

BROWNSVILLE HERITAGE HOUSE

BLACKSPACE

COMMUNITY VISIONING | DESIGN STRATEGY
BROWNSVILLE, BROOKLYN

LOCATED IN BROWNSVILLE, BROOKLYN, THIS HOUSE MUSEUM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE STONE AVENUE LIBRARY, HAS BEEN A COMMUNITY PILLAR FOR OVER 40 YEARS IN PRESERVING BLACK HISTORY, ARTS, AND EDUCATION.

BLACKSPACE COLLABORATED WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS TO MAKE TREASURED ARTIFACTS MORE ACCESSIBLE AND TO REIMAGINE THE SPACE AS A "PUBLIC LIVING ROOM".

Coupled with research of Black-led house museums, Brownsville history, and Black memory workers, "BHH" and BlackSpace created three main goals for the space:

- Co-create a design strategy
- Curate an exhibition
- Audit and reorganize the BHH archive and collection

First, the co-design team chose four BlackSpace Manifesto principles through a period of public events: be humble learners who practice deep listening, center lived experiences, protect & strengthen culture, foster personal & communal evolution.

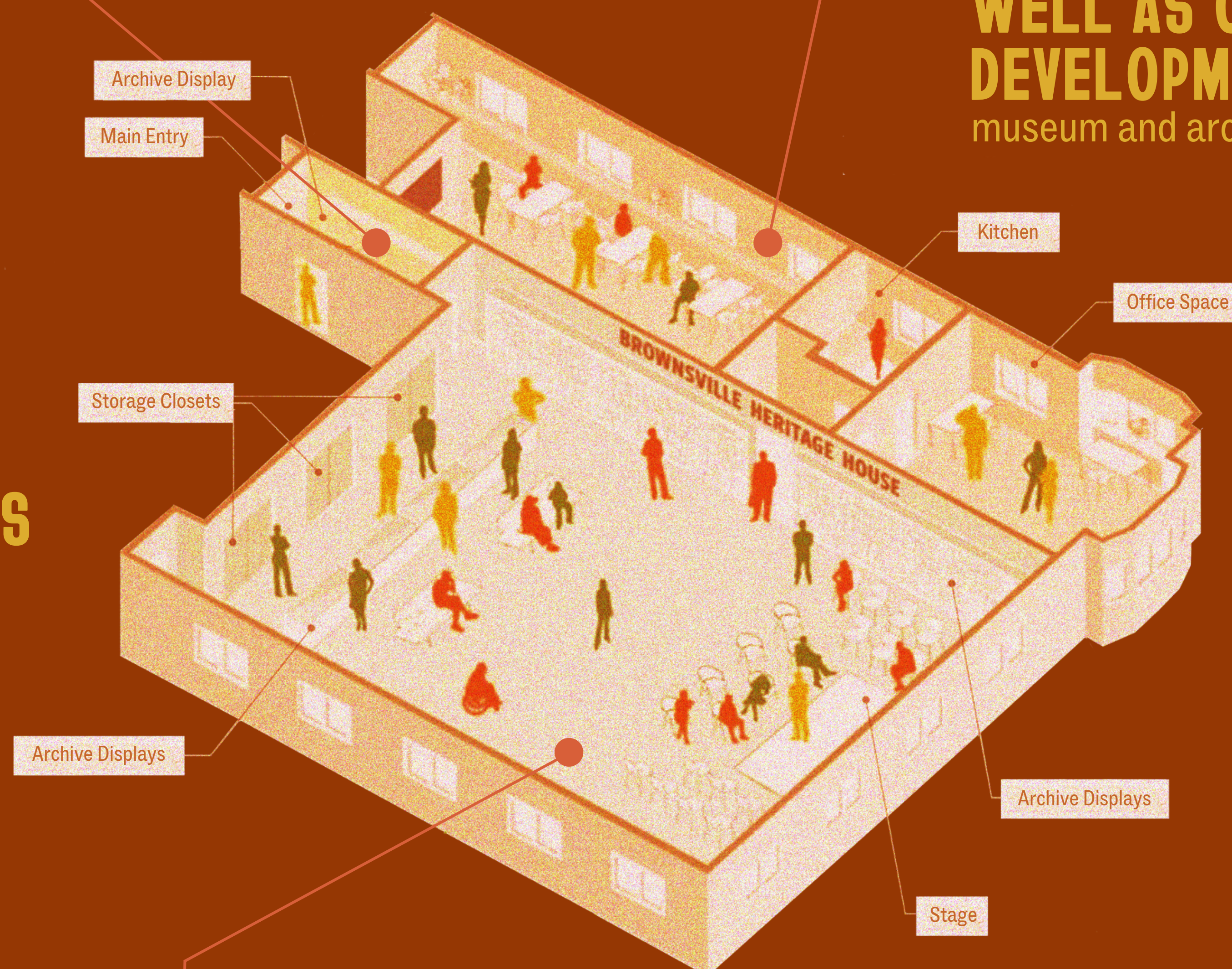
REDESIGN AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BlackSpace divided BHH into three main areas to fit the pragmatic and aesthetic demands: Back of House, Front of House, and Main Exhibition Room.

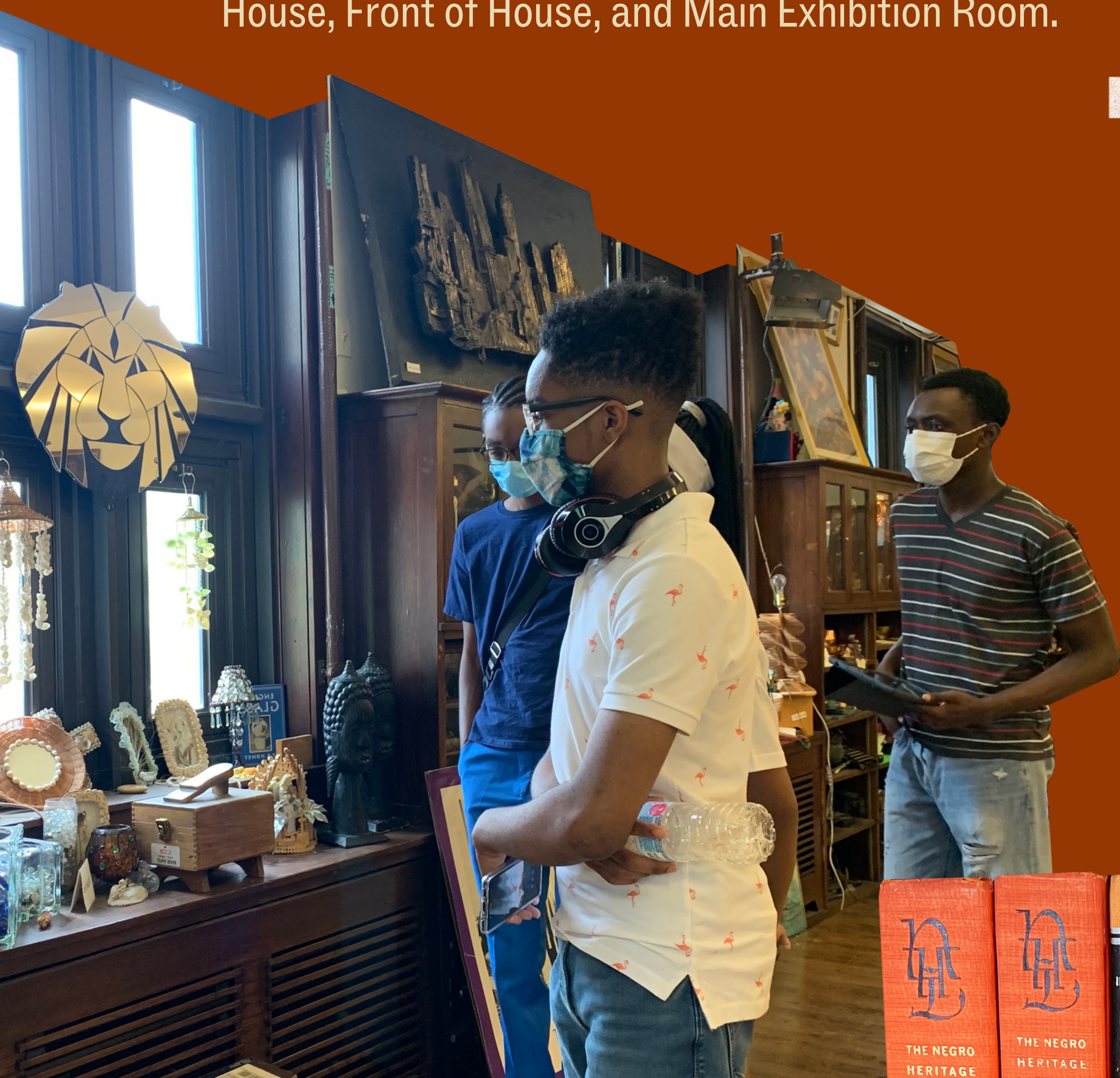


THE FRONT OF HOUSE meets the main entrance and is designed to **VIBRANTLY GREET VISITORS** with showcases of archived material, art, and technologies.

THE BACK OF HOUSE was designed to be an intimate community space dedicated to artifact preservation and the organization of BHH's archival collection. It features private space for meetings and **GATHERINGS TO FOSTER COMMUNAL EVOLUTION AS WELL AS CREATIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** for local youth through museum and archive education.



THE MAIN EXHIBITION ROOM is a shared, multi-purpose, and maximal exhibition space with a stage and ample built-in display storage that **ENSURES THE MATERIAL CULTURE IS ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC AUDIENCES WHO USE THE SPACE FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS.**



THIS IS A BLACK SPACE.

PARTNERS

Archival Alchemy • Brooklyn Public Library • BOLT Architecture • Gensler • Forecast Design Construction, Inc. • Isidor Studio • Just a Tayste • Mailchimp • Medgar Evers College Preparatory • My Brothers Keeper • Power in the Pen • Studio AOA • WorkUrban • 1772 Foundation • J.M. Kaplan Fund • Mellon Foundation • New York Community Trust • New York Women's Foundation • The Henry Luce Foundation • The Kresge Foundation • and many friends of BHH!

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