

Faces of Brooklyn

A diverse population and a rich mix of talents builds a strong borough.

Interviews by Ben DiMatteo



Marty Markowitz

Brooklyn Borough President

My grandparents came over from Europe, and both my parents lived in Brooklyn all their lives, in the Crown Heights community. I grew up three blocks from Ebbets Field, in the shadow of the Brooklyn Dodgers. It was heartbreaking when they left — we cried real tears for days.

You can see the shape of a new, exciting 24/7 downtown forming right before your eyes. The amount of development taking place right now is staggering, including the new [Barclays Center] arena. Bringing the [NBA's] Nets to Brooklyn

will put us back in the sports spotlight.

There are so many new restaurants in Brooklyn I can't keep track of them. My all-time favorite place to eat is Junior's — it is quintessentially traditional Brooklyn. We have Michelin- and Zagat-rated restaurants, not to mention all the ethnic cuisines — Caribbean, Russian, Polish, Turkish. Dine in Brooklyn Week in March (March 23–April 1) is my favorite week of the year. People are discovering that Brooklyn is a great place to raise a family, and the diversity is unbelievable.



Joshua L. Muss

Principal, Muss Development

My grandfather came to Brooklyn in [19]06 from Russia via South Africa. Though I was born and raised in Queens, I have a good feeling for the Brooklyn community. As [President] Kennedy would say, "Ich bin ein Brooklynite." One of the great rewards in property development is seeing the city evolve and being part of that evolution. We are patient developers, and that has paid off for us.



Lynn Nottage

Playwright, 2007 MacArthur "Genius Grant" Recipient

I grew up in Boerum Hill, a very culturally rich, very diverse neighborhood. I'm currently working on a play titled *Ruined*, which is a non-traditional love story set against the backdrop of the war in Congo. My writing is a reflection of the unusual and diverse community that I was raised in, a place that I don't think could exist anywhere but Brooklyn.



Cecilia Clarke

Founder and Executive Director, Sadie Nash Leadership Program

I started Sadie Nash in 2001 out of my dining room. Our organization works with low-income adolescent girls throughout the five boroughs. I moved to Brooklyn in 1988 and have never lived outside Brooklyn since. One of the reasons I love working and living in Brooklyn is because there is still a feeling of community and lifestyle, in terms of making life a happy thing.

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