



April 13, 2026

Contact:

Press@legal-aid.org

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Legal Aid, BRIC Arts Media, Brooklyn Org, Brooklyn Book Bodega, and Booklyn host “Community Joy Family Day + Forum” at BRIC House

Free, family-friendly event celebrating Legal Aid’s 150th anniversary brings together Brooklyn residents, artists, and community leaders

(BROOKLYN, NY) — The Legal Aid Society and [BRIC Arts Media](#) hosted [Community Joy Family Day + Forum](#) on Saturday, April 11, bringing together Brooklyn residents, artists, families, and community leaders for a day of connection, creativity, and civic engagement. The day was presented in partnership with Brooklyn Org, Brooklyn Book Bodega, and Booklyn. New York City Councilmembers Crystal Hudson and Rita Joseph, Assemblymember Souffrant Forrest, and staff from the offices of Councilmember Chi Osse and NY State Senator Zellnor Myrie attended the event.

Held as part of The Legal Aid Society’s 150th anniversary celebration, the free public event highlighted the organization’s deep roots in Brooklyn and its ongoing commitment to strengthening communities through advocacy, partnership, and access to justice.

Four years before the Brooklyn Bridge opened, The Legal Aid Society first opened its doors to serve low-income Brooklyn residents who could not afford to travel to Manhattan for legal assistance. Founded by immigrants in 1876, the organization benefits more than two million New Yorkers annually and remains the nation’s oldest and largest provider of free legal services.

The event created space for joy and community-building, featuring live music by Building Beats DJ Pr3tty P, a book reading by a local author and illustrator, and hands-on art activities for all ages, including zine and vision board making led by Booklyn. Families also received free children’s books from Brooklyn Book Bodega, supporting literacy and access to books across the borough.

The day culminated in a community forum moderated by Dr. Jocelyne Rainey, President and CEO of Brooklyn Org, where residents shared their priorities, ideas, and vision for Brooklyn with local leaders and advocates.

“Community is at the heart of everything we do,” said **Twyla Carter, Attorney-In-Chief & CEO of The Legal Aid Society**. “For 150 years, The Legal Aid Society has stood alongside New Yorkers in their moments of greatest

need — and events like this remind us that building justice also means building joy, connection, and collective power.”

“At BRIC, we believe the arts are not a luxury: they are a lifeline. Joy is not separate from justice; it is part of how communities heal, organize, and imagine what's possible,” stated **Wes Jackson, President of BRIC**. “Community Joy Family Day is exactly the kind of event that reflects our deepest values, bringing Brooklyn residents together in a space where creativity, civic life, and culture intersect. We are proud to partner with The Legal Aid Society and our fellow Brooklyn organizations, knowing that access to art, books, music, and legal protection all spring from the shared belief that every New Yorker deserves to thrive.”

“Community Joy Family Day is a powerful reminder that when we create space for connection, creativity, and shared expression, we strengthen the very fabric of our communities,” said **Dr. Jocelynn Rainey, President and CEO of Brooklyn Org**. “Brooklyn Org is proud to partner with organizations like BRIC, and Brooklyn Book Bodega to bring Brooklynites together in a celebration of The Legal Aid Society’s remarkable 150-year legacy of advocacy, joy, resilience, and collective vision that continues to shape Brooklyn’s future.”

“We’re thrilled to be a part of this event--cultivating community connection through a lens of justice, the arts, and collective joy,” said **Seema Aghera, Chief Operating Officer and Cofounder of Brooklyn Book Bodega**. “We believe that purposeful interactions build community engagement. Events like Community Joy Family Day are a testament to the power of what is possible when we join together. We’re grateful to be a part of creating opportunities for children's literacy, which goes hand in hand with making New York a more just and equitable place.”

Located in the heart of Fort Greene, BRIC House served as a vibrant backdrop for the event, underscoring the power of arts and culture to bring people together and strengthen community ties.

Photos from the event are [available here](#). Credit: Adrienne Nicole Productions.

Community Joy Family Day + Forum is part of a broader series of events marking Legal Aid’s 150th anniversary, including upcoming partnerships with El Museo del Barrio, the Queens Museum, and Rooftop Films at Snug Harbor Cultural Center.

###

The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm that exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 150 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of the people we serve and helps improve our communities.

www.legalaidnyc.org

BRIC is one of New York City's premier cultural nonprofits - a hybrid arts presenter, media producer, and educator. For almost 50 years, we've partnered with innovators and underserved communities to spotlight voices that deserve to be heard, through such tentpole programs as BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn!, BRIC JazzFest, BRIC House Party, BRIC TV, BCAT, and multiple artist residencies, workshops, and classes. In 2025, BRIC became the first media organization to join NYC's prestigious Cultural Institutions Group. For emerging creators, lifelong storytellers, and communities shaping culture, BRIC is the amplifier. www.bricartsmedia.org