

Bailey's Cafe

Executive Director & Founder: Stefanie Siegel
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Producing Artistic Director, Pia Murray
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“As Quiet As It’s Kept, We Thrive: Stories & Portraits from the Heart of Bed-Stuy”
an installation and celebration of the longtime residents of the Jackie Robinson Housing Complex
(Fulton Plaza) and their neighbors

Featured Artists: Pia Monique Murray, Interviews and Documentary
and Marienne “Yen” Thomas, Painted Portraits

Press Conference for Public Art Exhibit, Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 2 PM

Announcing Bailey’s Cafe’s 20th Anniversary

Presented by Bailey’s Cafe

Jackie Robinson Park Playground, Corner of Malcolm X Boulevard and Chauncey Street
Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn

On Wednesday September 13, Stefanie Siegel and Pia Monique Murray, the respective Executive and Producing Artistic Directors of Bailey’s Cafe, invite local elected officials and members of the press to view the public installation of *As Quiet As It’s Kept, We Thrive: Stories & Portraits from the Heart of Bed-Stuy*. The exhibit, installed in Jackie Robinson Park Playground just one month prior, is the continuation of *As Quiet As It’s Kept*, a long-running ethnography series presented by Bailey’s Cafe. This is the second time the non-profit storefront has produced a public exhibit that centers and showcases local residents; this version displaying vibrant portraits of each resident painted by Marienne “Yen” Thomas and graphically designed on 4-foot banners by Murray. Each banner includes QR codes that lead to a compilation of interviews also conducted by Murray.

We Thrive... brings visibility to residents of Bed-Stuy whose voices are seldom heard, honored and celebrated. The portrait and interview series comes out of a larger community-based movement to offer alternatives to the violence that continues to erupt in our neighborhood, which has been centered around the Jackie Robinson Housing Complex and the Park Playground. The focus is to bring positive, life-affirming activities to those who may not feel that they are normally included; the banners amplify the portraits and words of the residents in a public space. A few *We Thrive* participants who missed the August opening, will receive their original painted portrait and have the opportunity to share their initiatives and dreams for the community during the press conference.

As Quiet As It’s Kept, We Thrive: Stories & Portraits from the Heart of Bed-Stuy is one of a series of installation performances, along with the other life-affirming activities, towards building a more trusting, interconnected community that works together to create an environment that doesn't push out or leave out anyone because of race, economic status or formal education. The public installation, which kicked off the Bailey’s Cafe’s 20th Anniversary season, will remain open at Jackie Robinson Park Playground until Saturday, November 4.

Past exhibits in the *As Quiet As It’s Kept* series may be viewed at <https://asquietasitskept.space>.

As Quiet As It’s Kept, We Thrive is supported by the Emmanuel Baptist Church Benevolence Fund, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the Laundromat Project, and our individual donors.