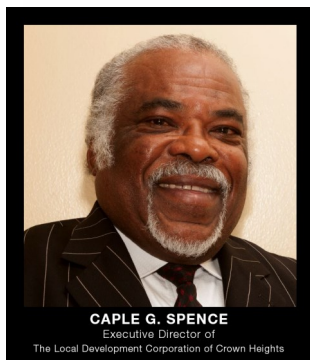


Bedford-Union Armory Community Newsletter

BFC PARTNERS & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORP. OF CROWN HEIGHTS ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP AT BEDFORD-UNION ARMORY & CREATION OF NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND

Brooklyn, NY— BFC Partners and the Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights (LDCCH) announced that LDCCH, a longtime community-based non-profit, has joined the development team for the new Bedford-Union Armory, which will provide much-needed recreational facilities, affordable office space and affordable housing for Crown Heights.



As part of its role on the development team, LDCCH and BFC will create a new Affordable Housing Fund that will support the creation of more affordable housing, tenant advocacy and housing education throughout Crown Heights.

“Revitalizing the Bedford-Union Armory is a huge step forward for the Crown Heights community and we are proud to be a part of it,” said **Caple Spence, Executive Director of the Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights (LDCCH)**. “Our new Affordable Housing Fund will play an important role in supporting more affordable housing for Crown Heights families. We also

look forward to helping create new opportunities for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise and local hiring throughout the construction process.”

LDCCH will also play an important role in identifying local and Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise contractors for potential partnerships and aiding local hiring efforts throughout the construction process. Additionally, LDCCH will host the forthcoming Bedford-Union Armory Community Advisory Committee, which will provide input on the development and programming of the Armory’s recreational facility. The Community Advisory Committee, whose members will be announced in the coming months, will be comprised of local residents and stakeholders throughout the Crown Heights and Central Brooklyn communities.

“We are thrilled to bring on LDCCH as a community-based development partner because of its outstanding record of supporting Crown Heights residents and the local economy,” said **Don Capoccia, principal of BFC Partners**. “LDCCH will play a key role in ensuring that the new Armory is a win for all Crown Heights families and that a local organization is helping lead the way in providing more affordable housing for the community.”

The LDCCH was founded in 1987 as a non-profit with a staff of one person and over the past 30 years it has grown to be a leading provider of community and program development throughout Central Brooklyn. With its community-minded motto – “Helping those least able to help themselves” – LDCCH has never lost sight of its original mission to increase local housing options for low-income seniors.

The LDCCH is now one of two non-profits on the overall Bedford-Union Armory project team, as the Brooklyn-based non-profit CAMBA will oversee all programming and operations at the Armory’s recreational facility. LDCCH will actively participate in the pre-development and development process, including public approval, design, financing and leasing/sales.

For more information on the revitalization of the Bedford-Union Armory, visit <http://bedfordcourts.com>

New Heights Youth Basketball Alumni



KEITH WILLIAMS
Brooklyn, NY

“New Heights means a lot to me. The organization changed my life. Without them, I don’t think I would be where I am right now.”

New Heights Youth, Inc. is a nonprofit sports based youth development and educational organization, providing academic support and basketball coaching to children at the Bedford Union Armory.

Born and bred in Brooklyn, Keith Williams joined while a 7th grader at the Satellite 3 School. He first heard about the program from Branden Frazier, a New Heights alum who also attended the same middle school. Throughout his tenure at New Heights, Keith has always been coached by Rahme Anderson and they have built a close bond over that time. Keith went on to star at Bishop Loughlin, where he is currently a senior. A four-year varsity player, Keith was a first-team All-League performer during his junior campaign. After a long process and several visits, Keith has decided to attend the University of Cincinnati on a full athletic scholarship. He is currently on track to qualify academically and is receiving SAT Prep through New Heights and his high school. New Heights is extremely proud of the person and player that Keith has become and all of the hard work he has put in on and off the court.

Coach of the Month: Deandra Augustin of Imagine Swimming

ATTENTION MINORITY AND WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

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Meet Deandra Augustin, a resident of Central Brooklyn, and a swim instructor at Imagine Swimming with over 12 years of professional teaching experience. Deandra was coached by aquatics legend Jane Katz, a 1964 Olympian who helped pioneer the acceptance of synchronized swimming as an Olympic event. Between Imagine Swimming and The Parks Department, Deandra currently teaches 100 - 150 kids a week. She loves Crown Heights and feels lucky to work in the community. Imagine Swimming will be the new pool operators at Bedford Union Armory, where Deandra and her team look forward to positively impacting the Crown Heights community through swimming programs and classes.



Q. *What motivated you to learn how to swim?*

A. It's kinda of a funny story. Because my last name growing up was Beach, my dad used to say "that all of his children need to learn how to swim because we couldn't walk around with Beach as a last name and not know how to swim." It just so turned out that I enjoyed the water, being around it and helping people in the water.

Q. *What are the benefits of Sports Education and swimming in particular?*

A. Sports teach children to build character and it keeps them busy and productive. Because swimming is an individual sport, success and failure are yours alone to bear. With every race, you have a chance to beat your personal best. Therefore, it requires a high amount of self-reliance and discipline which are two good qualities to develop while growing up.

Q. *Can you share a favorite success story about one of your students?*

A. Yes, I had a student that I started teaching when he was 5. His mother did not want him to swim because sadly she had a twin sibling that passed away due to drowning. Though she was afraid, she wanted her son to learn to swim so he could be safe. Her fear transferred to him since she told him the story many times. Just trying to get him to put his face in the water took a long time. With time, practice and commitment he became an incredible swimmer and eventually got a swimming scholarship to go away to school. He is a freshman in college now.

Q. *How will the Bedford-Union Armory pool impact the Crown Heights Community?*

A. Currently, there aren't really any pools in Crown Heights that are accessible. Not having a pool in close proximity prevents the community from gaining the life benefits that swimming has to offer. Because the Bedford-Union Armory is in a central location, a lot of people from the neighborhood and even surrounding areas will be able to access it. Swimming has had a tremendous impact on my life. I was lucky because growing up there was a pool nearby. I really hope that everyone takes advantage of the opportunity to swim and that it opens more doors for people that previously didn't have access to a pool.

Partnering with the Central Brooklyn Soccer Club Coaching Staff

A huge thank you to the coaching staff of Central Brooklyn Soccer Club for providing February's soccer clinic to the children of Elijah Stroud 316 and MS 353. Coaching staff from left to right are founder Dario Trujillo, Kevin Moo Young, Al Peters and founder Shomari Ramsay.

