The Bed-Stuy Annual Art Crawl

July 24, 2021 | 1:00 - 5:00 PM

@stoopsbedstuy | www.stoopsbedstuy.org | #STooPSbedstuy2021
Mission

STooPS connects our neighborhood with a big ol' block party, classes, and opportunities for artistic expression in unconventional spaces.

Vision

To make art accessible while valuing the creator and honoring the local.

BedStuy Annual Art Crawl

During our annual STooPS ART CRAWL event, we use the arts to bring people outside and promote social interaction among artists, homeowners, residents, and businesses of Bed-Stuy. Every summer since 2013, Bed-Stuy homeowners have collaborated with local artists to host performances and art showcases on their stoops, storefronts, yards, or sidewalks. To encourage family-wide participation, our Kiddie Korner features various children’s art activities.

On the day of the event, artists showcase creations of all genres including, but not limited to, dance, music, theatre, visual art, spoken word, and film/video. All artists are also available between performances to discuss their work, get to know audience and neighbors, and inspire community members to connect with each other. STooPS SightSeer Schedules are the guide for the day with a map of locations and schedules for all performances.

Founder/Director: Kendra J. Ross
Instagram: @thekendrajross | www.thekendrajross.com

Producing Assistant: Tareya Eason
Program Order

**Location:**
398 Hancock St

**VISUAL ART** by Ovila Lemon/ Mut‘Sun
**PRE-SHOW SET** by DJ TONI B
**INTRODUCTION** by Naima Mora
**MUSIC** Courtnie
**DANCE** Cheri Stokes
**COMEDY** Mike Troy
**THEATER** Dragonfly
**GAMESHOW**
**POETRY** Kai Diata Giovanni
**DANCE** Kendra J. Ross
**SPECIAL DUET** featuring Nevaeh Benjamin
**RAFFLE**

**Location:**
Hancock T & T Community Garden (322-324 Hancock St.)

Akika Flower Essences & Apothecary
The Free Black Women’s Library
**KIDDE KORNER** hosted by
Family Arts Movement & A Pan-Afrikan ARTS Movement
**Musical Set by Courtnie**
Mr. Sensei by Courtnie  
Heart’s Desire by Courtnie  
Lovers Rock by Sade

**Title: An Excerpt from "Da Block"**
Choreography: Cheri L Stokes  
Performers: Cheri Stokes and Nekia Wise  
Music contains samples from I Wonder (Kanye West), Eric B. Is President (Eric B. and Rakim), Mona Lisa (Slick Rick), Juicy (Notorious B.I.G), Take Me As I Am (Mary J. Blige), La Di Da Di (Slick Rick and Doug E. Fresh)

In “Da Block”, the audience goes on a journey through which they experience my personal history growing up in Bed-Stuy Brooklyn, NY, during the emergence of 1980s and 1990's Hip-Hop culture. Through projections, texts, and high-energy solo and ensemble work, the audience sees facets of Hip-Hop and cultural aspects of African-American family history, all of which have influenced the essence of my movement style and choreographic perspective.

**Poetry by Kai Diata**
Performed By: Kai Diata Giovanni - Poetry & Ziedah Diata Visual art/collaborator/mom

Kai Diata Giovanni (poet) and her mother, Ziedah Diata (visual artist), are veteran Stoops artists teaming up to facilitate a participatory experience that blends interactive poetry writing and collective art creation—engaging for all ages! This interactive performance piece will focus on the pain, togetherness, and love that shapes the Black experience across gentrifying communities including—and especially—their home, Bed Stuy.

**Title: MISS JUSTICE JESTER**
Performed by: Dragonfly/Robin LaVerne Wilson

**WHO WANTS TO WIN $5** -- a hilariously rowdy yet also educational game show that tests one lucky contestant on their knowledge of the Do or Die.

"Who Wants to Win $5" was originally devised with Al Límite Collective in Summer 2020 as part of the "Brooklyn Is Not a Sacrifice Zone" public protest performance series. The project supported Sane Energy and other community activists in their educational outreach against National Grid’s dangerous imposition of the fracked gas North Brooklyn Pipeline, and to celebrate Bed-Stuy’s unique cultural heritage.

More information can be found at:  
NoNBKPipeline.org | Dragonflyness.com | AlLimiteCollective.com

**Title: RETURN AND GO SEEK (Excerpt of Sankofa Residency)**  
Conceived by: Kendra J. Ross  
Choreography and Performance by Kendra J. Ross and Jaimé Yama Dzandu  
Music: Slipping by Courtnie, Orginal Composition by Wil Glover

The Sankofa Residency is a multi-phase project that is both rooted in the history of Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, NY, and an afro-futurist imagining of BedStuy moving forward. Taking the Ghanian concept of Sankofa-looking backward in order to move forward-this project uses research, oral history, and collaborative imagining to facilitate a plan for residents, businesses, and stakeholders to emerge from COVID in a place of healing, thriving, and progress.
**Kiddie Korner Schedule**

**Family Arts Movement**

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM  
**Family Arts Movement Arts & Crafts**  
Dennrick & Zion Johnson

1:45 PM – 2:30 PM  
**Bridges: A Pan-Afrikan ARTS Movement**  
Song & Storytelling  
PitsiRa & Wéma Ragophala

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM  
**Family Arts Movement Arts & Crafts**  
Dennrick & Zion Johnson

3:15 PM – 4:00 PM  
**Bridges: A Pan-Afrikan ARTS Movement**  
Song & Storytelling  
PitsiRa & Wéma Ragophala
Thank you to our 2021 Sponsors

BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL
www.brooklynartscouncil.org
@bkarts councillor

THE BED-STUY \nMUSEUM OF \nAFRICAN ART
www.bedstuymuseum.org
@bedstuymaa

LIFE WELLNESS CENTER
www.lifewellnesscenter.life
@lifewellnessbk

THE PRECINCT
www.the precinct.com
@the precinct

STooPS is sponsored, in part, by a grant from the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC). STooPS is made possible with public funds from the Decentralization Program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered in Kings County by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC).
Ovila Lemon is 1 half of Mut'Sun. Mut'Sun pronounced (moot-son) is a signature name to describe the tag team efforts in painting collectively with her then 9yr old son Cleson. Cleson came up with their signature. In the Ancient Kemetic Medu Neter language, "Mut" is the word for mother. The "sun" in Mut'Sun, is how Ovila refers to her son. Replacing the O with a U so he understands he is as brilliant as the sun in her eyes. In essence Mut'Sun stands for mother and son.

What sets Mut'Sun apart from other artists, besides being a mother/son duo, is their use of vibrant of color. Coming from over 20 years in the fashion industry Ovila is not afraid to use color and the way she sees color is different from most. A lot of artists use color as if there are rules in creating art, in her eyes there are none and she teaches that to her son.

mut_sunartistry@yahoo.com
@WWOWW_EMGRL  |  @art_so_brooklyn
mutsun.redbubble.com  |  mutsun.crevado.com

Courtnie is a Midwest (Chicago + St. Louis) bred songwriter and vocalist based in Brooklyn, NY. She fell in love with music via her dad's vinyl collection and V103 radio, and got into recording her own while studying at the University of Southern California. Since then she’s landed a Vogue feature, supported fellow R&B acts such as Oshun and Sebastian Mikael on tour, performed a :60 second spot on Viceland, and had her new visual premiere on BET Jams. You can get a sonic feel for the same vibrant hues she displays in her visual content, via her latest tracks What's Up and Tell Me.

@kingcourtnie

Cheri L. Stokes born and raised in Bed-Stuy Brooklyn, received her M.F.A. in Choreography and Performance from The Florida State University and a B.A. in Dance Studies with a K-12 Dance Teaching Licensure from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her performance background spans the genres of West African, Afro-Contemporary, Contemporary and Hip Hop dance forms. Her choreographic research examines the ways in which facets of social vernacular dance forms, specifically Hip-Hop and Dancehall, have influenced her contemporary practice and art making.

Additionally, Cheri's expertise includes over ten years of dance education and over five years of arts administration. She has been a guest teaching artist at The Florida State University, Austin Peay State University, and Elon University. An excerpt of her latest work, "Da Block" was featured in the MODarts Collective Thread Festival in March (2021). In March of 2021 she received the Stephen Petrionio Retreat and Restore dance residency. Presently, Cheri is part of the Urban Bush Women family serving as the Associate Producer.

Cheri Stokes  |  @brookcee1
Kai Diata Giovanni is a 15 year old poet from Bed-Stuy in Brooklyn, New York. They began writing poetry at the age of 5 and, at ten years old, Kai published a book of poetry. She has performed at poetry events in establishments such as the Blue Note and for organizations such as the New Black Arts Movement and Urban Art Beat. Kai has competed in a poetry slam and they recently won a poetry competition hosted by the Brooklyn Public Library.

Kai Diata Giovanni


@dragonflyness Dragonflyness.com

Kendra J. Ross is a dancer, choreographer, and community worker from Detroit, MI who now lives in Bedford-Stuyvesant, NY. As a performer, Kendra has traveled the world dancing for Urban Bush Women, DJ Kid Koala, MBDance, Andrea E. Woods/Soulouworks, Monstah Black, Afaliah Tribune, Moving Spirits Dance Company, Oyu Oro, and Ase Dance Theater Collective. Kendra is currently a member of Movement of the People Dance Company. Her work has been featured as an Artist in Residence at Brooklyn Studios for Dance and The Neighborhood Project by 651Arts, BAX Space Grantee, Visiting Artist at Atlantic Center for the Arts, Ailey Citigroup Theater, Dixon Place, Actors Fund Theater, Florida A&M University and Museu de Arte in Bahia, Brazil. Kendra is also the Founder/Director of STooPS.

@thekendrajross www.thekendrajross.com
Renee K. Smith (Ifagbaye Esubola Ayelaagbe Egbesina) is a certified flower essence practitioner and founder of Akika Flower Essences & Apothecary. Akika Flower Essences was created to explore the ancestral practice of tuning into plant intelligence as a tool for transformation, healing and empowerment on one’s soul journey. Renee received her flower essence certification from Oceans & Rivers Acupuncture and Wellness and The Flower Essence Society (FES). As a strategist, Renee believes that everyone can manifest their dreams by creating a strategy that encompasses the right people at the right time. Her goal is to assist others to find joy through the use of plant intelligence in as many forms possible beginning with flower essences. As an Iyanifa and Olorisa, initiated to Ifa and Egbe in Nigeria, Renee also uses the knowledge she gains from her spiritual practice to assist her clients in finding and maintaining balance in their lives. She continues to expand her repertoire of community tools for healing through consistent study of our plant allies, learning and practicing the art of alchemy as taught by Master Teacher Diana Pharr and becoming a Level II Reiki Practitioner certified by Taino Reiki Healing. Renee is a Brooklyn native, mother, artist, healer, alchemist, strategist, cultural arts curator, flower essence practitioner, SRJ advocate and community member.

@akikafloweressences | @reneekimberlysmith
Akika Flower Essences | Renee K. Smith
www.akikafloweressences.com

The Free Black Women’s Library/ Ola Akinmowo
The Free Black Women’s Library is an interactive socio-literary social art project that features a collection of over three thousand books by Black women. The library centers and celebrates the brilliance, creativity, and diversity of Black women writers. This work is grounded in collective care, community building, and liberation through literacy.

All book lovers are invited to come check out the collection as well as trade good books by Black women with the library.

@thefreeblackwomenslibrary

TONIBNYC (DJ Toni B) is a BK-based Female Creative Loves to DJ. Computer Science Tech by trade brings great pride working alongside other Professionals and providing great Service. Her passion to clash Art, Love and a Beat empowers the culture as she continues to heal with music in her everyday works and journey. TONIBNYC is a Brand to Watch out For!

@TONIBNYC
**Naima Mora (Host/MC)**

Naima is an internationally celebrated talent. She became famous after winning cycle 4 of hit tv series America’s Next Top Model. Overnight she became a household name and her face synonymous with the world of fashion, beauty and pop culture. Since becoming a face for CoverGirl Cosmetics with her win, her career now includes being a world recognized, award winning model, actor, published author and inspirational speaker.

Naima is the author of “Model Behavior”, an inspirational book for young people based on her experiences in life and in the fashion industry. It is available on amazon.com for worldwide distribution and has received news coverage with local syndicates including ABC Syracuse, CBS Good Day Sacramento and NPR Radio’s “Insight”. Naima has since turned her literary skills into an online course called “Model Know How”, offering tools of confidence, technique and a thorough understanding of the business of the fashion and beauty industries. The course is now available as a certified program offered in colleges and universities around the United States.

Naima’s recognition includes awards such as The California Legislature Assembly Certificate of Recognition and The Key of the City of Cincinnati for her exceptional work towards the embitterment of life and world peace. Her public speaking reached an international platform with a TEDx Talk and feature in SGI Peace Buddhist Organization’s “Buddhist In America”.

As a model, Naima has worked with some of the industry’s leading clients. As an influencer, she has garnished partnerships with clients including Nike Women, Vita Coco, The WBNNA, Verishop and L’Oreal. She most recently toured her book successfully at locations including Harvey Nichols in Leeds, UK and Atelier Cologne in NYC.
Annual Art Crawl

Special Thanks To...

Aleijuan
Bailey’s Cafe
Brittany Grier
Camillo de Vivanco
Cheyenne Bostock/Bostock Images
Darryl Hell
Faye and Kenneth Ross
Gabriel Hirschhorn
Gayatri Shetty
Hancock Block Association
In the Lights Marketing
Mai Truong
Miles Richards
miss al boogie
Monica Eason
Ralston Smith
Taylor Steelman
Zenzele Johnson