



JUNE 2024

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A NOTE FROM BWI

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Shawn,

As summer officially kicks off, I'm happy to share some energizing updates from the first half of 2024.

In this newsletter, you'll find exciting progress on the **Brooklyn Woods Oculus Bench Project** and a spotlight on our "Made in NY" Production Assistant and Post Production Program graduates, who recently shared their work at our **annual Film Festival**. We are also humbled to share news about a recent **award** from **City and State NY**.

We are thrilled to highlight our **Spring Celebration, "Heroes & Innovators,"** which took place on **June 13**. Below, you'll find the details of how we convened and celebrated program alumni, employer partners, supporters, and all those who make our work possible.

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you enjoy these updates!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ash", written over a white background.

Aaron Shiffman
Executive Director

ALUMNI PRIDE

"Made in NY" Film Festival

On May 18th, BWI's **"Made in NY" Production Assistant and Post Production** training programs hosted their **annual Alumni Film Festival**. The event gathered over 100 program graduates, staff, and partners to watch indie productions either written, directed, produced, or edited by alumni. For the first time, the event also included a lively panel discussion with TV and film industry professionals, creating more opportunities for learning and networking in addition to the celebration of alumni film projects. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place were awarded amongst the dozen projects that were submitted. Thank you to our sponsors **NBC Universal, SilverCup Studios**, and the **Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment**, and to our panelists Laura Richards, Jeff Poplaski, Daniel Patterson, and Joy T. Lane.



Congratulations to this year's winners!

1st place: Chris London - *Christmas in July*

2nd place: Celine Milien - *Office Twins*

3rd place: Joshua Luiverez - *Literally Killing Me*

MUST-READS

Nonprofit Trailblazer Award

BWI is excited to celebrate the recognition of our **Executive Director, Aaron Shiffman, as a 2024 Nonprofit Trailblazer**. This honor, awarded by *City and State NY* and *New York Nonprofit Media*, highlights the work of visionary leaders striving to make New York a more just and equitable place to live. For nearly 25 years, Aaron's leadership and commitment to economic justice have supported BWI's growing portfolio of highly-impactful skills-training programs to help launch the careers of more than 12,000 New Yorkers. Under his guidance, BWI has grown from a single, local skills-training program to a city-wide leader in workforce development, boasting a dynamic and diverse team of leaders across multiple sectors.

Join us in celebrating Aaron's remarkable dedication to creating a better, safer, and more equitable New York City for all. Read about Aaron and the other trailblazers [here](#).

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Brooklyn Woods Benches on the Oculus Plaza

BWI is thrilled to share an update on the **Brooklyn Woods Oculus Bench project**. Under a partnership with the **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey**, Brooklyn Woods hosted a dedicated, paid, training cycle for formerly incarcerated individuals structured around a project to **build and install 12 benches for public seating at Oculus Plaza at One World Trade**. Eight trainees worked with Brooklyn Woods staff on the project, gaining skills and work experience, while benefiting from BWI's support and career services. The benches were installed in April and represent a beautiful, physical legacy of BWI's impact on New York City. Look for them at One World Trade or catch some news coverage [here](#)!





EXTRA, EXTRA

BWI's Annual Spring Celebration: Heroes & Innovators

This year's "Heroes & Innovators" fundraising event was a tremendous success! We are incredibly grateful to our generous sponsors and remarkable honorees for making the evening truly unforgettable.

Thanks to the support of our donors last Thursday, **we raised over \$220K!** These funds will enable BWI to further our mission of **providing essential training, job placement, and sustained career support to New York City residents** striving to improve their lives and those of their families.

We deeply appreciate your participation in celebrating another year of BWI's meaningful impact!



Rabia Rmaid, recipient of the *2024 Inspirational Graduate Award*

Thank You to Our Presenting and Diamond Sponsors



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Follow us on social media to get the most up to date information on our programming!



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