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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD

Fall 2024, Issue 10

vanguard.blog.brooklyn.edu

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Wednesday, November 20th

C'MON VOGUE!



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Cover by Tony Lipka

Satire Newspaper The Onion Buys Alex Jones' Infowars

By Daniel Afanasyev
News Editor

The satirical news outlet The Onion announced Thursday, Nov. 14 that it had won an auction for the news website Infowars, as part of radio host and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones' personal bankruptcy case. In its press release, The Onion said that its goal behind the purchase is to "end Infowars' relentless barrage of disinformation for the sake of selling supplements and replace it with The Onion's relentless barrage of humor for good."

The bankruptcy auction of Jones' assets follows the 2022 decisions of juries in Texas and Connecticut ordering Jones to pay \$1.5 billion to the families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting victims for spreading conspiracy theories about it being a

supposed plot to restrict gun rights.

"The dissolution of Alex Jones' assets and the death of Infowars is the justice we have long awaited and fought for," Robbie Parker, whose daughter Emilie was killed in the 2012 shooting in Connecticut, said in a statement provided by his lawyers to the Associated Press.

Jones released his own statement regarding the acquisition on his X account, claiming that he will continue with the platform and called into question the legality of the purchase.

"I just got word 15 minutes ago that my lawyers and folks met with the U.S. Trustee over our bankruptcy this morning, and they said they're shutting us down even without a court order. The Connecticut Democrats with The Onion newspaper bought us," Jones said in a video posted to X. "I don't know what's

going to happen, but I'm going to be here and turn the lights off."

The Onion, who bought the Infowars website for an undisclosed amount, said that it had done so with the support of the families of the Sandy Hook shooting victims, and also signed a "multi-year advertisement agreement" with the gun control advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety for the new project, according to its press release.

However, several hours after the announcement was made, Judge Christopher Lopez of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas halted the sale from proceeding until next week in an emergency hearing, citing a lack of transparency in the bidding process.

"We're all going to an evidentiary hearing and I'm going to figure out exactly what happened," Lopez said

per the Associated Press. "No one should feel comfortable with the results of this auction."

Although it remains to be seen how The Onion's acquisition of Infowars will be regarded in the evidentiary hearing, The Onion is hopeful in its takeover of the controversial news site.

"We thought it would be a very funny joke if we bought this thing, probably one of the better jokes we've ever told," Ben Collins, CEO of The Onion's parent company Global Tetrahedron, told the Associated Press. "By the end of the day, it was us or Alex Jones, who could either continue this website unabated, basically unpunished, for what he's done to these families over the years, or we could make a dumb, stupid website, and we decided to do the second thing."

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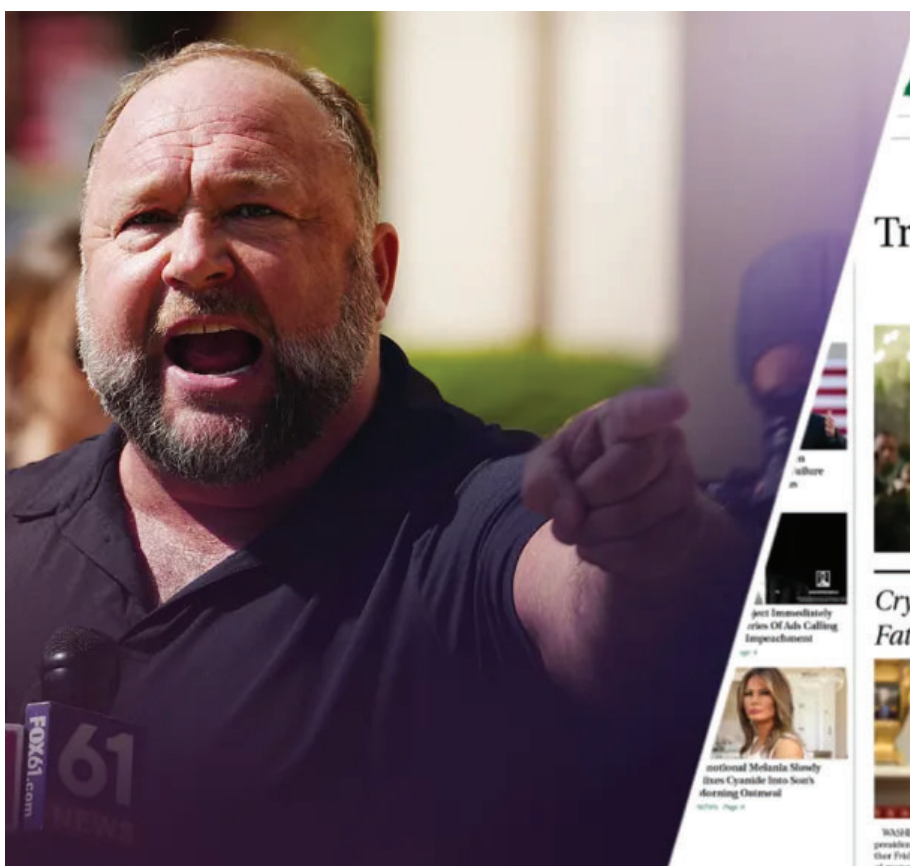
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The Onion has purchased Alex Jones' Infowars to combat misinformation and honor the victims of the Sandy Hook shooting./Courtesy of deadline.com

BC Talk With U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Met With Protest From Pro-Palestine Advocates

By Yassir Azzam
Podcast Manager

On Monday, Nov. 11, Brooklyn College hosted United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed as part of this year's Presidential Lecture Series. The series features engaging discussions between President Michelle J. Anderson and a variety of guest speakers.

During the lecture, President Anderson and Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed discussed the U.N.'s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were developed between 1990 and 2017. President Anderson highlighted the pressing challenge of meeting these goals, emphasizing that "only 17% of the sustainable development goals are on track with just six years left until the 2030 deadline."

The conversation

covered various topics related to the SDGs and reflected on Mohammed's extensive career, which included serving as a presidential sustainability advisor to four Nigerian presidents before she was appointed the U.N.'s Deputy Secretary-General.

"We designed numerous schools, universities, and hospitals, but the resources were never the resources to actually make them work for people," Mohammed shared, reflecting on her experience in Nigeria. Mohammed then pivoted to the U.N.'s struggle in transitioning business models to utilize less fossil fuel.

However, not everyone agreed with hosting Mohammed at BC. Approximately 30 minutes before the event, the Brooklyn College Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) called on their Instagram for students to protest the Deputy Secretary-

General's presence, urging members to "show up in numbers with flags and keffiyehs."

Towards the end of the talk, President Anderson posed questions submitted by both current and former BC students to Mohammed. During this, a group of pro-Palestine protesters entered the auditorium and were guided to seats. The group was carrying a poster depicting a deceased child, according to footage captured by The Vanguard.

As President Anderson concluded her remarks, Mohammed acknowledged the protesters, stating, "I can see some of our [...] supporting Palestine in the back. What I really do want to say is the war in Gaza needs to end yesterday."

The protesters responded by chanting, "Free, free Palestine." Another addressed her directly, asking her to



U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed in conversation with BC President Michelle J. Anderson./

Kate Dempsey

explain what she had done to prevent the killings of Palestinians in Gaza.

"Amina Mohammed, how do you feel given the position that you're in being a genocide enabler?" the protestor asked.

"I have to tell you I am not a genocide enabler [...] what we do every day is to try and bring an end to the war in Gaza," Mohammed responded. President Anderson attempted to facilitate a conversation with the protesters and Mohammed, but was unsuccessful.

President Anderson closed the event amid a chorus of chants from the protesters as Mohammed was escorted offstage by her security team. A woman who pursued the Deputy Secretary-General backstage with a sign was subsequently apprehended and escorted out, according to footage captured by The Vanguard.

Following the event, SJP members gathered in the Tow Building lobby, continuing their chants in the aisles of the reception area, according to audio obtained by

The Vanguard. Chants included "While you're eating, Gaza is bleeding" as protesters made their way toward attendees eating food provided by the reception.

When asked for a comment, BC administration directed The Vanguard to a public statement issued on Nov. 12, which addressed the incident by stating they support freedom to protest, but do not allow for the harassment of the attendees

"Protesters disrupted a reception for audience members held thereafter in the performing arts center [...] BC protects students' rights to free speech and peaceful assembly. That freedom does not include the ability to disrupt scheduled events or harass others," the statement read.

The statement also mentioned that the matter had been referred to the Office of Diversity and Equity and Judicial Affairs for further action.

This is a developing story. Updates will be provided as they are made available.



Protesters claimed that Mohammed was complicit in the Palestinians being killed in Gaza./Kate Dempsey

Strike a Pose: LGBTQ+ Resource Center Hosts Vogue Workshops Ahead of First CUNY-Wide Ball

By Giovanni M. Ravalli
LGBTQ+ Correspondent

In preparation for the first CUNY-wide Vogue Ball, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center at Brooklyn College held a Vogue workshop on Nov. 12.

Skilled instructors came to BC to prepare students for the Ball, which is scheduled for Dec. 12 from 5 - 8 p.m. in BC's Gold & Maroon Room on the sixth floor of the Student Center. To the instructors, it was an opportunity to teach the community the history and origins of voguing, which originated in ballroom culture: underground dance competitions held among the queer community.

"The purpose was to introduce the students and CUNY community to the ballroom culture that exists in New York," Felix Luar, a vogue instructor, told *The Vanguard*. "It's a very thriving part of the queer community, so we're hoping to expand it to reach the students where they can access creative energy and free themselves."

The "mainstream" scene, also known as the "Major Scene," is the most serious and prestigious scene, which is highly competitive. In ballroom culture, houses—chosen families made up of friends—compete against one another. According to PBS, houses historically

serve as alternative families to LGBTQ+ people in need of safe spaces. They typically follow a family structure led by a "mother" or "father" who are usually older and guide and support their "children." Functionally under a chosen family, each member of a house competes under the same name. Most houses are recognized nationally as well as internationally and often partner with organizations.

The "Kiki" scene imitates the major scene but is oriented around friendly and fun competition. Like the mainstream scene, it is also focused on community. It is usually a scene for youth in preparation and practice for the mainstream scene.

"The Kiki scene was started for queer youth, and it's for people to express themselves without judgment, without pressure as much as the main scene is," instructor for the House of Louboutin, Widow James, told *The Vanguard*. "The main scene is usually more traveling, it costs more, a little bit of a higher stakes type of thing. So usually younger people start in the Kiki scene to get their bearings within the ballroom scene itself."

Attendees were able to learn more about voguing and have fun while practicing new skills. They got to learn the basics, such as the categories of

the ballroom scene: face, runway, realness, fashion, and bazaar, among others. There are several styles and techniques of vogue. Waacking and tutting, for example, are two types of voguing focused on hand and arm movements.

"It was really very exhilarating. I really enjoyed it and I didn't know what I was fully going to get into, but I just knew I wanted to enhance my skills in voguing," said Alexander Pena, a junior majoring in acting at BC. "I have a friend of mine who's very into waacking, and they know I'm a dancer and they saw that I could have that dancer potential in learning. Waacking and tutting is a type of hands voguing stylistically."

The first-ever CUNY-Wide Vogue Ball, as part of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center's 10th Anniversary Celebration, is co-sponsored by SUNY Downstate Medical Center's HEAT (Health Education Alternatives for Teens), City Tech, and student clubs from BC and CUNY. It will immerse participants in the vibrant world of ballroom culture, with the theme for the event as "Masquerade Ball." As part of its preparation, the Center's leaders wanted to also advocate about the history of the marginalized communities that make up this genre of dance.

"The workshops were given by members of the

The first CUNY-wide Vogue Ball will be held on Dec. 12 at Brooklyn College's Student Center. *Courtesy of @lgbtqcenter_bc on Instagram*

Ballroom Scene in New York City, including Terra Mulan, Widow James, Felix Luar, and Jordyn. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the history of ballroom culture, as a safe haven for Black and Brown gay folks in the city in the early 1970s and 80s when it wasn't safe to be out," said Kelly Spivey, director of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center.

While there is no official dress code, gowns, suits, and more are encouraged along with masks. Expect to see fierce competition in categories such as Vogue, Runway, Face, etc. where CUNY students will showcase their creativity and self-expression. Students across CUNY are encouraged to start their own Vogue Houses

and compete in these categories. BC's official "House of Koi," named after the Koi pond unique to BC, will be among the many CUNY houses competing in the Vogue Ball come December.

This ball is not only a celebration of queer culture, but a reflection of the resilience, history, and community found within the ballroom scene. A resource fair will precede the ball, offering educational materials, free STD/STI testing, and more.

"I'm part of the House of Koi so I definitely will be involved with that and see where that takes me," said Pena. "There's a lot of techniques and, of course, people have done it for years so it can get very competitive. But at the end of the day, it's just expressing yourself."

Students interested in attending the CUNY-Wide Vogue Ball can visit <https://www.brooklyn.edu/event/cuny-wide-vogue-ball/> and for more information visit the LGBTQ+ Resource Center's website <https://www.brooklyn.edu/lgbtq-center/> or their Instagram [@lgbtqcenter_bc](https://www.instagram.com/lgbtqcenter_bc)



Students practicing voguing./Giovanni M. Ravalli

Governor Hochul Restarts Stalled Congestion Pricing in Manhattan

By Daniel Afanasyev
News Editor

New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced the revival of the congestion pricing program on Thursday, Nov. 11, which will charge drivers who enter Manhattan below 60th Street a fee. Prior to its pause on June 5, the original plan aimed to charge drivers \$15 to drive into Midtown and

our plan cuts the daytime toll to \$9 for cars,” Hochul said in a press release. “By getting congestion pricing underway and fully supporting the MTA capital plan, we’ll unclog our streets, reduce pollution and deliver better public transit for millions of New Yorkers.”

New York will become the first city in the world to have a congestion fee if the program

commencement of the Interborough Express, as previously reported by The Vanguard.

President-elect Donald Trump, who is set to return to the White House on Jan. 20, has previously said that he would axe the program on Truth Social as it has already begun facing renewed criticism from local Republican representatives. Across the aisle,

\$9 or \$15, this new toll will pose a severe hardship to many working-class New Yorkers who have little to no rail alternative.”

New York, a historically Democratic-leaning state, underwent a marked shift towards the Republican party in the 2024 presidential election, partly due to the party’s ability to appeal to working class

unpopular for those that depend on commuting into the city to make a living.

“All of us need to listen to the message that voters across America sent last Tuesday, which is that the vast majority of Americans are experiencing extreme economic strain and still feeling the effects of inflation,” New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy said in a statement.

“There could not be a worse time to impose a new \$9 toll on individuals who are traveling into downtown Manhattan for work, school or leisure.”

Despite the amount of continuing opposition to the program, Hochul vowed to follow through and deliver on the long-promised plan.

“All I know is that we are serving a very large population,” Hochul said according to City and State. “So I encourage you to realize that what we’re doing here is fully funding improved services to make sure that this does not fall into disrepair, to make up for decades of disinvestment.”



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (center-right) announcing the revival of congestion-pricing plan on Thursday, Nov. 14, with MTA CEO Janno Lieber (left) in attendance. / Office of Gov. Kathy Hochul

lower Manhattan starting June 30. The updated plan will charge drivers \$9 and is slated to begin Jan. 5.

“As I said from the start, a \$15 toll was just too high in this economic climate. That’s why

goes through, and the governor, among others, has said that the program is needed to fund the MTA and many of its projects. This includes the Second Avenue subway extension, and the

Democratic politicians argue that it will hurt working-class New Yorkers.

“I reiterate my very strong objection to the program,” NY State Senator James Skoufis told City & State. “Whether

voters due to their economic policies, as The Vanguard previously reported. For the people that voted with the current state of the economy in mind, the plan will prove to be highly

Small, but Mighty: 440 Gallery Hosts 20th Annual ‘Small Works’ Show

By Jaida Dent
Arts Editor

Sitting in the heart of Park Slope, art enthusiasts gathered at the opening reception of the 20th Annual Small Works Show at the 440 Gallery. The exhibition features pieces no larger than 12 inches in dimension through a range of mediums like photography, collages, paintings, sculptures, and more.

The gallery, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in January, hosts pieces from artists who hold a membership with the organization, but for the Small Works Show, the pieces were selected through a national open call. This year’s juror, also known as the curator, Pam

artist’s creativity and skill when it comes to small canvases. For Rich Garr, he transformed a hexagon-shaped wood panel found on a Brooklyn sidewalk into a beautiful collage that spreads the message of disability awareness.

“I was contemplating these six kinds of symbolic colors that are associated with different kinds of disabilities, and when I saw that I had a six-sided small piece of wood, I thought this is going to be my ‘Disability Pride Flag Redux,’” said Garr.

Garr’s piece pulls inspiration from his time working with organizations in Cleveland to help disabled youth. The “Disability Pride Redux” creates a new way of understanding both the piece and different

themes of their work within the natural world and replicate them in their pieces. Tiziana Mazziotto’s “Water Towers with Pink Building” recreates the urban city she operates within.

“Mostly I go around taking pictures of things that catch my eye and then I go into my studio and either I really try to replicate it as close as possible or it just takes something on its own and becomes something else,” said Mazziotto.

Ella Hepner’s painting “Sleeper in Havana” represents her time in Cuba, while also capturing the quiet moments of being in your own small space.

“I am very inspired by things around me, things in my life—living in New



Signage on the window of the 440 Gallery./Jaida Dent

serves as a time capsule for the future, as many will look back on the experiences present in the piece.

“Photography is very special because, although you’re creating your own, you’re capturing something that’s already going on. To be able to kind of take something that’s already going on and make it art, it’s special to me,” said Bailey.

Winnicki’s photo, “Falling Village” captures a community of fishing shacks in the Hudson, where people were forced to leave with their things still inside.

“I really love it because I’m fascinated and saddened at the same time by these fishing shacks because they have a history, but they’re literally falling apart, even though there’s a lot going on. But there’s still history and stuff inside them,” said Winnicki.

The reception was filled with community as artists gathered to view each other’s work on display. Feelings of pride and honor radiated through all 81 artists as their works were chosen to be a part of this exhibition.

“There’s a lot of failure associated with art making, and it’s not a lucrative career. When you have a success like an art piece being picked for a show out of many other pieces, that’s saying to that artist that they’re doing something right,” said Garr.

While the show emphasized “small works,” the recognition these artists felt were larger than life. The creativity displayed on the walls of the gallery showed the power of storytelling that art can hold.

“I just want people to really appreciate local arts, no matter where they are, whether they’re in Brooklyn, elsewhere in the country, other parts of New York City or New York State,” said Wong. “Just really appreciate and support local artists because they work very hard. Creativity is so important for expression, free expression, and communication.”

The 20th Annual Small Works Show will be on display until Dec. 20 at 440 Gallery. The pieces will also be up for sale at the Small Shop event on Nov. 29.



(L to R): Melanie Brock, “Groove,” Nicholas Bailey, “Brooklyn Summers,” and Editha Mesina, “When I Look at You (Holding Hands).”/Jaida Dent

Wong, sifted through over 1,300 submissions and narrowed it down to the lucky 81 artists featured in the show.

“It was nice for me because I typically work in Gowanus and Park Slope, northwest Brooklyn. So it introduced me to a lot of new artists, which was really exciting to me [...] I just really tried to get as much as possible just to have a little bit of something for everyone,” said Wong.

With each piece being limited to a certain size, the final works in the exhibit showcased each

forms of disabilities as the viewer is able to pay attention to each of the six colors depending on which side you look at the piece from.

Many artists find the



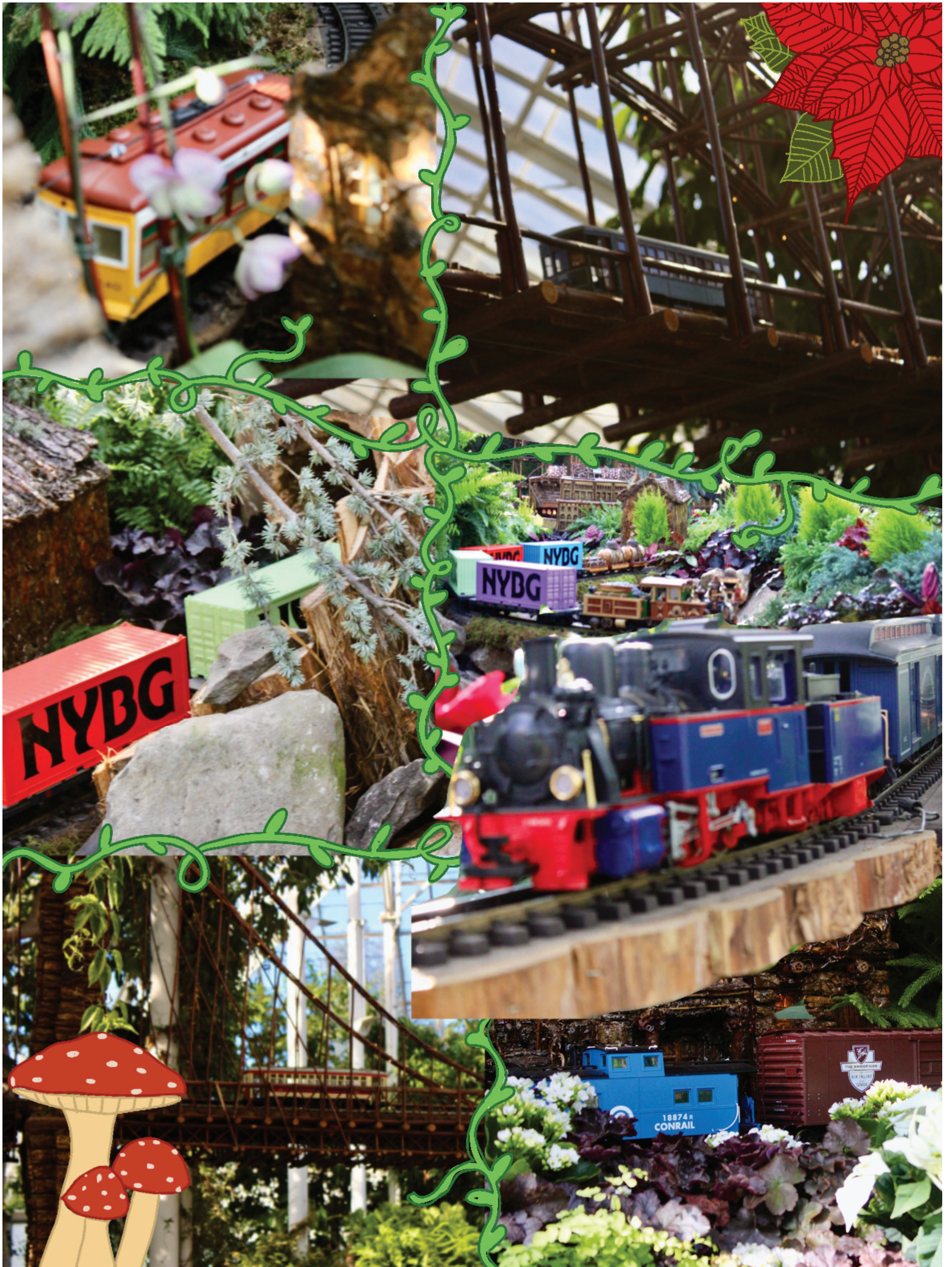
Rich Garr, “Disability Pride Redux (12 Ways).”/Jaida Dent

York or when I used to live in Havana. I’m very inspired by living in small spaces, living up against other people,” said Hepner.

Beyond paintings and collages, photography is prominent in the exhibit, and artists like Nicholas Bailey and Ksenia Winnicki showcase the power of capturing art in the moment through photographs.

Bailey captures the joy of summer in Bedstuy through his piece, “Brooklyn Summers.” While the photo captures the present, it also

In Photos: Vanguard Attends Media Preview of New York Botanical Garden Holiday Train Show



Photos by Mars Marte, Graphics by Amira Turner

A Centennial Celebration: The Legacy of Shirley Chisholm Honored at BC Ceremony

By Serena Edwards
Staff Writer

Shirley Chisholm Day was held on Thursday, Nov. 14 at Brooklyn College to commemorate the revolutionary figure's 100th birthday. A BC alum from the class of 1946, the event honored Chisholm's legacy at BC and beyond.

The event was co-sponsored by the Africana Studies Department, the Women's and Gender Studies Department, and the Wolfe Institute.

Shirley Chisholm was an activist and trailblazer who, during her time, defied many stereotypes against women of color. She was the first Black woman elected into Congress in 1968 and subsequently the first Black woman to campaign for the presidential nomination in 1972. She is often referred to for her empowering words on advocacy and enacting change.

As an assemblywoman, Chisholm helped pass the Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK) program that helps students academically, socially, and financially by providing support

during their matriculation—a program that still provides services to CUNY and SUNY schools today.

Zinga Fraser, professor of Africana Studies and director of the Shirley Chisholm Project at BC, introduced the event with Chisholm's legacy.

“[This event] comes at a time where so much of what Chisholm stood for is and was on the line,” Fraser noted in reference to the recent election.

Guest speakers from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated were also present to commemorate Chisholm, who became a member of Delta Sigma Theta in 1969. Kenya Johnson, the president of the



(L to R) Regina King, Zinga Fraser, and Reina King speaking about the movie “Shirley”./
Serena Edwards

Brooklyn Alumnae chapter, spoke about how Chisholm's trailblazing representation changed the course of life for many. “If Shirley Chisholm hadn't opened that door, many would not be here today.”

“When I think of Shirley Chisholm and the honorable woman she was, I think of her strife and bravery,” Hibba, a second-year student at BC, stated during the event. She discussed Chisholm's fight for not only women in

America, but women around the world. “Always advocating for women, children, and any type of people struggling reminds us of our human duty to use our freedoms to fight for the freedoms of others.”

Every year on Shirley Chisholm Day, awards are given to those who have embodied Chisholm through their work. The recipients of the awards this year were Hazel Nell Dukes, the president of the New York State chapter

of the NAACP, for her activist work and impact on the organization.

Other award recipients were Regina and Reina King, producers of “Shirley”, a film released on Netflix this past March that details Chisholm's experience running for president. Regina King additionally starred as Chisholm in the movie. Each of the recipients expressed how Chisholm's impact on society has been overlooked, and Reina King discussed the importance of keeping Chisholm's legacy alive and her production in the film.

“There's so many people that don't know who Shirley is and I was angry about that,” she stated. Regarding the importance of showing the film, King added, “Now this movie is there that can be shown in school and colleges and keep living on.”



Shirley Chisholm when she was elected for the House of Representatives in 1969./
Courtesy of captiolhistory.org

Is Living in the City Affecting Your Mental Health?

By Avi Wizwer
Staff Writer

New York City has many great things, but there is one thing that New Yorkers aren't talking about is the toll on mental health that stems from living here. New Yorkers are currently in the midst of an epidemic of poor mental health attributed to the city's economic inequality, poor air quality, and noise pollution. With this being one of the world's most famous and popular cities, we must take our mental health more seriously, and it must come up more often in conversations with others and professionals.

It is becoming increasingly challenging to maintain good mental health in New York City, and it has become increasingly complex with the rise of depression. "Depression is a leading cause of disability in NYC and nationwide. In NYC, in 2015, depression was the second leading cause of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) and the leading cause of years lived with disability," according to the National Library of Medicine.

New Yorkers are still feeling the after-effects of the pandemic to the point where poor mental health rates have gone up, and

depression and anxiety haven't improved since May 2021, according to the NY Health Foundation. I believe the pandemic only amplified these effects and the decline of mental health for the majority of New Yorkers.

Depending on where you live, air pollution in New York City can significantly affect your mental health. The

pollutants in the air, and constantly breathing in these toxic chemicals, can influence and alter your brain.

According to Technology Networks, "Elevated levels of pollutants are considered risk factors for anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, substance abuse disorders, and dementia. They found that when levels of two pollutants, fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, were elevated in D-rated neighborhoods, mental disorder-related ER visits

increased 1.04% and 0.44%, respectively, two days later."

Another factor that should be considered is noise pollution. Noise pollution consists of unwanted or disturbing sounds that can negatively affect human health and well-being. We're constantly exposed to auditory sensory overload

with the sounds of construction, sirens, and car horns, which can have a long-term impact. Our brains use and expend energy trying to fight off the noise.

Charlie Mydlarz, a research associate professor at New York University, helps research noise pollution, which he calls the "slow killer."

One of his studies involved placing microphones across New York City.

"Noise isn't dropping people on the streets, but it's slowly affecting people," he stated in a New York Times article. "If you're having to adjust to a high level of noise when you move to a loud part of the city, your brain is using energy to effectively ignore that high level of noise,"

Additionally, according to the New York Times article, Arline Bronzaft, an environmental psychologist and noise pollution expert who has studied noise in New York City for years, has claimed that loud vehicle noises can harm our physical well-being and mental health.

Originally from a small town called Ossining in Westchester County, I moved to New York City at the age 20. I was exposed to a different environment with a slower pace of life, less

environmental noise, less infrastructure, and more nature.

Over the past year, I noticed and realized that I wasn't as anxious and experienced fewer feelings of depression than in my previous environment. Upon my arrival of moving to Brooklyn and going to school at Brooklyn College, I've had to double down on the things that keep me grounded and, for some time, that didn't provide any feeling of being grounded.

I have concluded that the environment will not create a sense of peace or groundedness. Instead, it is the self-awareness and willingness to constantly work on your mental health to improve or subside the adverse effects of your surroundings that will.

New York City is an enjoyable city, and if you're feeling stressed, depressed, or anxious while living here, there are a couple of things that you can do today to increase your mental health. Engaging in daily exercise, mindful practices such as meditation, and journaling can significantly benefit a calm mind. With anything, it takes consistency and intention to work on yourself and keep yourself intact. These practices can make navigating your mental health easier in such a fast-paced city.

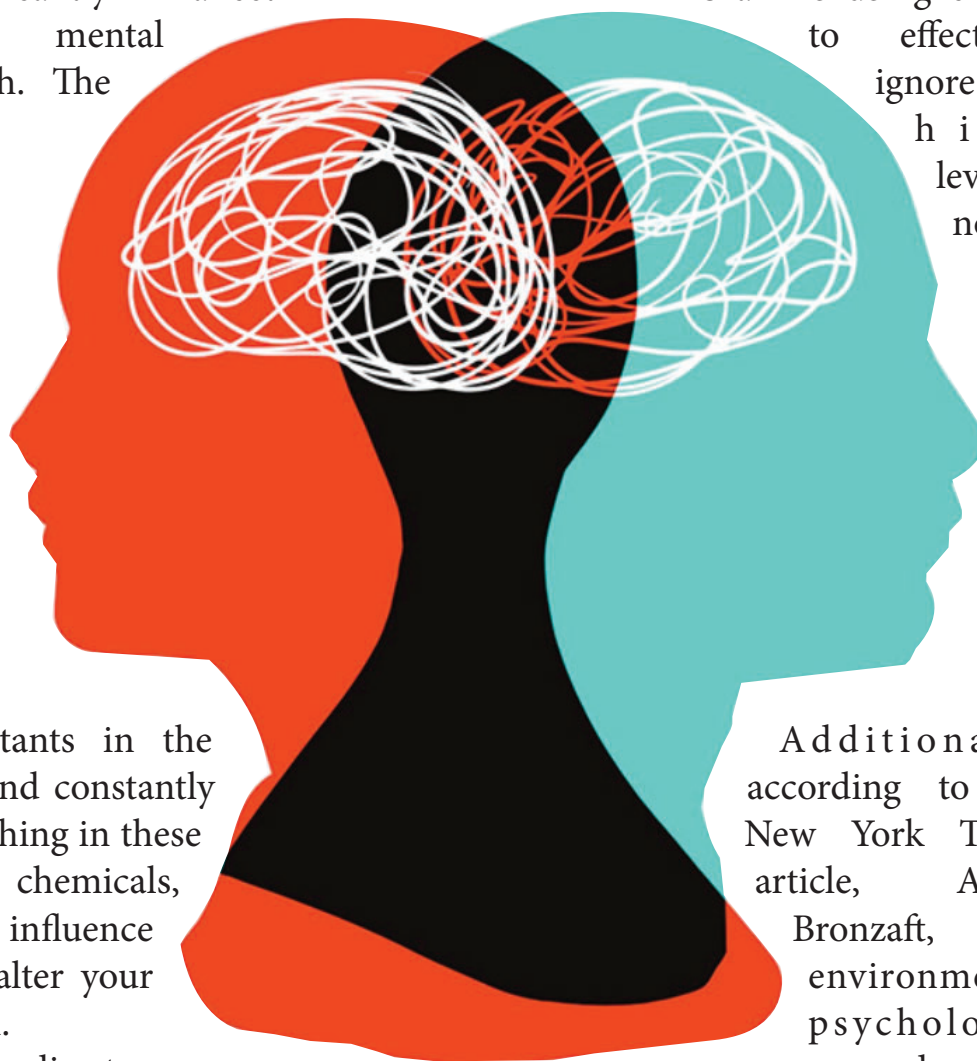


Photo courtesy of theonlineclarion.com

Doors @ 7, Show @ 8: Why Live Music Should Be More Open to the Public

By Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor

In an era where past pop culture moments and trends are frequently on the mood board for many artists and consumers alike, the once-thriving industry of live music has been one of the lesser talked about aspects. Through overconsumption, rising costs, and an ever-changing music industry, live music is stalled at the sight of these systemic problems. Live-action artistry has been the cornerstone of societies across time, so why have we allowed live music to falter in our sights? Live music should become more accessible to the public, but that raises the question: when and why did live theater stop being easily accessible?

Live music, or live performing arts, such as concerts, Broadway, local shows, comedy, or virtually any form of in-person showing or performance, have been held in respect and admiration by the mainstream people. Ranging from the original performances of Shakespearean plays in front of Queen Elizabeth I to your favorite electro-pop artist's concert, art is meant to be performed live. So, with such a historical background of being loved, what caused the decline of live performances' popularity?

Focusing on music artists' concerts such as tours, the first thing to realize is that the love for live performing arts has never declined.

We have seen quite the opposite as the demand for live performances surpasses the supply. With such high demand, and after profit-stalling COVID-19, venues have raised the stakes for the artists. If an artist fails to sell out their venue, especially large stadiums, the artists and their team can take heavy losses, according to a report done by NPR. Now at the risk of losing money, artists take more time to build a dedicated fan base before going on tour, therefore creating a less supply of live performances at the ready.

This lack of supply leads to the direct overconsumption of concert tickets. Take a look at Taylor Swift's Eras Tour tickets from her Toronto Nov. 21 show, where resell tickets are being sold for an obscene price, according to StubHub. This capitalization of concert tickets has taken away chances of concert experience from a dedicated fan who may not be able to afford the high prices offered.

As an avid concert

go-er, concerts are such a powerful way to bring people together, including the artist and their fans. Whether finding new friends, meeting up with a social media mutual, or taking a solo adventure, concerts are emotionally driven places where artistry and connections are built.

As a consumer of live music, something that has deterred many of my friends and peers away from live music has been the ever-increasing animosity in the audience. Although venues have become a haven in the modern age, the audience members inside are growing more unsafe: cliques of people keep to themselves, and fans grow more obsessed with the artist, creating a dangerous pit area to put themselves up front.

Consumers of live music have to be not only attentive to the artists, but also to their fellow audience members. Creating a safe space for everyone starts with the artist, but is continued by acts of kindness and good faith in the audience.



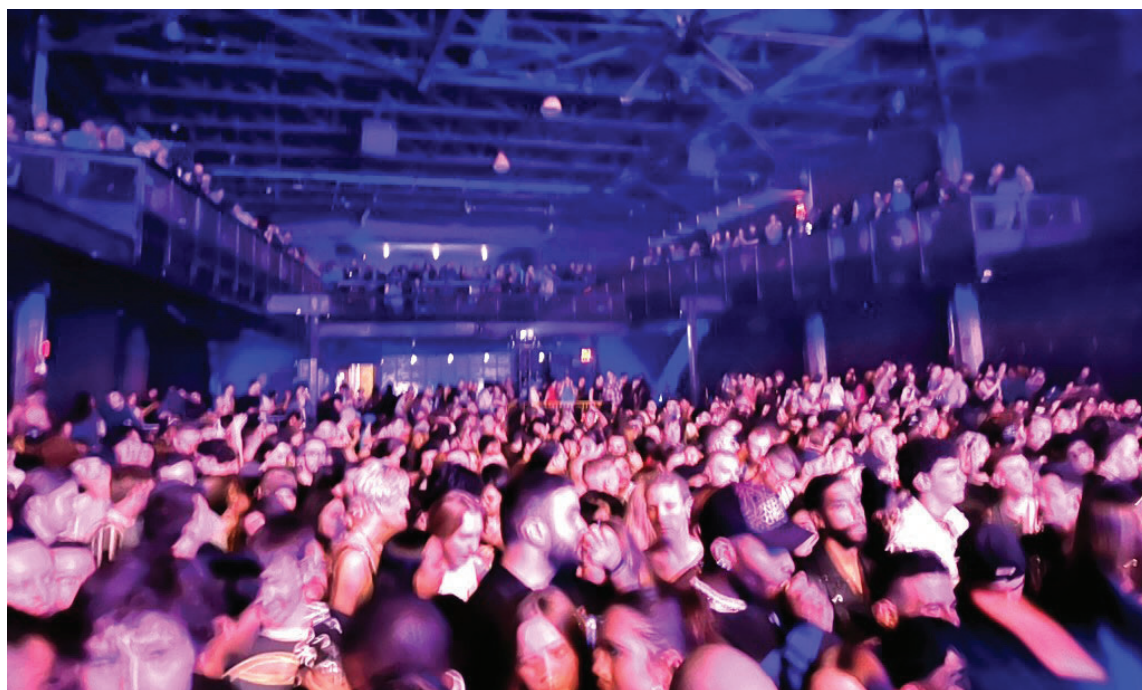
Closing moment of Charli XCX and Troye Sivan's SWEAT Tour./Rami Mansi

Live music is a powerful endeavor for any artist to take on, but in an ever-changing environment, it's become a scarce reality to experience as a fan. Due to many systemic issues, live music has taken a turn for the worse, but we can all do our parts to make

it right for all concertgoers so that they may experience a safe space and get a true concert experience.

The mainstream public should be able to see concerts for a fair price and experience respectful competition between fans; standing for the capitalization of tickets and animosity of other concertgoers has taken away too many concert experiences from people.

We're all here for a good time, to hear some good music and block out the difficulties we may be facing in our lives. As always, remember to practice good audience member etiquette, because in the concert, we all fam.



Audience at Slayyyter's Club Valentine Tour./Rami Mansi

Sports Recaps (11/9 - 11/13)

By Manuel Polanco
Sports Editor

The men's and women's basketball season is underway. The women's volleyball team continued in the playoffs this week.

Women's Basketball

In their season opener, the women's basketball faced off against Stockton University and couldn't come up with the win, losing 56-42.

Alina Estrella had 11 points, eight rebounds, five assists, and three steals in 37 minutes of play. Danae McMullen had eight points, and two three-pointers in 25 minutes of play with an outstanding 11 rebounds in her debut game. Mary Dolgin had seven points and one three-pointer in 32 minutes of play. Dior Dorsey had six points this game.

The Bulldogs' home opener was on Wednesday, Nov. 13 against St. Joseph's University, Brooklyn. The Women's basketball home opener capped off with a victory and offensive onslaught from the team as they beat their opponent 86-52. Multiple players had double-digit points in this game, highlighted by Dior Dorsey's 19-point game with an additional nine rebounds and five assists.

Brianna Gutierrez came off the bench and scored 16 points and had eight rebounds. Mary Dolgin finished the game with 14 points and nine rebounds. Anna Kitch had 13 points in this

game. Ameea Daniel, a freshman, came off the bench and scored 10 points of her own.

The team's next game took place on Saturday, Nov. 16 against Stevens. The game was a loss for the Bulldogs, with a culminating score of 63-41.

Their next game will be against Keans University on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Men's Basketball

On Nov. 9, the BC men's basketball team season began as they faced off against New Jersey City University. BC would lose their season opener by two points and lose 61-59.

BC would score 23 points in the first quarter, highlighted by senior Malik Dale's 14-point game in 28 minutes of play. Dale went a perfect three for three at the free throw line, and went 3-9 on three-point attempts. His teammate Stephon McGill scored 10 points and had six rebounds, one assist, and one steal in his start. Joe Charles went 4-5 on three pointers and had 12 points, one assist, one rebound, and two steals this game. Randolph Charles had 11 points, one assist, and one rebound this game while going 3-4 on the free throw line.

In their season opener at home, BC took on Kean University on Wednesday, Nov. 13, and lost 86-64 in this lopsided game. The Bulldogs scored a combined 64 points in their first two halves of the game, but Kean was able to consistently out score them.

Senior Serge Thraysbule had six rebounds, nine points, and went a perfect 3/3 on the free throw line. He missed one shot overall in this game. Joe Charles came off the bench and scored 12 points with one rebound, one assist, and one steal. Charles went 7-8 at the free-throw line. Stephon McGill ended the game with 10 points, three rebounds, and one assist this game. Brendan Armour had three rebounds, three assists, two blocks, one steal, and six points in his first game as a Bulldog. Jaden Casanova had three blocks, four points, two steals, one assist, and three rebounds this game.

The Bulldogs made their way to the Stevenson Tournament as they played their next game against Carlow University on Friday, Nov. 15. Dale was able to cement the Bulldogs' lead by burying his first few three-pointers. The Bulldogs remained in lead for the rest of the game. Though a close call of 66-63, the Bulldogs were ultimately victorious.

The next game in the Stevenson Tournament was against Stevenson University on Saturday, Nov. 16. The Stevenson Mustangs led the first half of the game. Though BC was able to improve their offense in the second half, Stevenson remained in the lead and ultimately took home their victory of 63-49.

The Bulldogs will return home for a non-conference match against the University of



Graduate student Alina Estrella./Courtesy of BC Athletics



Freshman Guard Joe Charles being guarded by opponent./Courtesy of BC Athletics



Women's volleyball team group huddle before their semifinal game against John Jay./Courtesy of BC Athletics

Mount Saint Vincent on Thursday, Nov. 21. seven kills and one block this game.

Women's Volleyball

In a 3-0 sweep against Lehman College, the BC women's volleyball team advanced to the semifinals with a victory.

BC won every round with scores of 25-17, 25-7, and 25-9, solidifying the sweep and their advancements in the final. Danielle Fuxman led the game with nine kills and two blocks this game. Aleah Rafat had eight kills and one block, Syndey Gdanski had eight kills and four aces this game, and Kela Duncan had

A hard-fought season for the Bulldogs came to an end as John Jay eliminated BC in the semifinals with a 3-0 sweep.

BC lost each round via scores 25-13, 25-15, and 25-22. Rafat led with 11 kills, Fuxman with five kills and five blocks, Olivia Fan with two kills and six blocks, and Gdanski with one kill, one block, and two aces.

With their season now come to an end, the Bulldogs look to come back stronger in the next season.

‘Urban Contours’: A Reflection of Our Borough at Brooklyn College

By **Nicolas Tapasco**
Staff Writer

Deep within the corridors of Boylan Hall, down the lower level and by the cafeteria doors, lies a newly unveiled exhibit titled “Urban Contours: Brooklyn College Faculty Exhibition.” Debuted on Nov. 7 and running till Dec. 20, the exhibit allows visitors a chance to peer within the minds of those who instruct our artistic sense at BC.

With over 40 art faculty pieces housed within the 7,000 square-foot gallery, a variety of art forms are displayed, from paintings, sculptures,

videos, or a mix of all three. Attendees get to see these creatives at work, and visualize how the greater Brooklyn borough has influenced them as artists giving back to the community that’s given them so much.

“It’s a beautiful reflection of how diverse the city is, or even potentially Brooklyn College,” Lamar Robillard, the exhibit’s art handler, told *The Vanguard*. “Urban Contours’ is doing this wonderful job of meshing these many different practices and materials together. I find it really beautiful to see.”

Within the exhibit sits Professor Whit Harris’s piece “Smoke Break,” displaying a naked black woman laying in a field smoking a cigarette in a flurry of browns, pinks, yellows, and greens. She details her thought process behind the painting through her use of color and narrative.

“Who’s entitled to a rest from work? Whose work is valuable? I’m inspired by clichés, sayings, phrases, the convention of language and how that relates to the materiality of my existence. It’s become this conventional phrase of what rest is, what it encompasses, what you’re allowed to do,” Harris attracts an audience with the pieces’ vibrancy, but maintains their attention with the concepts it ponders. “I use color and these unassuming narratives to draw people in to look at these ideas that you carry around.”

A few steps further sits Professor Stephen Kwok’s sculpture “Candelabra.” Conceived during his stay at an unoccupied home, his sculpture



“Candelabra” by professor Stephen Kwok./*Nicolas Tapasco*

places candles on top of antennas and coaxial cables.

“I was thinking a lot about the home as a command center of sorts, as a place where we receive a lot of information and the role of the domestic space in our ingestion of information,” he told *The Vanguard*. “I was thinking also about the relationship between information and spirituality, and so this body of work came out of that experience.”

And with so much more to be experienced in the two showroom floors, “Urban Contours” finds cohesion in variety by rooting every artist and their work to their origins in the Brooklyn borough. And for the BC community, they hope to inspire others to look

around at the beauty within their city, not just with this exhibition, but with future displays held within the new gallery space putting students, alumni, and residents in the forefront.

In Robillard’s words, “You can find fine art in your backyard. There’s so much more in your neighborhood than you’d believe.”

“Urban Contours: Brooklyn College Faculty Exhibition” is free and open to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located at Boylan Hall, room 0400



“Smoke Break” by professor Whit Harris./*Nicolas Tapasco*



Attendees viewing the artwork at the newly-opened exhibit hall located in Boylan./*Nicolas Tapasco*