



Black Brooklyn Drum Call Kicks Off Brooklyn Arts Council Summer Series



Brooklyn drummer Neil Clarke

BOB TRAVIS

“Brooklyn has got a lot going on in terms of black culture,” said Dr. Kay Turner, director of Folk Arts for the Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC) in February, when the arts organization kicked-off a year of programming called Black Brooklyn Renaissance, an attempt to look at black culture in the borough as a whole.

Now BAC kicks off the summer series of programming with Black Brooklyn Drum Call, a gathering of Brooklyn musicians practicing the art of drumming from many African, Afro-Caribbean and Hispanic diasporic communities including Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

The artists will converge at the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza, performing and uniting 10 distinct styles of drumming, demonstrating the role drums have played in the history of various cultures as well as the complexity of African drumming practiced here in Brooklyn. There will be drumming demos and drum-making workshops, followed by a symposium on the history of African drumming in Brooklyn moderated by Neil Clarke (who has played with Harry Belafonte and Miriam Mekema). All are encouraged to bring their drums; this is a free and interactive event.

An extensive calendar of events is scheduled for the rest of the summer, held by BAC and also the community at large. Activities range from more music and dancing, to art and film screenings. For the full list of events, visit www.brooklynartscouncil.org.