



OCTOBER 2023

bwiny.org ▶

A NOTE FROM BWI

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Shawn,

As fall takes hold and we inch toward the holiday season, I am happy to share some updates from what has been a dynamic year for BWI. As we continue to implement our strategic plan, **our connections in the community deepen** and we find more and more opportunities to celebrate our success.

Graduates like Royce, who you will read about below, is a shining example of how our **jobseekers are using the tools and support BWI provides to achieve their dreams**. Training onramps like the Sunset Park Bridge program help ensure BWI's training is accessible to NYC's diverse community of jobseekers. And events like the "Made in NY" Film Festival, highlighted below, provide us with an exciting opportunity to celebrate our program graduates.

The positive outlooks of our program teams and graduates have us very excited for what's next as we approach the end of the year.

I hope this message finds you in good health and that you enjoy the updates we have to share!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shiffman".

Aaron Shiffman
Executive Director

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Royce



Raised in Brooklyn by his father, Royce was taught to work hard, which he has been doing since the age of 15. A young father himself, **he wanted to do more for his children** but always ended up in dead-end restaurant jobs.

After losing his job during the pandemic, Royce received a letter in the mail asking if he was interested in free job training. **He said he didn't know programs like BWI existed.**

Not only would he get trained in the technical aspects of a new career but he would be coached and guided through the hiring process afterward.

Royce graduated from **Brooklyn Networks** last year and today, is **working as a low-voltage electrician with Filo Secure**. He says that when he leaves work at the end of the day, people look at him differently now. He is more confident and it shows. *"My son brags all the time that his daddy's an electrician! He sees me come home with my tools and he'll put on my hardhat."*

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

"Made In NY" Film Festival

After a brief hiatus due to the pandemic, **BWI's "Made in NY" Production Assistant and Post Production Training Programs** hosted their annual film festival on Friday, June 30. About 120 program graduates, industry representatives, and partners attended the event, which included all indie productions either **written, directed, produced, or edited by program graduates**. The festival was a great opportunity for staff to catch up with graduates and for graduates to network amongst their peers. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place were awarded amongst the dozen projects that

were submitted to the festival. The “Made in NY” teams are already planning 2024’s event!



Congratulations to this year’s winners!

1st place: Theresa Mitchell – *Life After Loss*

2nd place: Tayana Brumaire - *Kinky*

3rd place: Noelia Rondon – *Lupita*

BREAKING IT DOWN

The Sunset Park Bridge Program

At the core of BWI’s mission is removing barriers to employment for unemployed and underemployed New Yorkers. With this in mind, BWI and Fifth Avenue Committee launched the **Sunset Park Bridge Program** in 2018. The program focuses exclusively on enrolling New Americans in and around Sunset Park: a vibrant, working class community, known historically as a “first stop” for immigrants.

The Bridge Program is an on-ramp to BWI’s Brooklyn Networks and Red Hook on the Road programs, both which require testing to receive sector-specific credentials. Through the bridge program, **129 jobseekers in need of English support have received targeted, sector-specific language instruction**, along with career navigation to guide them through the training and credentialing process. We are proud of this program’s success and the opportunity it creates for New Americans.



A Sunset Park Bridge Program instructor assists a Brooklyn Networks trainee.



Brooklyn Workforce Innovations
621 Degraw Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217

P: 718-237-2017
F: 718-237-5366
info@bwiny.org

Brooklyn Workforce Innovations | 621 Degraw St, Brooklyn, NY 11217

[Unsubscribe shegele@bwiny.org](mailto:unsubscribe@bwiny.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by ashiffman@bwiny.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

