



# Arts and Cultural Organizations in the Greater Downtown Brooklyn Area

Thomas P. DiNapoli  
New York State Comptroller

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## Arts Alliance Survey Results

- According to a member survey conducted by the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance (DBAA), the 21 arts and cultural organizations that responded to the survey had combined operating budgets of \$74.6 million in 2010.
- The Brooklyn Academy of Music, the largest cultural organization in downtown Brooklyn, had an operating budget of \$40 million in 2010.
- The 21 survey respondents reported a combined earned income of \$28.2 million, and contributions of \$38.2 million in 2010.
- New York City contributed \$7.4 million in operating subsidies in 2010 to the 21 arts and cultural organizations who responded to the survey; the federal government contributed \$3.3 million to 17 organizations; and New York State contributed \$1.3 million to 17 organizations.
- Survey respondents employed a total of 1,165 workers (329 full-time year-round, 43 full-time seasonal, 173 part-time year-round, and 620 part-time seasonal) with an annual payroll and fringe benefits of \$36.2 million in 2010.
- The respondents reported spending \$6 million on fees for 1,293 artists in 2010.
- The DBAA estimated that employment among the 21 member groups generated \$10.6 million in federal, State, and City income taxes.
- Only two of the member organizations that responded owned their own spaces, while the other 19 groups rented their administrative, performance or exhibition spaces. Of the groups that rented, 16 spent a total of \$684,000 per year on rent.
- The respondents reported serving 2.7 million people in 2010, including 1.2 million at free-admission public events. (Attendance in the BAM cultural district was estimated at 500,000 by the Economic Development Corporation.)
- The DBAA estimated event-related spending by attendees at \$18.6 million in 2010.

The greater downtown Brooklyn area is home to world-class arts and cultural organizations, such as the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). In 2011, the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance (DBAA) surveyed its members to demonstrate the role such organizations play in the area. According to the survey, the respondents served an estimated 2.7 million people, and had 1,165 employees in 2010.

In 2004, New York City established the BAM Cultural District, located in the heart of Brooklyn's thriving artistic community and adjacent to the new Barclays Center, as a core component of the Downtown Brooklyn Development Plan. The City will invest more than \$100 million in new facilities for the arts, create new public space, and provide affordable housing.

The renovation of the 80 Arts building, a 30,000-square-foot arts venue, was the first completed project within the cultural district. Twelve nonprofit arts groups reside in the building, renting at below-market rates and sharing amenities. In September 2012, the BAM Richard B. Fisher Building will open. The facility, which is designed to achieve LEED Gold environmental certification, will greatly expand the 150-year-old performing arts center.

Construction has begun on a new permanent home for Theatre for a New Audience, which produces Shakespearean and classical dramas, and serves 2,000 students annually through its school-based programs. The new 27,500 square-foot facility, built on a City-owned former parking lot, will be the first classical theater built in New York City in more than four decades. Work has also begun on renovating the former Strand Theater, which will house BRIC Arts/Media/Bklyn and UrbanGlass.

Future plans call for new towers that will feature mixed-income residential units and a visual arts library. Plans also call for a new park, new sidewalks, trees and street lighting.

The arts and cultural organizations have contributed to the revitalization of the greater downtown Brooklyn area, helping to make it an attractive place to live, work, and visit.

## **The Organizations**

The DBAA has identified 54 arts and cultural organizations in downtown Brooklyn. These organizations range in size from the Brooklyn Academy of Music to storefront organizations that are staffed entirely by volunteers. The following eight organizations are the largest in the area.

### *Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)*

Founded in 1861, BAM presents world-renowned theater, dance, music, opera, and film productions, and showcases the work of emerging artists and innovative modern masters. Currently, BAM has a budget of \$52 million and 796 full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff. More than 650,000 people attend programming at BAM's current venues each year. This fall, BAM will open the new BAM Richard B. Fisher Building, which will house a 250-seat flexible performance space. The building will provide subsidized use of the space by local arts groups, and will allow BAM to expand its educational programming.

### *BRIC Arts / Media / Bklyn*

BRIC (formerly Brooklyn Information & Culture, Inc.) produces and presents quality contemporary art, performing arts, and community media programs. In 2011, BRIC had a budget of \$6.7 million. BRIC created the Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival, widely credited with helping to revitalize Prospect Park. In 2013, BRIC will move into BRIC House, its renovated home in the former Strand Theater, one of the cornerstone projects in the BAM Cultural District master plan.

### *Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG)*

The internationally acclaimed Mark Morris Dance Group was founded in 1980. The Mark Morris Dance Center opened in September 2001. The Dance Center features seven studios and houses a school that serves more than 5,000 students each year, as well as a wellness center, a performance space and expanded public spaces. With a budget of \$6 million in 2010, the MMDG employed 88 full-time workers. Noted for its commitment to live music, nearly half of MMDG's full-time staff consisted of artists and performers.

### *New York Transit Museum*

Located in an authentic 1936 subway station in Brooklyn Heights, the New York Transit Museum is the largest museum in the country devoted to the history of urban transportation. The museum explores the development of New York City through exhibitions and educational programs that explore cultural, social, and technological aspects of public transportation. A financially independent division of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the museum's \$4.5 million budget is funded by its nonprofit affiliate, Friends of the New York Transit Museum.

### *Theatre for a New Audience (TFANA)*

Dedicated to the language and ideas of writers, Theatre for a New Audience has been producing distinguished classic and contemporary theatre for more than three decades. TFANA, with a budget of \$3.7 million, has the largest program in New York City for introducing Shakespeare to students. In 2013, TFANA will move into its new home, a 299-seat theatre in the BAM Cultural District, and plans to significantly increase staffing.

### *Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS)*

Founded in 1863, the Brooklyn Historical Society is a nationally recognized urban history center with a budget of \$3.2 million. BHS is dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's 400-year history.

### *UrbanGlass*

Founded in 1977, UrbanGlass was the first artist-access glass center in the United States; it is now the largest, with a budget of \$1.5 million. Today, UrbanGlass serves as the primary studio for more than 350 artists, and offers comprehensive classes in a wide variety of glassworking techniques to more than 900 students from all over the world. In 2013, UrbanGlass will return to the renovated Strand Theater, with an improved facility as well as street-level gallery and retail space.

### *Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC)*

Located in downtown Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Arts Council was established in 1966 to provide leadership for Brooklyn's arts scene. BAC distributes grants, presents affordable events, promotes the arts, trains artists and incubates new projects.