



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brooklyn Kindergarten Society Announces Benita Miller's Appointment As New Executive Director

BROOKLYN, NY — The Brooklyn Kindergarten Society (BKS) Board of Directors is delighted to announce that Benita Miller will join us as our organization's executive director on June 18, 2018. For more than 125 years, BKS has been committed to providing quality early childhood education for children in low-income families. We are thrilled to have Benita lead us forward, in what is our second century of making sure that all children in Brooklyn have the skills to succeed.

Benita Miller is currently executive director of the New York City Children's Cabinet, in the Office of the Mayor. Throughout her career, Benita has strived to help children and families realize their potential. She has served as Deputy Commissioner for the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS), was the founder of the Brooklyn Young Mothers' Collective and worked as a Juvenile Rights attorney at the Legal Aid Society. Benita received a BFA in Print Journalism from Wayne State University, and a JD from Syracuse University College of Law.

"I look forward to leading Brooklyn Kindergarten Society and working with its dedicated board and staff because I am deeply committed to supporting the most vulnerable children and their families," said Benita. "During this period of pivotal and impactful policy shifts by the City, BKS will remain at the forefront of innovation and idea generation by continuing to provide high-quality services. I am excited to support the parents, community, and BKS staff in expanding our work for the benefit of our city's youngest citizens."

"Brooklyn Kindergarten Society enjoys a legacy of providing high-quality services to the young children and families it serves. I look forward to supporting Ms. Miller as BKS's new leader," said Sherry M. Cleary, Executive Director of the New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute.

Benita will take over leadership from James Matison, the executive director of Brooklyn Kindergarten Society since 2009. During his tenure, BKS was recognized by Root Cause's Social Impact Research Report on School Readiness as one of the top seven school readiness programs in New York City; and received the Robin Hood Foundation 2014 Hero Award, given annually in recognition of nonprofits providing transformative services for low-income New Yorkers. Two-thirds of children entering BKS centers arrive with environmentally-based developmental and language delays, yet upwards of 90% of BKS children meet or exceed age-appropriate levels in academic and social-emotional development by the end of the program year.

"We are very grateful to Jim Matison for his dedicated leadership and achievement in establishing BKS as one of the city's top early childhood education programs," said Harry Shulman, BKS Board Chair. "And we are thrilled to have found Benita. She brings passion and experience to our mission and she has the vision and judgment to lead us in a time of change for early childhood education."

About Brooklyn Kindergarten Society: BKS is a community-based nonprofit organization contracting with the New York City Administration for Children's Services to provide prekindergarten and wraparound social services in low-income communities. BKS preschools are located in public housing in the Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, and Brownsville, communities, and serve 400 children and their families annually. BKS children receive extended-day, year-round educational classes with evidence-based curricula and unique enrichment programs. These enrichment activities are a BKS hallmark and include chess, gardening, the visual and performing arts, horseback riding, soccer, yoga, and field trips. BKS family services staff provide counseling, referral services, and workshops to continue needed support beyond the classroom.

Learn more about Brooklyn Kindergarten Society at www.bksny.org