MEDIA ADVISORY:
Wednesday, May 4, 2022
Contact: Alexa Mauzy-Lewis
Design Trust for Public Space Communications Manager
(amauzy@designtrust.org)

Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch Unveils New Exhibition:
“Holding Court” Portrait Series by Barnabas Crosby

Using a handball court as a studio, “Holding Court” re-imagines Black entrepreneurship and community spaces

Brooklyn, NY – Holding Court: A Portrait Series by Barnabas Crosby is on view at Brooklyn Public Library Central from 5/1 through 5/29. In celebration of Holding Court's opening week, Barnabas Crosby will be available to talk about his work and the inspiration behind the exhibition. Stop by the library on May 4th from 5 - 6:30 pm to view the exhibition and meet the artist.

Barnabas Crosby's "Holding Court" is a portrait series about the “re-imagination” of Black entrepreneurship and community spaces. Limited by costs and social distancing requirements, COVID-19 proposed a challenge to Barnabas and fellow business owners. In response to this challenge, many entrepreneurs created innovative uses of public space to continue operating their businesses and serve their communities. Over the course of six months, Barnabas repurposed his neighborhood handball court as a photography studio. He invited local business owners to sit and join him in this exercise of “re-imagination.” The images in the series portray Black entrepreneurs with the intention of making room for play through reimagined settings and reimagined identities. Holding Court is a depiction of the resilience and ingenuity of entrepreneurs and the power of public space. Part of the exhibition was showcased in Times Square Over New Year’s Eve 2022 on the NASDAQ building. See a preview of the series here.

WHAT: Holding Court: A Portrait Series by Barnabas Crosby.

WHO: The Design Trust for Public Space Photo Urbanism Fellow Barnabas Crosby and BPL Presents

WHEN: On View 5/1-5/29 | FREE Meet The Artist & Exhibition Opening on 5/4 5-6:30pm

WHERE: Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch | 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11238

The artist is available for further comment. Please contact Alexa Mauzy-Lewis (amauzy@designtrust.org) to coordinate an interview.

Founded in 2001, the Design Trust for Public Space Photo Urbanism program offers fellowships to local photographers to create a new body of work illuminating the public spaces of NYC. The
photographer’s artistic vision brings a new perspective, informing and illuminating the potential of our city’s undiscovered and under-used public spaces. This year’s Photo Urbanism fellow, Barnabas Crosby, is documenting how small businesses are leveraging and using public spaces in new and innovative ways. This Photo Urbanism project is funded by NYC DCLA, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Learn more at photourbanism.org.

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**About the Design Trust for Public Space**
The Design Trust for Public Space is a nationally recognized incubator that catalyzes change and transforms New York City’s shared civic spaces—streets, plazas, parks, public buildings, transportation, and housing developments—to create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable city. Established in 1995 by Andrea Woodner, the nonprofit brings design expertise and systems thinking to the public realm to make a lasting impact. Founded on the tenet that New York City’s cultural and democratic life depends on viable public space, the Design Trust focuses on social justice and equity, environmental sustainability, design excellence, and public engagement. Its innovative model brings together government agencies, community groups, and private-sector experts, utilizing cross-sector partnerships to deliver creative solutions that shape the city’s landscape.