center and the One Brooklyn Health System. Insights from the report [Building Health, Wealth, and Equity in Brooklyn](#) quantified the systems' current spending with local MWBEs, identified challenges to local MWBE procurement, and pinpointed opportuni-

ties to increase it. BCC identified \$600-700M in annual procurement expenditures, representing significant un-

tapped opportunity to increase economic empowerment and address a key concern of residents, as identified through PAR studies. The funds also represent promising opportunities in select professional services, building maintenance, information technology, and food services.

At BCC's spring convening, Maimonides Health CEO Kenneth Gibbs and One Brooklyn Health CEO LaRay Brown discussed the findings from the procurement analysis. On behalf of their institutions, they jointly committed to increasing their non-clinical procurement expenditures by 10% annually with local MWBEs, with a goal of reaching that target by 2030. This commitment has major implications for the health and economic wellness of the borough, representing \$35-40 million a year in new revenue for these businesses from these two institutions alone.



BCC continues to work with procurement leads from both health systems to support steps towards this goal and identify further opportunities to localize procurement spending. Additional analyses and feasibility studies will

## INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

be released in 2023 and will inform BCC's strategies going forward, serving as a model for localizing MWBE procurement in New York City and beyond.

### Property Management and Stewardship of the Built Environment Fellowship

BCC launched a Property Management and Stewardship of the Healthy Built Environment Fellowship that grew from a BCC-led PAR study conducted in 2020-2021 on housing in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brownsville, and East New York, and from discussions with Vital Brooklyn developers. Vital Brooklyn is a New York State investment in community health designed to remove barriers to health and wellbeing, and is investing in 4,000 units of new affordable housing.

The Fellowship was designed in partnership with East New York Restoration Corporation and aims to train and place community members as skilled professionals in property management in Vital Brooklyn developments and other buildings in Central Brooklyn. BCC and its partners developed a curriculum encompassing traditional property management functions with enhanced content on housing-as-healthcare, leadership development, community building and stewardship of the overall neighborhood environment. All costs associated with the program are covered by BCC, and Fellows also receive a \$1,000 honorarium. 100% of the program's first cohort completed the Fellowship, and BCC is working to match graduates with our developer partners who are eager to hire them.



The first cohort of the Property Management and Stewardship of the Healthy Built Environment Fellowship launched with 15 Fellows who attended training starting in November and received their certifications at the end of December. Graduates received the New York State Certification in Property Management and Landlord Tenant Law, in addition to GPRO Green Construction Management certification. They also took additional workshops focused on healthy housing's impact on residents and the community, as well as financial, technical, and operational aspects of property management.

The inaugural Property Management and Stewardship of the Built Environment Fellows are: Darrell Adams, Aliah Asramon, Femi Brown, Jonathan Chevalier, Chawana Dunn-Holloway, Christine Emmanuel, Sha'linda Fuller, Kaylah Glenn, Kane Jacob, Shonnet Miggins, Liv Mullings, Quetuwhah Perkins, Howard Solomon, Tayshaun Williams, and Aaron Yaw. The cohort had a 100% completion rate, with all Fellows receiving their selected certifications.

### Resilia Technical Assistance Program Partnership

At BCC's Spring Convening, CBOs identified a common need for additional resources and better support for fundraising, leadership and management development, and capacity building. Following these conversations, BCC partnered with Resilia, a New Orleans-based and black female-founded tech company, for a technical assistance program.

This pilot partnership includes 27 of BCC's CBO partners now receiving live coaching, peer-to-peer learning programs, and unlimited access to an online training and resource platform to help build leadership, advance operations, and maximize community impact.

### Grants Supporting COVID-19 Testing and Outreach

In November of 2021, BCC distributed **\$1M** in grants to **14** CBOs to increase COVID-19 testing and combat vaccine hesitancy. As a direct outcome of this funding, over **100,000 Brooklynites** were engaged in COVID-related

## INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

educational events, webinars, phone and in-person outreach, and social media efforts, and nearly 14,000 Brooklyn residents were vaccinated against COVID-19.

In November 2022, BCC published the [Strong Communities Fund: Supporting COVID-19 Testing and Outreach](#) report featuring descriptions of individual CBO participants' programs, noteworthy trends, and lessons learned.

Partners and their efforts include:

**The Alex House Project (AHP)** - Funding supported outreach through park tabling, events and virtual discussions with doctors of color.

*"With [BCC's] support, AAFSC set out to implement a multi-pronged, culturally and linguistically competent trauma-informed outreach approach." - Arab American Family Support Center*

**Arab American Family Support Center** - Funding provided integration of vaccine/testing education in existing service delivery, in-person outreach, virtual events, digital media, one-on-one calling, Vaccine Vans, and appointment registration.

**Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health** - Funding supported listening session in barbershops, hair salons, and faith-based organizations.

*"Our presence in these spaces where black and brown people felt open to sharing their own encounters and experiences throughout the pandemic allowed us to have a deeper understanding of the community's health behaviors and the reasons behind some of their hesitancy around the vaccine. This further confirmed the importance of trusted messengers and community engagement." Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health*

**Bay Ridge Center Inc** - Funding supported an outreach program that included flyers and posters with vaccination information.

**Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled Inc** - Funding supported phone outreach, social media outreach, virtual events, and in-person vaccination event.

**Brooklyn Perinatal Network INC/FT Green SNAP** - Funding supported staff to provide education sessions,

scheduling assistance, and escorted clients to vaccine and test appointments.

**Brownsville Community Development Corporation DBA BMS Family Health Center** - Funding supported popup vaccination events and provided incentives to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

**Chinese American Planning Council** - Funding supported flyers, virtual town halls, mobile vaccination units, and providing information to community members.

**Christopher Rose Community Empowerment Campaign** - Funding supported outreach at street and community events, and provided follow up to clients who get vaccinated.

**Elite Learners Inc** - Funding supported events with information sessions and mobile vaccine units.

**Exalt Youth** - Funding provided a series of workshops, materials, and safety packets for the youth alumni community.

*"Thanks to this grant, 70% of the new youth served through our core program became vaccinated." - exalt Youth*

**Haitian Americans United For Progress** - Funding supported outreach and educational activities at community locations and provided connections to vaccination and testing locations.

**Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic** - Funding supported one on one conversations, wellness check-ins, social media posts, and Zoom informational and Q&A sessions. The organization also utilized a black woman clergy network to provide vaccination and testing outreach to congregations.

**Haitian American Community Coalition (HCC)** - Funding supported the creation of resource guide for clients and hosting health and fitness expo as outreach to community.

## INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

*Photos submitted by BCC Partners*

*Top row, from left to right*

*An individual receive a COVID-19 vaccination at SCF grantee BCID-ICS's clinic*

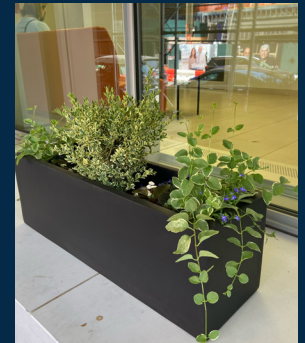
*Members of SCF grantee BPN's team at Council Member Narcisse's Community Health Event*



*Middle row, from left to right*

*Members of the inaugural Property Management and Stewardship of the Healthy Built Environment Fellowship cohort*

*Landscaping from procurement vendor partner Hibiscus Flowershop, outside of Maimonides Medical Center*



*Bottom row*

*Strong Communities Fund grantees conducting COVID-19 testing and vaccination outreach*



## BCC SUPPORTERS

With gratitude, BCC proudly recognizes the partners that have helped make our work possible:

Affinity Health Foundation

Altman Foundation

Community Care of Brooklyn

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation

New York State Senator Kevin S. Parker

The New York Community Trust

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and U.S. Representatives Hakeem Jeffries and Yvette Clarke



### Website

[www.brooklyncommunities.org](http://www.brooklyncommunities.org)

### Social Media

@bkcommunities