Brooklyn Community Pride Center has been the only LGBTQ+ community center serving New York City’s largest borough.

Our vision for LGBTQ+ Brooklyn is the most ambitious in the history of the City. What follows is a glimpse into what we see for the borough.

As we look ahead to the next decade and beyond, we invite you join us.

Sonelius Kendrick-Smith
President

Floyd Rumohr
Chief Executive Officer
Less than 5% of philanthropic funds in New York City support Brooklyn specific services.

As a result, LGBTQ+ people must often travel to Manhattan for socializing, organizing, resources, and community.

Brooklyn neighborhoods are home to many LGBTQ+ people who are low-income, immigrants, youth, HIV/AIDS-affected, or people of color who shouldn’t have to travel into Manhattan for services or feel excluded by the more affluent neighborhoods where LGBTQ+ community resources are based.

**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY PRIDE CENTER IS HERE IN RESPONSE TO THESE CHALLENGES**
To become Brooklyn’s premier network of programs and services for the LGBTQ+ community of New York City’s largest borough.

Value Proposition
Across the spectrum from young people to elders, Brooklyn Community Pride Center enables our community to actively participate in positive, life-affirming activities. We offer a distinctive choice for residents of New York City’s largest borough to celebrate, heal, learn, create, organize, relax, socialize, and play.

Mission
Brooklyn Community Pride Center provides services and support to the borough’s LGBTQ+ community through original programming and partnerships with other organizations.
idents. We began on Atlantic Avenue in a board member’s residence, then to Borough Hall, then to 4 MetroTech, and now at Restoration Plaza.

2009  Launched community partnerships to facilitate services to the community

2011  Established youth programs

2012  Established elder programs

2013  Established transgender/gender nonconforming support

2016  Established arts and culture program: LGBTQ New Americans Project

2017  Opened our new facility at Restoration Plaza in Bed-Stuy, doubling operational space

2018  Celebrated our first 10 years with a $1 million budget
Operating in our Restoration Plaza facility in Bed-Stuy, we currently provide two conference rooms, a beautiful public hangout space, and three offices for our community partners.

Programs include Pride Path for young adults, elder services, transgender/gender nonconforming (TGNC) support groups, fitness classes like yoga and krav magra, and more. Through volunteers and community partnerships, we also offer recovery groups, HIV testing and education, social meetups, a book club, a pantry of supplies for homeless LGBTQ+ people, referral and reference services, and more.

The impact of Covid-19 left us with a drop in funding and fewer staff, but saw a 300% increase in program engagement as we shifted to virtual formats. As of early 2021, we have four full-time staff members and seven part-time or contract staff. We are open 5 days a week, excluding federal holidays, with free Wi-Fi, a number of community services, and a welcoming approach to drop-in visitors. Virtual programming remains available 7 days a week.
FY 2020 IN REVIEW

Demographic data were provided through voluntary self-disclosure during in-person engagements at the Center prior to closure for COVID-19. Anecdotal and observational data suggests these figures are roughly descriptive of the overall demographics of our visitors and guests.

1344
TOTAL CALENDAR ACTIVITIES*

AGE GROUPS:
- 33% are <25
- 49% are 25-39
- 15% are 40-59
- 3% are 60+

VISITOR RACE:
- Black/African 31%
- Caucasian/White 38%
- Hispanic/Latinx 14%
- Mixed or Not Listed 13%
- Other choices 4%
  (e.g. Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Indigenous)

Visitor Pronouns | 41% she/her | 40% he/him | 16% they/them | 3% something else

*Events at or sponsored by Brooklyn Community Pride Center open to the public or pre-registered participants. Includes virtual/online activities.
JULY 1, 2019-MARCH 13, 2020

1350+
UNIQUE IN-PERSON VISITORS

MARCH 14, 2020-JUNE 30, 2020

2500+
UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS SERVED VIA VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

73% OF THE VISITOR’S TO THE CENTER ARE FROM BROOKLYN
Restoration Plaza
Bed-Stuy

SERVICES:
Social Isolation
Workforce Development
Health & Wellness

Bedford-Union Armory
Crown Heights

SERVICES:
Social Isolation
Workforce Development
Health & Wellness
Racial Justice
Immigration

Coney Island
Brooklyn

SERVICES:
Social Isolation
Workforce Development
Health & Wellness
Racial Justice
Immigration
Homelessness & Housing
THE ISSUE: Social isolation is a growing epidemic — one that's increasingly recognized as having dire physical, mental and emotional consequences. Since the 1980s, the percentage of American adults who say they're lonely has doubled from 20 percent to 40 percent. Communities of color and transgender/gender nonconforming people are particularly at risk.

OUR SOLUTION: Brooklyn Community Pride Center provides face-to-face, community interactions for social groups, meetings, and activities in the neighborhoods where people live rather than miles away. A place where people can be their authentic, full self and connect with others like them. Sites will add a collaborative/shared work space (like WeWork) and additional social and meeting spaces.
THE ISSUE: NYC is facing a youth employment crisis. An unprecedented number of young people reach adulthood without the skills to secure career-track jobs. Since 2000, only 29% of 16 to 24-year-olds across the city participate in the labor market. For many LGBTQ+ people, barriers to employment remain one of the biggest challenges they face.

OUR SOLUTION: Pride Path for LGBTQ+ youth offers paid training and internships to help them gain the confidence, experience and skills they need to secure long-term, permanent employment. Pride Path will expand to serve underemployed LGBTQ+ people of ages in the coming years and we will offer numerous resources like computer labs and professional development activities to support job seekers and emerging entrepreneurs.
THE ISSUE:
Mental illness is a pervasive problem in our community. As compared to people who identify as straight, LGBTQ+ people are: 2.5 times more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and substance misuse, 3 times more likely to experience a mental health condition, youth are 4 times more likely to attempt suicide, and 38-65% of transgender individuals experience suicidal ideation.

Lower income LGBTQ+ people do not always have access to physical fitness and many members of our community have been systematically excluded from sports.

OUR SOLUTION:
In addition to weekly AA meetings, discussion and support groups for youth and trans/gender nonconforming people, and regular sexual health education and testing, we will launch a dedicated mental health clinic, partnering with Callen-Lorde, at the Bedford-Union Armory. With Armory partners, we will also provide inclusive sport and fitness spaces for swimming, boxing, basketball, yoga, and self-defense classes.
THE ISSUE: Many LGBTQ+ immigrants come from places where being LGBTQ+ is a crime or simply unsafe. But all immigrants, regardless of legal status or nation of origin, face challenges in obtaining resources and assistance. Because more than one-third of Brooklyn residents were born in another country, immigration will be a top priority for the LGBTQ+ Outer Borough Consortium, which coordinates activities between the outer boroughs of NYC.

OUR SOLUTION: We are working closely with other LGBTQ+ centers like the Queens LGBT Center / Long Island Pride Network to coordinate services for immigrants and asylum-seekers, such as legal clinics or support groups. Our focus is on immigration-dense neighborhoods.
THE ISSUE: LGBTQ+ youth comprise up to 40% of the homeless youth population in NYC or about 1,600. 62% of them have considered or attempted suicide. When forced to survive on the streets without shelter, youths are subjected to significant levels of violence and trauma creating and exacerbating mental health issues.

OUR SOLUTION: In addition to our year-round Pride Pantry offering free toiletries, clothing and more for people experiencing homelessness, we are in discussions with community partners to provider robust homeless services by 2025 with wrap-around support from our programs for social isolation, workforce development, immigration, and health and wellness.
THE ISSUE: Systemic racism and white supremacy have been a part of the American experience from the beginning and continue to show up in every aspect of society. For LGBTQ+ people of color, the intersection of gender/sexual identity and ethnic/racial experience often compounds the barriers to living whole, healthy and prosperous lives.

OUR SOLUTION: Brooklyn Community Pride Center is committed to being leaders in anti-racism. As one of the only LGBTQ+ nonprofits directly serving the incredibly diverse communities of Brooklyn, racial justice has been part of our DNA from the beginning. We stand with movements for equity and we will offer services and programs that specifically cater to advancing racial justice. We endeavor to scrutinize all our policies, practices and programs for harm. We actively solicit underrepresented voices to inform our services and to hold us accountable.
By giving to your Center, you are investing in the most ambitious plan in the history of the city to serve LGBTQ+ Brookynites. Please join us!

To learn more by visiting lgbtbrooklyn.org or contact Jere Keys, Development and Engagement Manager, at jkeys@lgbtbrooklyn.org or (347) 991-8500.