

Learning Places Summer 2017

# Library / Archive Report

## Historical Journey Through Brooklyn

Isaiaah Mccullon

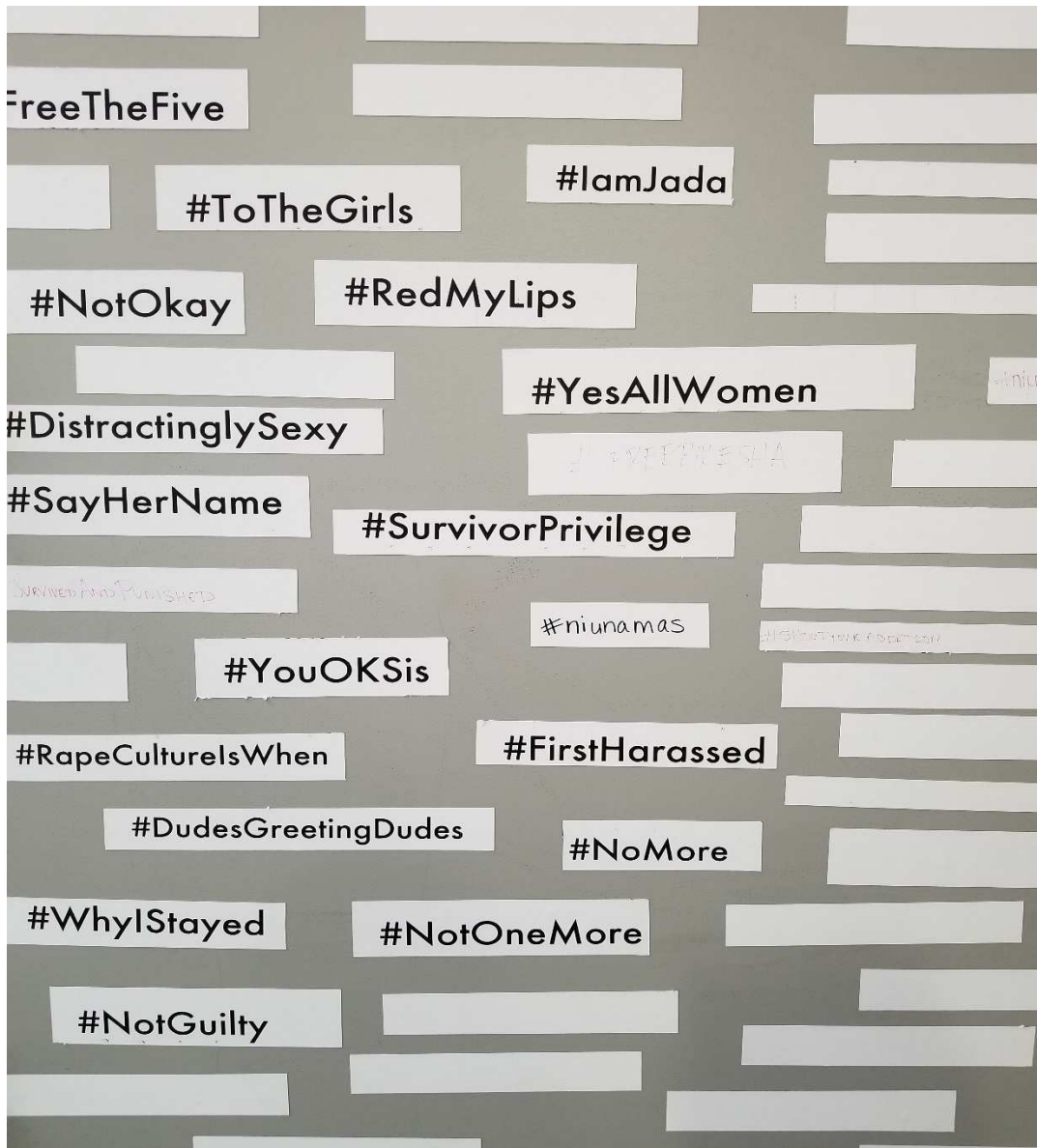
6.19.2017

### INTRODUCTION

A simple research on anything could have infinite data of information everywhere. That's one of the reasons why we have an archive and library. The first site visited was the Interference Archive located in Gowanus Brooklyn. It's a non-profit archive that houses millions of historical materials of value that is accessible to the public however, best kept in protected in their hands. In this archive, it's focuses on cultural production and social movements. You would be able to find historical articles, posters, banners, shirts/cloths, books, photography etc. The second site was the Brooklyn Library located in the heart of Brooklyn, near prospect park and across the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch. Here, we learned that this library houses historical maps of Brooklyn when Brooklyn was just a farm land with no bridges and a creek marsh land of the Gowanus.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION – Interference Archive

### Interesting Image 1



This is a photo of powerful hashtags for mostly women. As I read all these hashtags with half of them faded, made me feel enlightened to see that others are aware of what's going on. This made me think about a trip I took with the architecture club to Grace Farms. It's an organization headquarters for Grace Farms foundation which deal with human trafficking, mostly with women and children which is their mission to reduce and end it all. They send powerful messages such as these hashtags on the door. I feel like it's important to be aware and to see people working on these massive issues.

## Interesting Image 2

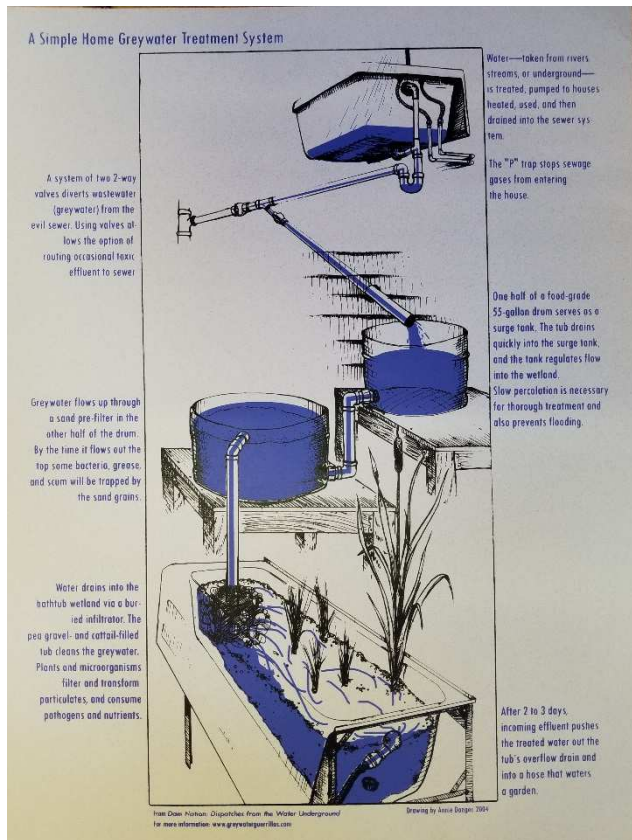


These banners send a powerful message which is about sex and or peer pressure. That's why I took this picture. It is okay to be sexually active but it's not okay to continue if a person/partner is not comfortable going to the next level. These are the unspoken words to help get you out of situations, particularly females. This is a subject that is very sensitive and difficult to talk about.



These banners are empowering because I was one of those guys that will say that "I have trust Issues" and never knew how to redirect my phrases so I found this picture very interesting.

## ARCHIVE DOCUMENTATION

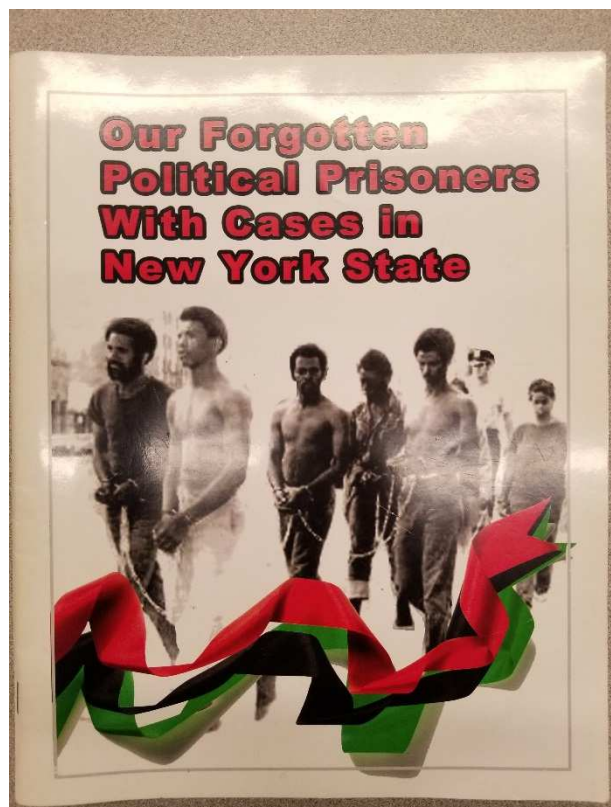


### CITATION for ARCHIVAL SOURCE #1

This archive poster is called “A Simple Home Graywater Treatment System” from Dam Nation: Dispatches from the water underground. I found this interesting to see the process of waste water being recycled for other things such as watering plants in Gardens which is called gray water. This poster can be one of the ways to help the Gowanus Canal clean-up project.

### CITATION for ARCHIVAL SOURCE #2

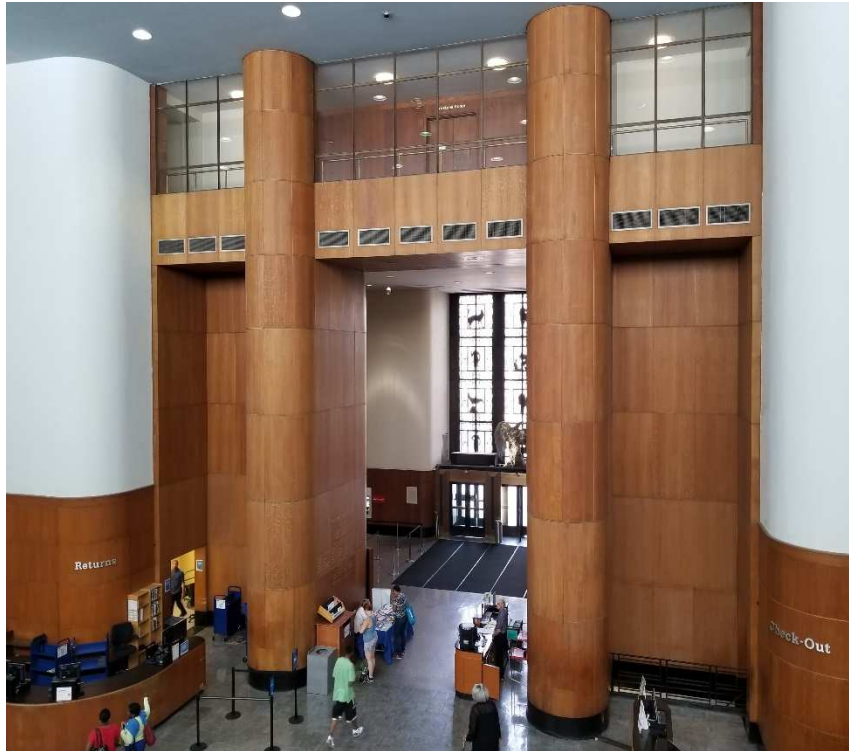
I never heard of the term “Political Prisoners” before. “Our Forgotten Political Prisoners with Cases in New York State” is a book I found at the archive. I found this book very interesting because the only kinds of people that are on the front of the cover is Black People chained and a White Police Officer. People shouldn’t get arrested for their differences in political beliefs.





## SITE DOCUMENTATION – Brooklyn Public Library

### Interesting Image 1



The Library's interior public space. This picture was taken on the walk way at the second floor of the libraries entrance. Hight of an approximately 40 feet high with 2 wooden pillars at its side. I feel that this portion gives a warm welcome walking into the library. I also feel like the scale is important to the people that uses the library often.

### Interesting Image 2

We were walking down underneath the library into the storage areas. Down here, they have a collection of historical books and rare books, their own archives a with newspaper articles and a world globe which was awesome to see.



## LIBRARY SOURCE #1

Here is a map of early Brooklyn called “A Map of The Olden Town of Brooklyn” dating back as far as 1841. You can see the Gowanus canal which was just a creek on these maps. Flatbush lies on the east of the Gowanus. I found this map interesting because it gives me the imagination of how things were mapped out



in early Brooklyn. You can see that there are no bridges shown except for the one which looks like an aqueduct going across from Staten Island to Brooklyn.

## LIBRARY SOURCE #2



This is a picture of the Gowanus Canal taken on November 8, 1940. Gowanus seemed in this picture to be very active with delivering good to different industrial manufactures. You can see a tug boat pulling a cargo boat filled with 2 distinct types of materials down the Canal.

## GENERAL NOTES:

- The public library of Brooklyn houses historical maps of Brooklyn and New York City.
- The Archive is generally the most helpful way to get accurate information and sources on whatever is being research.
- Gowanus Canal was a creek before it became a canal to control how goods were being brought into Brooklyn.
- There are multiple archives around the city that houses different historical information.
- Before the BQE arrived in Gowanus, there were no separation of where people lived or worked, it was a sense of community.
- Coast lines and the edge of the city where buildings made up of wood construction material.
- The long-lasting vision of Robert Moses is still effecting communities today.
- There are many different archives for all types of records.

## KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

**Political Prisoners:** A person imprisoned for their political beliefs or actions.

**Gray Water:** The relatively clean waste water from baths, sinks, washing machines, and other kitchen appliances.

**Archive:** A collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people.

**Propaganda:** the spreading of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person.

**Sexual Harassment:** harassment (typically of a woman) in a workplace, or other professional or social situation, involving the making of unwanted sexual advances or obscene remarks.

**Sexual Violence:** is a sexual act committed against someone without that person's freely given consent.

**Consent:** Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.

**Peer Pressure:** Influence from members of one's peer group.

**Grace Farms:** Is a non-profit center in New Canaan, Connecticut that is dedicated to advancing faith, nature, arts, community and justice initiatives.

**Wastewater:** Water that has been used (as in a manufacturing process)

**Wetland:** Land or areas (such as marshes or swamps) that are covered often intermittently with shallow water or have soil saturated with moisture —usually used in plural

**Percolation:** Is the process of a liquid slowly passing through a filter.

**Black Panthers:** A member of a militant political organization set up in the US in 1966 to fight for black rights.

**Interference Archive:** A volunteer-run library, gallery, and archive of historical materials related to social and political activism and movements.

**Letterhead:** A printed heading on stationery, stating a person or organization's name and address.

**Ephemeral:** lasting for a very short time.

**Sanborn Map:** Were originally created for assessing fire insurance liability in urbanized areas in the United States.

**Eminent Domain:** the right of a government or its agent to expropriate private property for public use, with payment of compensation.

**Estuary:** the tidal mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream.



## QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. What are the pros and cons of having government archive in the city
2. What ways can the archive help save people's lives in the city?
3. How does libraries and archives collect historical data? How can they separate the truth from fake news?

## REFERANCE

Oed.com. (n.d.). Home: Oxford English Dictionary. [online] Available at: <http://www.oed.com> [Accessed 18 Jun. 2017]

Central Library | Los Angeles Public Library. (n.d.). Retrieved June 18, 2017, from <http://www.bing.com>

Interference Archive. (n.d.). Retrieved June 22, 2017, from <http://www.librarything.com/venue/99566/Interference%20Archive>