

MAYDAY SPACE BOILER PLATE

Updated by Yura Sapi 9/22/2026

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REFERENCES

Organization Official Name:

Bushwick Workshop Space Inc

Organization Legal Name:

Mayday Space

Website Address:

<https://maydayspace.org>

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<https://www.facebook.com/MaydaySpace>

<https://www.instagram.com/maydayspace/>

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Organization Type:

Nonprofit 501c3

EIN:

471841469

501c3 Letter:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bjdc8to0R2-hbyOu4BUIFhvmVg1hFEv4/view?usp=sharing>

2024 990 & CHAR500:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g-bS1CwcmvlyWZtGSO3Z-nOwFWjAjTB_?usp=sharing

Certificate of Incorporation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qkhkjS8jYPPTpb0mdGowqDHEPMgQfcJi/view?usp=share_link

Org Logo:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FtJ1Zs1bka1BIMdkVKWBnsf54c80ga1y/view?usp=sharing>

Funder Logos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DJDF6t6t79S-G0BaCdnkKlz8U1WKZ_0m?usp=sharing

MISSION

(Short)

Mayday Space is a grassroots cultural and organizing hub in Bushwick, Brooklyn dedicated to supporting immigrant, working-class, and BIPOC communities through arts, political education, mutual aid, and community-led programming. We provide accessible space and resources for artists, organizers, and neighborhood residents to gather, build relationships, and strengthen collective power. Our work centers cultural expression, environmental justice, and collective care as tools for community resilience and movement-building in North Brooklyn.

(Long)

As an organizing center and events space for grassroots organizations, Mayday works with long-time community organizers to amplify neighborhood issues such as immigrant rights, food justice, tenants protections, gentrification and displacement as well as broader global issues such as climate justice and Internet freedom. We co-create empowering leadership structures for collectively managing the space and shaping the direction of our programming and organizing projects. By offering access to our space on a sliding scale/ free access, we prioritize

people of color, immigrants, women-led groups, QTBIPOC, poor and working class communities. The programming events Mayday welcomes and curates likewise centers the voices, creativity and leadership of frontline communities.

(Alternative)

Mayday Space is an organizing center and cultural hub in Bushwick, Brooklyn, serving as a neighborhood resource and citywide destination for grassroots movements to work, learn, celebrate, and build together.

We provide space, tools, and resources at sliding scale or free, prioritizing people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+, and working-class communities doing mutual aid, political education, and cultural work.

We collaborate with long-time organizers to advance immigrant rights, tenant protections, food justice, and climate justice, believing people and the planet come before profits, and that structural problems require structural, community-led solutions.

VISION

We know that a radically more just, equitable, and democratic New York City is possible. Mayday is a resource for activists, movement artists, and organizers working to envision and promote alternatives to current injustices, to build collective power, and to push for broader systemic change. We are a space where movements come together to reflect on strategy, tactics, what we're up against, and the better world we're fighting for.

VALUES

Mayday Space is a collectively managed home for movements, activism, social justice, and community-driven cultural programming, grounded in four core values: collective stewardship, equitable access to resources, anti-oppression, and collaboration with organizations that share these commitments. We believe all communities have the right to live, create, and work with dignity, respect, and equitable access to resources, and our work is rooted in the ongoing struggles of First Nations peoples, Black and Puerto Rican communities, and migrant communities from the Global South who have experienced displacement, exploitation, and systemic injustice. Guided by the principles of cooperation, mutual aid, and the belief that people and the planet come before profit, we actively challenge structural racism, colorism, transphobia, ableism, homophobia, xenophobia, exploitation, and other forms of oppression through our programming, partnerships, and organizational practices. We intentionally partner with institutions and organizations that uphold these same values, while ensuring that those most impacted by injustice lead and shape our work. This commitment is reflected in our NYC-based, QTBIPOC-led collective governance, where more than 90% of political education instructors and many of the organizations that use our space are led by QTBIPOC community

members. Our volunteer programming committee further prioritizes the leadership of longtime working-class residents, BIPOC volunteers, and other frontline voices, ensuring that community members are not only participants but active decision-makers in stewarding Mayday Space and shaping its future.

HISTORY

Mayday Space is a community-run cultural and organizing center in Bushwick, Brooklyn dedicated to supporting grassroots movements, artists, and educators working toward community empowerment and economic opportunity. Its mission is to provide accessible space, resources, and programming that nurture collective learning, cultural expression, and community power in New York City.

Founded as a shared hub for organizing and cultural work, Mayday Space has evolved into a vital neighborhood resource and citywide gathering place for artists, educators, and community members. Over the past several years, the organization has expanded its cultural programming alongside its organizing work, developing a robust portfolio of arts-based initiatives that center working-class communities many of whom face cost, language, and geographic barriers to arts participation. Key developments include the growth of recurring arts education programs, interdisciplinary performances, and public cultural events that activate both indoor and outdoor community spaces. Recent accomplishments include the continued expansion of arts education programming for youth, increased partnerships with teaching artists and cultural practitioners, and the deepening of community engagement through multilingual and accessible programming.

Mayday Space's principal activities include arts education programs, cultural events, and community-based artistic collaborations. Programs such as the People's School for Sonic Arts provide ongoing, sequential arts education rooted in Afro-diasporic and Latin American folk traditions, engaging youth and families through music, movement, and performance. In addition to education programs, Mayday Space hosts performances, workshops, artist residencies, and community gatherings that foster cultural exchange and public participation in the arts. All programming is designed to be accessible, with a strong emphasis on bilingual engagement, sliding scale or free admission, and inclusive outreach strategies. By integrating cultural programming with community organizing and education, Mayday Space plays a critical role in strengthening New York City's cultural ecosystem, expanding access to the arts while uplifting the voices, histories, and creative practices of historically underserved communities.

ORG SUMMARY

Mayday Space is a community center in Bushwick and a vital home for Brooklyn-wide mutual aid, social justice organizing, and community-driven cultural programming. Over the past two

years, we have hosted more than 250 free events and programs—including language classes, healing clinics, food distributions serving over 500 neighbors, art builds, political education workshops, strategy retreats, youth gatherings, benefit concerts, and film screenings—in partnership with local Bushwick organizations, grassroots movements across New York City, and international justice campaigns. As a unique organizing hub, Mayday fosters solidarity, collective stewardship, and civic engagement by creating welcoming spaces where neighbors can build relationships, develop leadership, and participate in movements for social change. Our staff, volunteers, and community partners curate year-round programming that blends arts, culture, and organizing, including the People's School for the Sonic Arts, a free music school serving Bushwick-based BIPOC youth through instruction in genres such as cumbia, punk, and chicha. Students have performed at community benefit concerts supporting organizations including the New York Abortion Access Fund, Indigenous Women Rising, and Comunidad Primero, while also participating in intergenerational programming with their families through mental health workshops, political education, and community art projects. We also offer language justice courses that equip lawyers and outreach workers to better serve monolingual Spanish-speaking neighbors, visual arts workshops that connect artists with grassroots organizing campaigns, and music production classes that create affirming spaces for QTBIPOC community members to explore music as a tool for healing and collective liberation. Our signature annual event, the Mayday Festival of Resistance, brings more than 1,000 neighbors together in Maria Hernandez Park for a free celebration of music, culture, mutual aid, and social justice, where community organizations provide know-your-rights resources, interactive workshops, and opportunities to engage in tenant, immigrant, environmental, and workers' justice campaigns. Through these programs, Mayday Space strengthens community connections, nurtures local leadership, and uses culture as a powerful catalyst for collective action and long-term movement building.

ORG DESCRIPTION

(Short)

Mayday Space is a community-run cultural and organizing center in Bushwick, Brooklyn dedicated to supporting grassroots movements, artists, and educators working toward community empowerment and economic opportunity. Its mission is to provide accessible space, resources, and programming that nurture collective learning, cultural expression, and community power in New York City. Founded as a shared hub for organizing and cultural work, Mayday Space has evolved into a vital neighborhood resource and citywide gathering place for artists, educators, and community members. Over the past several years, the organization has expanded its cultural programming alongside its organizing work, developing a robust portfolio of arts-based initiatives that center working-class communities many of whom face cost, language, and geographic barriers to arts participation.

Since establishing its permanent home in Bushwick in 2014, Mayday Space has served as a community-centered hub where grassroots organizations, artists, educators, and neighbors

come together to organize, create, and celebrate. Founded to address the lack of accessible organizing and cultural infrastructure in Brooklyn, Mayday provides affordable and free space, equipment, and resources for mutual aid, arts and cultural programming, political education, and community events. Today, we host more than 250 programs annually—including classes, vendor markets, art builds, strategy retreats, youth gatherings, performances, film screenings, and festivals—while continuing to expand recurring arts education programs, interdisciplinary performances, and public cultural events that activate both indoor and outdoor community spaces. Recent accomplishments include growing partnerships with teaching artists and cultural practitioners, expanding multilingual and accessible programming, and deepening community engagement through free and sliding-scale opportunities.

(Long)

Since establishing its permanent home in Bushwick in 2014, Mayday Space has served as a community-centered hub where grassroots organizations, artists, educators, and neighbors come together to organize, create, and celebrate. Founded to address the lack of accessible organizing and cultural infrastructure in Brooklyn, Mayday provides affordable and free space, equipment, and resources for mutual aid, arts and cultural programming, political education, and community events. Today, we host more than 250 programs annually—including classes, vendor markets, art builds, strategy retreats, youth gatherings, performances, film screenings, and festivals—while continuing to expand recurring arts education programs, interdisciplinary performances, and public cultural events that activate both indoor and outdoor community spaces. Recent accomplishments include growing partnerships with teaching artists and cultural practitioners, expanding multilingual and accessible programming, and deepening community engagement through free and sliding-scale opportunities.

In 2021, Mayday Space expanded its artistic vision with the launch of the People's School for the Sonic Arts, a free, year-round music education program created to address the lack of culturally relevant arts opportunities for immigrant, undocumented, and BIPOC youth in Bushwick. The program seeks to decolonize traditional music education by centering Afro-diasporic and Latin American musical traditions—including cumbia bullerengue from Colombia, bomba from Puerto Rico, chicha from Peru, música tropical from Mexico, and kompa and soca from the Caribbean—while honoring the oral and community-based ways these traditions have been passed down across generations. Students learn in an ensemble setting with free instruction on instruments including guitar, bass, keyboard, timbales, bongos, congas, and güiro, removing financial barriers to participation while fostering collaboration and cultural pride. Serving approximately 25 students annually, the program has cultivated long-term artistic development, with more than 20% of participants learning multiple instruments and two students advancing into paid internships and teaching assistant roles. In 2027, Mayday plans to expand the program to serve up to 50 youth, with NYSCA support helping sustain both music instruction and supplemental workshops.

Mayday's arts programming extends beyond youth education to provide meaningful creative opportunities for adults and emerging artists. Free visual arts workshops led by teaching artist Crystal Clarity connect aspiring movement artists with social justice campaigns through hands-on training in silkscreen printing, banner painting, paper-mâché sculpture, and illustration. Participants regularly apply these skills by creating artwork for community campaigns, holiday markets, public art builds, and the annual Mayday Festival of Resistance. Liberation Sounds, a music production workshop led by Julia Rocha-Nava, offers three annual cycles of culturally grounded instruction for QTBIPOC adults ages 18–60. Since launching in 2023, the program has trained more than 100 participants in music composition, audio technology, and recording techniques while highlighting the contributions of QTBIPOC musicians and producers. Through guest artists, recording studio visits, and collaborative learning, Liberation Sounds has created an affirming creative community that responds to the growing demand for accessible, culturally relevant music education.

Across all of our artistic programming, Mayday integrates arts and culture with community organizing to amplify neighborhood issues affecting historically marginalized communities. The People's School ensembles—including Los Lil Kumbia—regularly perform throughout Bushwick at benefit concerts supporting organizations such as the New York Abortion Access Fund, Indigenous Women Rising, Comunidad Primero, Sunset Community Garden, and other grassroots initiatives. These performances demonstrate how music can build solidarity while connecting young artists to movements for immigrant, environmental, reproductive, and racial justice. By pairing artistic expression with civic engagement, Mayday helps participants understand culture not only as creative practice, but also as a powerful tool for collective action, storytelling, and community leadership.

This vision culminates in Mayday's annual free outdoor concerts and festivals in Maria Hernandez Park and Good Life Garden, where music, visual arts, and community organizing come together in vibrant public spaces. Local performers share the stage alongside community organizations offering interactive workshops, know-your-rights resources, and educational activities focused on tenant, immigrant, environmental, and workers' justice. Through bilingual programming, inclusive outreach, and free or sliding-scale admission, Mayday removes barriers to participation while strengthening New York City's cultural ecosystem. By preserving cultural traditions, investing in local artists and teaching practitioners, and creating accessible pathways for residents of all ages to engage as creators, performers, and leaders, Mayday Space demonstrates how arts and culture can foster belonging, build community power, and sustain long-term social change.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Mayday Space serves overlapping communities of long- and short-term Bushwick residents, neighborhood organizers, immigrant activists, movement and youth groups, artists, and LGBTQ+, working-class, and BIPOC New Yorkers facing barriers to affordable organizing space citywide. We also host movement groups from beyond Bushwick.

We build relationships by keeping our doors open for hundreds of free/sliding-scale events, reaching over 10,000 people annually. These include tenant organizing and know-your-rights trainings, mutual aid distributions through BAM that serve thousands of families, political education, and arts & culture programming.

Multilingual events regularly find their homes at Mayday Space. Our People's School for the Sonic Arts offers free bilingual music education to youth. One parent Karen Mendez says, "Escuela Popular provides our children a place where they feel seen and proud." BAM has hosted monthly bilingual town halls for neighborhood decision-making for 5 years. Last month, Wave Language Liberation Hub and Mayday brought 10 Brooklyn grassroots groups together around language justice. BK Rot, a composting collective, also got its start at Mayday. Our space is one of community joy for Bushwick residents: baby showers, weddings, punk shows, AA meetings, and quinceañeras all fill these walls.

Community leadership is embedded in our founding. Mayday is stewarded by a Collective that sets priorities collaboratively, shaped by what neighbors tell us they need.

COMMUNITY SERVED

Mayday Space serves Bushwick, a predominantly Latinx, Black, immigrant, undocumented, working-class, and Spanish-speaking neighborhood that continues to face the pressures of gentrification, rising rents, displacement, and systemic disinvestment. Our work is rooted in supporting the communities most impacted by housing insecurity, wage theft, immigration enforcement, and state violence by ensuring they have access to the space, relationships, and resources needed to organize and thrive. We prioritize immigrants, Black and Brown families, LGBTQ+ communities, local youth, artists, and longtime residents as participants, volunteers, instructors, organizers, and decision-makers, creating pathways for community leadership rather than simply providing services. Through free and low-cost political education, mutual aid, cultural programming, music and arts education, tenant organizing, immigrant defense efforts, and movement-building initiatives, Mayday Space has become a trusted community hub where neighbors build collective power, preserve cultural identity, and respond to urgent needs. From connecting families affected by ICE detention with legal and emotional support to providing free meeting space for grassroots organizations, we invest in the leadership and creativity of frontline communities. More than 90% of our political education instructors and many of the organizations that use our space are led by QTBIPOC community members, reflecting our commitment to community stewardship, anti-oppressive values, and collective decision-making. By centering those most affected by injustice and offering accessible space for organizing, artistic expression, and mutual aid, Mayday Space strengthens the long-term capacity of Bushwick residents to shape the future of their neighborhood and advance lasting social change.

CREATING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

We address root causes by offering physical space and support that let neighbors confront systems of oppression and organize in solidarity with one another. As "third spaces" for community organizing disappear or become paid commercial space across the city, Mayday remains a crucial hub for connection and resistance, especially as more organizing is pushed online and surveilled.

For example, Mayday is home to Mi Casa, a vendor organizing initiative confronting state violence from ICE and immigration enforcement. Groups at Mayday support street vendors navigating police summonses and equipment seizures, run trainings so neighbors and vendors can lead this defense work themselves, and host vendor clinics that build economic power alongside legal protection.

We also build cross-movement coalition power through our social justice markets and the Mayday Festival of Resistance, our highest-attendance convenings. Local mutual aid, jail support, reproductive justice, and immigrant justice groups table, strategize, and celebrate together there, expanding each other's reach and knitting Bushwick's grassroots ecosystem into a more durable, connected base.

By sustaining this rare in-person, low-cost infrastructure, we help grassroots organizing survive digital surveillance and structural pressure, contributing to the long-term, community-led power needed to shift policy and systems, not just respond to individual crises.

CAPABILITIES STATEMENT

Mayday Space is uniquely positioned to lead this work as a trusted, community-rooted organizing and cultural hub with over a decade of experience providing free and sliding-scale programming for immigrant and working-class communities. Building on its People's School for the Sonic Arts model, EPAS integrates arts education with broader community life, ensuring that participants are not only learners, but active contributors to the cultural ecosystem of their neighborhood.

PROGRAM AND PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Program Name:

Space Transition

Description:

This year, we learned from our landlord that the building Mayday Space has called home since 2014, 176 St. Nicholas Ave. in Bushwick, is being sold.

For over a decade, this building has been one of the only spaces in North Brooklyn offering free or sliding-scale access to grassroots organizing and cultural work: tenant unions, immigrant rights coalitions, mutual aid networks, know-your-rights trainings, and free arts education for neighborhood youth. Losing it without a plan would mean losing irreplaceable movement infrastructure for the communities who rely on it most.

We're exploring paths to a permanent home for our organizing and cultural work in Bushwick, most likely a community land trust: land permanently removed from real estate speculation in our gentrifying neighborhood and preserved for neighborhood use.

What we most need from this project is honest, community-informed research on what's actually been most valuable about Mayday's programs and space, what our community needs going forward, and whether current formats are worth preserving or reimaging. We'd like to conduct a community needs assessment with Pratt staff support, such as Sylvia Morse, whose community land trust experience and history with Mayday Space would be hugely informative for our path. This open inquiry, not a predetermined destination, is our values-aligned starting point.

We want to make our decisions, and the search and transition that follow it, a community-led process rather than one made under crisis pressure by a handful of people already stretched thin. We've convened a space transition committee of 12 Collective members, board members, and community stakeholders, with subcommittees for fundraising, real estate, grants and governance exploration. This project resources and strengthens that committee with Pratt Center's community-based planning support.

Specifically, we hope to run visioning workshops and listening sessions with long-time Bushwick and Ridgewood residents, program participants, and Collective members to define what a future Mayday home must provide. We envision conducting land use and feasibility analysis to compare our buy-vs-rent options with real data instead of guesswork, and designing community engagement tools our committee can keep using as the transition unfolds, not just for this one decision. Our intention is a collective, community-led process that invites conversation about collective ownership and land trust models as tools to combat the gentrification so many neighbors in Bushwick and communities across the city are facing.

This project also advances Mayday's core values around a collective, community-represented governance structure that outlasts a crisis alone. The fight for our building is the catalyst; the broader outcome is community-governed infrastructure that survives this transition and whatever comes after it.

We expect to have a completed, community-informed needs assessment and land use analysis pointing to real site options, a documented engagement process our committee can replicate, and the groundwork for the governance conversation that follows once we know what we're

governing. The direct beneficiaries are the thousands of Bushwick residents, immigrants, artists, and organizers who depend on Mayday as free or low-cost movement space, and who deserve a say in where that space lives next.

The potential loss of an accessible, trusted organizing space doesn't just affect Mayday, it destabilizes an entire ecosystem of grassroots groups including tenant unions, immigrant rights organizations, mutual aid networks, worker justice campaigns, arts and cultural programs, and education programs, that depend on Mayday as a safe, affordable base to gather, plan, and build power.

Rather than responding to this crisis reactively, we would love to partner with Pratt Center's support to build a community-led process for deciding what comes next, one where the residents, organizers, and program participants most affected by displacement shape the decision.

If successful, this project produces a replicable model, grounded in real community input, for how a grassroots institution can navigate involuntary displacement without losing its base, its accountability, or its role as shared movement infrastructure for Bushwick and NYC-wide organizing. It also secures a permanent space in Bushwick to continue organizing against systems of oppression that have already reshaped the neighborhood and caused the closing of crucial third spaces.

This work also strengthens ties with local elected allies, including Council Member Sandy Nurse and Assembly Member Christian Celeste Tate (a longtime BAM participant), both champions of collective ownership models. A community-informed recommendation gives us a stronger, evidence-backed case to bring to them.

Program Name:

Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro (People's School for Sonic Arts)

Acronym:

EPAS

Short Description:

Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro (EPAS) is Mayday Space's free, bilingual (Spanish/English) music education program for immigrant, BIPOC, and first-generation youth ages 9–24 in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Founded in 2022 with support from Creative Rebuild New York and led by Colombian musician Sebastián Ángel Romero, EPAS teaches Afro-Latin and Latin American

traditions — cumbia sonidera, Colombian bullerengue, Peruvian chicha — through 10–12 week cycles of weekly music, movement, and ensemble workshops. No tuition, audition, or prior experience is required. Roughly 25 youth take part each cycle, alongside monthly family workshops and rehearsals for Los Lil' Kumbia, the student ensemble formed by EPAS's older participants. The program culminates in free public performances, including a showcase at Mayday Space and a set at the Mayday Festival of Resistance, reaching an estimated 300 attendees.

Full Description:

Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro (EPAS) a free, bilingual (Spanish/English) music education program for immigrant, BIPOC, and first-generation youth ages 6-21 in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Beginning in 2022 with support from Creative Rebuild New York and led by Colombian musician Sebastián Ángel Romero, EPAS teaches Afro-Latin and Latin American traditions such as cumbia sonidera, Colombian bullerengue, Peruvian chicha through 12-week cycles of after school music, movement, and ensemble classes. No tuition, audition, or prior experience is required. 25 youth take part each cycle, alongside monthly family workshops and rehearsals for Los Lil' Kumbia, the student ensemble formed by EPAS's older participants. The program culminates in free public performances, including a showcase at Mayday Space and summer concerts in NYC parks, reaching hundreds of attendees.

EPAS is part of Mayday Space, an organizing center and cultural hub in Bushwick, Brooklyn that serves as both a neighborhood resource and citywide destination for grassroots movements to work, learn, celebrate, and build together. We provide space, tools, and resources at sliding scale or free to prioritize people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+, and working-class communities doing mutual aid, political education, and cultural work.

During the September–June school year, EPAS delivers sequential, bilingual group instruction in folk and traditional music, movement, and ensemble practice. Students learn charango, cuatro, conga, claves, and quena while exploring cumbia, bullerengue, chicha, and related Afro-diasporic traditions. Each 10–12 week cycle covers percussion, voice, movement, ensemble-building, and cultural history, with guest teaching artists contributing specialized knowledge — such as bomba percussion, vocal traditions, and Afro-diasporic dance — alongside Artist-in-Residence Sebastián Ángel Romero.

Instruction moves from experiencing exemplary works (live performances, recordings, and the history of each tradition's role in community expression and resistance) to building technical skill through ensemble practice. Advancing students join Los Lil' Kumbia, EPAS's ensemble, to adapt traditional repertoire and develop original arrangements. The year culminates in public performances — spring showcases, summer concerts, and community events — that give students a platform to share their work.

EPAS is a community-rooted model: Mayday staff, teaching artists, partners, students, and families all shape artistic and educational decisions. Summer is used for assessment, rehearsal, and performance prep; returning students take on informal teaching-assistant roles as a

pathway to leadership and future staffing. Across three seasonal cycles, EPAS produces 3–4 free public performances or cultural events annually at Mayday Space and partner sites, engaging an estimated 150–300 community members.

Who It Serves:

We serve BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) youth from Bushwick and across Brooklyn, where cost, language, and geography often limit access to music education. The majority are first-generation, ages 4–24, of working-class immigrants, families experiencing economic instability, and youth engaged in or interested in grassroots community organizing and cultural work. Students are recruited through Mayday Space's community networks of mutual aid and tenant organizing work, family programming, local schools, alumni referrals, and digital outreach. Beyond enrolled participants, public performances and showcases at Mayday Space and outdoor community events extend the program's reach to family members, neighbors, and other residents, building visibility and pride among Brooklyn's immigrant and Spanish-speaking communities.

EPAS serves youth ages 9–24 from first-generation immigrant and working-class families in Bushwick and nearby neighborhoods, where cost, language, and geography often limit access to music education. Students are recruited through Mayday Space's community networks — mutual aid and tenant organizing work, family programming, local schools, alumni referrals, and digital outreach.

Beyond enrolled participants, public performances and showcases at Mayday Space and community events like the Mayday Festival of Resistance extend the program's reach to family members, neighbors, and other residents, building visibility and pride among Brooklyn's immigrant and Spanish-speaking communities. Mayday Space accommodates students, artists, and audience members with disabilities through an accessible venue and adjustments to instruction as needed.

Annually, EPAS expects to serve 40–60 direct youth participants through weekly workshops and ensemble training, plus 150–300 additional community members through performances and cultural gatherings.

Timeline:

September 2026: Program year launches, expanding from 3 to 5 teaching days per week. Returning students re-enroll; registration opens to new participants. New instruments and materials procured; bilingual outreach conducted.

October–November 2026: Instruction begins across age cohorts in cumbia, bullerengue, and chicha. Los Lil' Kumbia rehearsals begin for the fall showcase. Monthly family workshop held.

December 2026: Winter student showcase at Mayday Space. Mid-year feedback session with students and families; program assessment completed.

January 2027: Spring semester launches with a new cohort; curriculum updated based on community input.

February–April 2027: Instruction continues five days a week. Los Lil' Kumbia rehearses and performs at least one additional community event.

May 2027: Los Lil' Kumbia performs at the Mayday Festival of Resistance in Maria Hernandez Park, the program's flagship public moment, drawing 1,000+ neighbors.

June 2027: Program year closes. Enrollment, attendance, and performance records are compiled; a community evaluation session is held and a final report prepared.

Need Statement:

EPAS responds to the need for accessible, culturally relevant arts education in Bushwick, a historically underinvested neighborhood facing displacement, language barriers, and limited arts programming that reflects residents' lived experience. Many participants come from Spanish-speaking immigrant households often excluded from traditional arts institutions by cost, language, and cultural disconnect. EPAS removes these barriers with free, bilingual programming that treats cultural memory, collective learning, and artistic expression as tools for healing, identity, and community connection.

Goals & Outcomes:

Goals: expand access to free, culturally rooted music education for Brooklyn youth; preserve and activate Afro-diasporic and Latin American musical traditions; and build pathways for immigrant and BIPOC youth to become artists, cultural bearers, and leaders. Mayday Space will grow EPAS enrollment from roughly 25 to 50 students per semester by the 2027–28 school year, tracking participants' musical skill, confidence, cultural knowledge, and performance engagement along the way.

Track record: Los Lil' Kumbia — EPAS's student ensemble, formed entirely of program alumni who began as beginners — now performs at community events, benefit concerts, and festivals citywide, including the 1,000+-attendee Mayday Festival of Resistance, giving members a path toward professional skills in music and entertainment. Families report students practicing outside program hours and building lasting relationships with peers and mentors. In 2025, the schedule expanded to three days a week and two alumni took on internship and volunteer roles at Mayday Space — an early leadership pipeline. Mayday's broader arts education ecosystem, including the QTBIPOC-focused Liberation Sounds program (60 graduates in 2025), reflects sustained demand for accessible, justice-centered creative education.

Evaluation Methods:

Student progress is assessed against the National Core Arts Standards for Music (Creating and Performing anchor standards). The Artist-in-Residence tracks growth through observation logs, rehearsal documentation, group skills rubrics administered at the start of the year and after the spring performance, and comparisons between early rehearsal and final performance recordings.

Program-level success is tracked through enrollment, retention, attendance, performance completion, audience engagement, and mastery of traditional forms — targeting 25+ students per semester, consistent participation, and at least two public performances annually. Teaching artists and staff gather ongoing feedback through informal check-ins, monthly community conversations, and end-of-semester sessions; families help shape curriculum, workshops, and program structure based on this input.

Long-term impact is tracked through EPAS's youth leadership pipeline — whether alumni continue performing, take on mentorship or teaching roles, or remain connected to Mayday. At the end of each project period, Mayday compiles a final evaluation report — enrollment data, attendance, performance materials, and qualitative feedback — shared with the board, funders, and community stakeholders.

Partnerships:

Sebastián Ángel Romero, Artist-in-Residence, continues in the founding role he has held since launching EPAS in 2022 through a Creative Rebuild New York Artist Employment Program award, drawing on his ongoing relationships with students and families.

Four guest teaching artists — two per semester — each contribute a specialty outside Romero's core repertoire, selected by Romero and Mayday's Programs team from the organization's existing network of collaborators, past festival co-performers, and community referrals, based on artistic excellence, experience or willingness to teach youth, and connection to local communities. A replacement would be selected on the same criteria if any guest becomes unavailable.

Fall semester: Daniela Serna (cumbia percussion; 2024 NYSCA/NYFA Folk and Traditional Arts Fellow) leads a multi-week series; Mobéy Lola Irizarry (bomba percussion, Afro-Puerto Rican tradition) leads a one-week intensive.

Spring semester: Julia Rocha-Nava (vocalist; founder of Liberation Sounds and Mayday collective member, connecting EPAS students to adult music-production pathways) leads a multi-week series; Melissa Vélez Gutiérrez (bomba and cumbia dance) leads a one-week workshop timed near the spring performance.

Past guests have included Notagami (vocalist, Los Lil' Punk, 2023) and Sonia, aka La Estrella Norteña of Bushwick (vocalist, Los Lil' Kumbia community garden performance). This rotating

model ensures students learn from multiple tradition-bearers rather than a single teacher's perspective.

Program Name:

Mayday Space Summer Concert Series

Style Notes:

Mayday Space Summer Concert Series

YEAR: 2026

Short Description (1–3 sentences):

Mayday Space will present the Mayday Summer Concert Series, a free, outdoor, community-rooted music and cultural program activating publicly accessible green spaces in North Brooklyn, including Irving Square Park, Maria Hernandez Park, and The Good Life Garden. The series will take place between May and September 2026, with events scheduled in May, August, and September, and will launch with the Mayday Festival of Resistance on May 2nd.

Full Description (300–500 words):

Programming will center culturally rooted music, with a focus on cumbia and other Latin American traditions, while highlighting performances by community-based artists and youth ensembles from Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro. Select concerts will feature youth performers ages 8–11, creating meaningful opportunities for young people to share their work publicly while building confidence, artistic skills, and pride in their cultural expression. Each event will combine live music with intergenerational community gathering, creating welcoming spaces where neighbors can connect with local partners through informal resource sharing and relationship-building. Events will be free and open to the public, with multilingual outreach and accessible formats designed to welcome immigrant, working-class, and BIPOC residents. NYC Green Fund Grassroots support will sustain artist and teaching artist fees, youth stipends, production costs such as sound equipment and event materials, outreach and marketing, and volunteer coordination. By activating neighborhood parks and gardens with culturally relevant programming, this series strengthens community stewardship of public green spaces, supports local artists and youth, and fosters collective care, connection, and joy in outdoor spaces that have historically lacked resources for community-led cultural programming.

Who It Serves:

The North Brooklyn communities served by the Mayday Summer Concert Series and the Mayday Festival of Resistance are predominantly immigrant, working-class, and communities of color that experience limited access to free, culturally relevant arts programming in neighborhood green spaces. Local sites such as Irving Square Park, Maria Hernandez Park, and The Good Life Garden serve as essential community resources, yet these spaces remain under-activated for community-led cultural events that reflect the traditions, creativity, and leadership of nearby residents. Young people, particularly ages 8–11, have limited opportunities to perform publicly in welcoming outdoor environments that affirm their cultural identities, while families and elders seek accessible spaces for intergenerational gathering, cultural celebration, and collective care. Through longstanding relationships with local artists, youth, and community partners developed through Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro and the Mayday Festival of Resistance, Mayday Space is uniquely positioned to deliver culturally grounded, accessible programming that strengthens community connection, supports local creative leadership, and deepens collective stewardship of neighborhood parks and gardens.

Timeline:

May 2, 2026: Mayday Festival of Resistance (project kickoff event).

June 1–July 31, 2026: Youth rehearsals with Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro; production planning; volunteer recruitment; continued outreach and community engagement.

August 15, 2026: Summer concert at Irving Square Park.

September 6, 2026: Summer concert at Maria Hernandez Park.

September 20, 2026: Summer concert at The Good Life Garden.

October 1–15, 2026: Documentation, evaluation, partner debriefs, and reporting preparation.

Needs Statement:

The Mayday Summer Concert Series and Mayday Festival of Resistance address the need for accessible, culturally relevant arts programming and community gathering spaces for immigrant, working-class, and BIPOC residents in North Brooklyn. While neighborhoods such as Bushwick have rich cultural traditions and strong histories of grassroots organizing, residents continue to face barriers to participating in arts and cultural experiences due to cost, language access, displacement pressures, and limited opportunities for community-led programming in public spaces. This project responds to the need for free, inclusive cultural events that reflect the identities, histories, and creative practices of the communities who call these neighborhoods home.

The project also addresses the need for meaningful artistic opportunities for young people, particularly youth from immigrant and BIPOC communities who have limited access to public performance opportunities that affirm their cultural backgrounds. By featuring youth performers from Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro alongside local artists, the series creates pathways for young people to build confidence, develop creative skills, and see themselves as active contributors to the cultural life of their

neighborhood. At the same time, the project provides families, elders, and neighbors with opportunities for intergenerational connection, shared celebration, and collective care.

By activating neighborhood parks and gardens with community-led cultural programming, Mayday Space addresses the need for stronger stewardship and use of public green spaces as sites for connection, creativity, and belonging. The project builds on Mayday's long-standing relationships with local artists, organizers, youth, and community partners to create welcoming environments where residents can gather, exchange resources, and celebrate cultural traditions. Through free performances, multilingual outreach, and accessible programming, the project strengthens community ties while expanding equitable access to the arts in neighborhoods that have historically been underserved by cultural resources.

Goals & Outcomes:

The SMART goals of the Mayday Summer Concert Series and Mayday Festival of Resistance are to expand access to free, culturally relevant arts programming in North Brooklyn, increase opportunities for youth and community-based artists to share their work, and strengthen community connection to neighborhood parks and public spaces. During the project period, Mayday will present a series of free outdoor cultural events featuring local artists, youth performers from Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro, and community partners, with the goal of engaging immigrant, working-class, and BIPOC residents through accessible and multilingual programming. Specific outcomes include producing public concerts and cultural gatherings in neighborhood green spaces such as Maria Hernandez Park, Irving Square Park, and The Good Life Garden; providing performance opportunities for youth ages 8–11 and local artists; and increasing community participation in free arts experiences.

Success will be measured through attendance tracking, artist and youth participation, community partner engagement, and qualitative feedback from participants and attendees. Mayday aims to reach hundreds of community members through public performances while creating meaningful opportunities for young artists to build confidence, develop performance skills, and participate in cultural exchange. The project will also measure its effectiveness through documentation of events, participant feedback, and ongoing relationships with artists, families, and neighborhood organizations.

Longer-term outcomes include strengthening community stewardship of public green spaces, expanding equitable access to arts programming, and building a sustainable model for neighborhood-based cultural events. By creating recurring opportunities for residents to gather, celebrate cultural traditions, and engage with local artists and

organizations, the project supports Mayday's broader goal of using arts and culture as tools for community connection, youth leadership development, and collective care.

Evaluation Methods:

Student learning will be assessed in alignment with the National Core Arts Standards for Music, specifically the Creating and Performing anchor standards. The program will evaluate students' ability to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas, develop and refine musical work, and communicate meaning through performance. The Artist-in-Residence will monitor student progress through observation logs, a group skills rubric administered at the beginning of the school year and again following the spring performance, and comparisons between early rehearsal recordings and final performance documentation. In addition to assessing artistic growth, Mayday Space will track enrollment, participant retention, and audience attendance at public performances to measure engagement and community impact. Evaluation findings will inform future program planning, including the following year's needs assessment, and will be shared with Mayday Space's board, funders, and community stakeholders through a year-end report.

Partnerships:

The Mayday Space Summer Concert Series was developed through partnerships with local artists, youth arts programs, community organizations, and neighborhood institutions that share Mayday's commitment to accessible cultural programming and community connection. Key collaborators included teaching artists and participants from Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro, who provided youth performances and cultural programming, as well as local musicians and performers who helped activate public spaces through live music. Mayday also partnered with community organizations and neighborhood groups to support outreach, resource sharing, and engagement with Bushwick residents.

The project relied on Mayday's existing relationships with local parks, gardens, and community spaces, including Irving Square Park, Maria Hernandez Park, and The Good Life Garden, to bring free, culturally relevant programming into public spaces. Community partners participated by sharing information, hosting resource tables, and connecting residents to broader networks related to environmental justice, immigrant support, and community well-being. Through these collaborations, the Summer Concert Series strengthened relationships between artists, youth, residents, and local organizations while creating welcoming spaces for cultural celebration and collective care.

Program Name:

Migrant Family Rapid Response Support Program

Short Description:

Mayday Space's Migrant Family Rapid Response Program supports immigrant and migrant families in Bushwick facing the destabilizing impacts of ICE enforcement, including a sharp rise in courthouse detentions at sites such as 26 Federal Plaza, where individuals are increasingly arrested immediately following hearings while their cases remain pending. The program combines urgent, case-by-case crisis response — court accompaniment, detention documentation, and emergency financial assistance — with weekly drop-in hours and community education sessions that help migrant and immigrant families access housing, healthcare, legal, and language resources before a crisis hits. Together, the two tracks aim to keep families stable, informed, and connected to trusted networks during an increasingly hostile immigration enforcement climate.

Full Description:

Mayday Space's Migrant Family Rapid Response Program operates on two connected tracks. The first is an urgent, case-by-case response for families directly affected by ICE detention: through partnerships with local immigrant justice organizations, Mayday supports community groups that attend immigration hearings, document potential unlawful detentions, and connect impacted individuals with trusted legal defense teams. A shared emergency assistance fund covers urgent needs — commissary, transportation, and short-term rent stabilization — for families who lose a primary earner to sudden detention.

The second track is an ongoing, weekly presence for the broader migrant and immigrant community: drop-in support hours plus two monthly community education sessions (reaching an estimated 20–40 participants per gathering) offer multilingual guidance on housing, school enrollment, healthcare, transportation, and trusted legal referrals. Trained volunteers provide interpretation, case follow-up, and emotional support, while Know-Your-Rights trainings and community briefings build the information base families need before a crisis occurs. Outreach for both tracks runs through shelters, schools, community organizations, and word-of-mouth networks.

Over the project period, Mayday aims to directly support 30 families affected by detention through case documentation and legal referrals within the program's first three months, while the weekly drop-in and education sessions are projected to reach more than 100 additional community members over the full year. Together, the two tracks give Bushwick's immigrant and migrant neighbors both an emergency lifeline during moments of crisis and a reliable, trusted entry point for support before one occurs.

Who It Serves:

The program serves two overlapping groups. Families and individuals directly impacted by ICE detention in New York City — often left without warning when a household member is detained at a courthouse or check-in — receive court accompaniment, case documentation, legal referrals, and emergency financial support. More broadly, the program serves migrant and immigrant families in Bushwick who take part in weekly drop-in hours and community education sessions, alongside volunteers and service partners who gather in a shared, multilingual space with interpretation, childcare-friendly accommodations, and peer-led discussion.

As participants become more engaged, they are encouraged to take on leadership roles — supporting outreach, co-facilitating sessions, and assisting other families — building community capacity beyond what staff and partner organizations alone could provide. Over time, these relationships grow into lasting mutual-aid networks that extend past the grant period, reducing isolation and strengthening the neighborhood's collective ability to respond to future immigration enforcement actions.

Needs Statement:

Recent increases in federal immigration enforcement have created an urgent crisis for immigrant communities in New York City. At courthouse locations such as 26 Federal Plaza, individuals are increasingly detained immediately following hearings, even while their cases remain pending — leaving families without warning and at heightened risk of sudden income loss, housing instability, and further immigration consequences. Nationally, incidents involving federal immigration officers, including fatal encounters and sudden detentions, have intensified fear and uncertainty across immigrant communities, a pattern reflected in Bushwick and neighboring parts of Brooklyn.

These disruptions rarely stay contained to one household: language barriers, limited access to trusted legal information, and the complexity of the immigration system compound the crisis for families, elders, and children who must navigate check-ins, court dates, and enforcement actions largely on their own. Without rapid, community-based support — mutual aid, emergency assistance, translation, system navigation, and connections to legal services — more families face destabilization and isolation just when they most need a trusted network.

Mayday Space's Migrant Family Rapid Response Program addresses both the immediate and the systemic dimensions of this need: direct crisis response for families experiencing detention, and ongoing education and relationship-building so that neighbors know where to turn and are prepared before a crisis hits. The project centers the leadership and knowledge of directly impacted communities, ensuring that both tracks are shaped by the people most affected.

Goals & Outcomes:

Mayday's goals are to provide timely, direct support to families affected by ICE detention while building longer-term community resilience and information networks. Within the program's first three months, Mayday aims to support 30 directly impacted families through case documentation, legal referrals, and emergency financial assistance. Across the full project period, weekly drop-in hours and twice-monthly community education sessions will reach more

than 100 additional community members with Know-Your-Rights information and referrals to housing, health, and legal resources.

Outcomes will be measured through the number of families supported, emergency funds and referrals distributed, cases documented, and community members participating in drop-in hours and trainings, along with feedback from participants and partner organizations on whether sessions increased awareness, preparedness, and confidence navigating immigration-related systems.

Long-term outcomes include greater stability for families facing immigration-related emergencies, stronger connections between community members and legal/social service systems, increased resident leadership in mutual aid efforts, and a more coordinated, prepared immigrant defense network capable of responding to future enforcement actions.

Evaluation Methods:

Mayday Space evaluates the program through a combination of quantitative tracking and qualitative feedback. Quantitative measures include the number of families receiving direct crisis support, types of assistance provided, legal and social-service referrals made, and attendance at weekly drop-in hours and monthly education sessions. Qualitative evaluation draws on participant feedback — whether families felt more informed, connected to resources, and confident navigating immigration, housing, and health systems — along with input from volunteers and partner organizations on community relationships built through the program, including participants who took on leadership roles.

Findings from attendance records, service documentation, and partner and participant feedback inform ongoing program improvements, the following year's needs assessment, and a year-end report shared with Mayday Space's Board of Directors and funders.

Partnerships:

The program is grounded in partnerships with immigrant justice organizations, legal defense and legal service providers, mutual aid networks, and community-based organizations across New York City. These partners provide court accompaniment, detention documentation, legal referrals and pro-bono representation connections, translation and interpretation, and Know-Your-Rights education, bringing specialized knowledge in immigration law, family support, and language access that Mayday alone could not offer.

Mayday also works alongside neighborhood-based organizers and mutual aid networks to keep both the crisis-response and drop-in/education tracks rooted in the needs and leadership of directly impacted communities. Partner organizations lead outreach, resource navigation, and education sessions, while Mayday provides space, coordination, and connections to broader neighborhood networks — together building a community-based support system that combines immediate relief with longer-term immigrant defense infrastructure.

Program Name:

Liberation Sounds Music Production Program

Short Description:

Liberation Sounds is a structured, multi-month music production and sound arts program for Queer, BIPOC, immigrant, and working-class youth and young adults.

Full Description:

Cohorts consist of twelve interactive workshops. Sessions include beat-making, sampling, songwriting, recording, sound design, and collaborative composition. Guest teaching artists will lead specialized workshops in music production, live performance, and recording techniques. Participants will also receive guided studio sessions in partnership with community recording spaces to practice their skills in professional environments.

Each cohort will culminate in a free public showcase where participants present their original music to friends, family, and neighbors. Workshops are designed to be playful, accessible, and community-centered, combining technical learning with group activities, peer collaboration, and creative exploration.

By offering consistent mentorship, hands-on learning, and public performance opportunities, Liberation Sounds builds pathways for young people to develop artistic skills, creative confidence, and leadership in community-based arts spaces.

Who It Serves:

Liberation Sounds strengthens community relationships by creating consistent spaces where young people, artists, families, and neighbors come together through shared creative practice. The program emphasizes collaboration through group activities, peer feedback, and collective music-making, allowing participants to build trust, friendships, and a shared artistic identity over time. Guest teaching artists and facilitators develop meaningful mentoring relationships with participants by offering guidance, encouragement, and pathways for further engagement in music and sound arts. Through bilingual and culturally responsive facilitation, the program ensures that participants from diverse language and cultural backgrounds feel welcomed and included. Public showcases provide opportunities for families, friends, and community members to celebrate participants' achievements, fostering intergenerational connection, neighborhood pride, and visibility for emerging artists. Volunteers and partner organizations further strengthen these relationships through outreach, event support, and collaborative program development. Over time, participants are encouraged to return as volunteers, facilitators, and community leaders, expanding peer networks and reinforcing community ownership of the program. In this

way, Liberation Sounds serves not only as a music education program, but as a space for connection, shared learning, and collective celebration.

Needs Statement:

Bushwick is home to many Queer, BIPOC, immigrant, and working-class young people who face limited access to affordable arts education and creative technology training. Music production programs are often cost-prohibitive, leaving many youth without opportunities to explore sound, storytelling, and digital creativity in supportive environments. Without accessible creative spaces, young people miss opportunities to build confidence, express their identities, and develop meaningful connections with peers and mentors. Liberation Sounds addresses this gap by providing free, culturally responsive music production education rooted in community care, collaboration, and creative exploration. The program combines hands-on technical training with mentorship, peer learning, and public performance opportunities, allowing participants to develop artistic skills, digital literacy, and confidence while building relationships with professional artists and a supportive creative community. Success is reflected in participants creating and sharing original work, developing their creative voices, and returning to the program as mentors and community leaders. Over time, Liberation Sounds helps strengthen a community-led ecosystem where youth creativity, cultural expression, and collective learning can thrive in North Brooklyn.

Goals & Outcomes:

Liberation Sounds goals are to expand access to free, culturally responsive music production education for Queer, BIPOC, immigrant, and working-class community members while building participants' technical skills, confidence, and creative pathways. Mayday Space aims to provide structured music production workshops that engage participants in hands-on learning, including composition, audio technology, digital production skills, and exploration of music traditions through a community-centered lens. The program will support participants in creating original work, developing their artistic practice, and participating in public showcases that share their creative achievements with the broader community.

Expected outcomes include increased access to creative technology education, improved music production and digital literacy skills, stronger creative confidence, and deeper connections among participants, teaching artists, and community members. Mayday will measure success through participant enrollment, attendance and retention, completion of workshops, participant-created work, public presentations, and feedback from students and teaching artists.

Longer-term outcomes include participants returning as peer mentors, continuing creative careers or artistic practices, and contributing to a sustainable network of QTBIPOC artists and community leaders connected to Mayday Space. Through this approach, Liberation Sounds

strengthens an accessible, community-rooted model for arts education and creative empowerment in North Brooklyn.

Evaluation Methods:

The success of Liberation Sounds is evaluated through a combination of quantitative tracking and qualitative feedback that measures both participant growth and community impact. Mayday Space tracks enrollment, attendance, participant retention, workshop completion, and engagement in creative activities to assess program reach and consistency. Student progress is evaluated through the development of original music projects, increased technical skills in music production and audio technology, participation in showcases or public presentations, and the ability to apply skills learned throughout the program.

Qualitative evaluation is conducted through participant feedback, conversations with teaching artists, and reflections on students' experiences, confidence, and sense of belonging within the creative community. Mayday also evaluates the program's broader impact by tracking ongoing engagement, including whether participants return as volunteers, mentors, or collaborators and whether they continue developing their artistic practices beyond the program. These evaluation methods help ensure Liberation Sounds remains responsive to community needs while building a long-term pathway for QTBIPOC artists and young creatives to develop skills, leadership, and connection.

Project Budget:

Teaching artist fees | 2200 | Facilitators and guest workshop leaders

Space costs | 800 | Utilities and classroom use

Workshop supplies | 700 | Audio materials and teaching tools

Studio session costs | 700 | Discounted recording space access

Community events | 400 | Public showcase support

Volunteer support | 200 | Meals and stipends

Total | 5000

Partnerships:

Liberation Sounds was supported through partnerships with local artists, teaching artists, cultural practitioners, and community-based organizations that share Mayday Space's commitment to accessible, culturally responsive arts education. Teaching artists and facilitators, including QTBIPOC musicians and producers, played a central role in developing and leading workshops that provided participants with technical training, mentorship, and connections to creative pathways. These artist partnerships ensured that the program's curriculum reflected the lived experiences, cultural histories, and creative practices of the communities served.

Mayday also collaborated with community partners and its broader neighborhood network to support outreach, participant engagement, and public showcases. Through relationships with local artists, performers, and organizers, Liberation Sounds connected participants to a larger ecosystem of creative and social justice communities in Brooklyn. These partnerships helped create opportunities for participants to share their work, build professional relationships, and see music production as a tool for cultural expression, collective healing, and community-building.

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Since establishing its permanent home in Bushwick in 2014, Mayday Space has pursued a long-term strategy of building the infrastructure needed for grassroots movements, artists, and community organizations to thrive. Created through consultation with Brooklyn-based organizers and community groups, Mayday was developed in response to the lack of affordable, mission-aligned spaces where residents could organize, create, and build collective power. By providing venue space, equipment, materials, and technical resources at low or no cost, Mayday reduces barriers to participation and strengthens the capacity of organizations working in mutual aid, political education, arts and culture, and movement-building. This infrastructure-based approach remains central to Mayday's strategy, supporting more than 250 annual events—including strategy retreats, youth programs, performances, art builds, film screenings, teach-ins, and community festivals—that serve as platforms for civic engagement, creative expression, and community leadership.

A key part of Mayday's strategy is using culturally rooted arts education as a pathway for leadership development, cultural preservation, and long-term community connection. In 2021, Mayday launched the People's School for the Sonic Arts, a free music education program designed to address the lack of accessible, culturally relevant arts opportunities for immigrant, undocumented, and BIPOC youth in Bushwick. The program centers Afro-diasporic and Latin American musical traditions, including cumbia, bullerengue, bomba, chicha, música tropical, kompa, and soca, through ensemble-based learning that honors the communal ways these traditions are passed down. By providing free instruction on multiple instruments, mentorship, and opportunities for public performance, the program supports young people in developing artistic skills, cultural knowledge, and leadership pathways. The program currently serves approximately 25 youth, with participants advancing into paid internships and teaching assistant roles, and Mayday's long-term goal is to expand participation to 50 students by 2027.

Mayday's broader strategy also focuses on supporting artists as educators, organizers, and cultural leaders while connecting creative practice to community action. Free visual arts workshops led by Crystal Clarity provide participants with skills in printmaking, banner design, sculpture, and public art that contribute to neighborhood campaigns and cultural events. Liberation Sounds, led by Julia Rocha-Nava, expands this approach by providing QTBIPOC adults with culturally grounded music production education focused on composition, audio technology, and collaborative learning. Since 2023, the program

has trained more than 100 participants and partnered with guest artists to create affirming pathways for creative development. Across all programming, Mayday integrates arts education with organizing, public events, and community partnerships to strengthen neighborhood resilience. Youth ensembles perform at benefit concerts supporting community causes, while annual outdoor festivals and concerts transform public spaces into sites of cultural celebration, resource sharing, and education around immigrant, tenant, environmental, and workers' rights. Through this strategy, Mayday expands access to the arts while building the skills, relationships, and collective power communities need to shape their own cultural futures.

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Our leadership is governed by a Collective of 10 members, a mix of the formal Board of Directors and volunteers who share leadership responsibilities. Each member is a long-time organizer, healer, and/or cultural worker rooted in Bushwick and broader NYC movement spaces.

Beyond paid staff and the Collective, dozens of volunteers and community organizers support our work year-round, co-running over 250 annual events and leading committees such as Bushwick Ayuda Mutua (BAM), a mutual aid initiative of long-time Bushwick residents and newer arrivals dedicated to caring for one another, offering food assistance, toiletries, furniture, medical appointments, and social services while creating third spaces for neighbors to connect.

We currently also have a 12-person "Space Transition Committee" drawing on Collective members, volunteers, and community stakeholders.

Mayday Space's management structure is rooted in collaborative leadership, shared decision-making, and community accountability. The organization is led by a small leadership team that includes an Operations Director, program leadership, a community-based Board of Directors, and the Mayday Collective, which collectively steward the organization's mission, programs, and community space. This management model centers the lived experiences of the immigrant, working-class, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ communities Mayday serves, ensuring that organizational decisions reflect community priorities and needs. Leadership roles held by Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color include the Board President, Programs and Music Director, Grants Manager, and three of four additional board members, who guide organizational strategy, artistic programming, fundraising, partnerships, and public initiatives. Mayday's work is further supported by a dedicated staff team, volunteer collective, and network of community partners, including experienced immigrant rights and housing justice organizers who have led campaigns with organizations such as Make the Road New York, Bushwick Ayuda Mutua, and the Right to Counsel Coalition.

Volunteers contribute to mutual aid efforts, immigration response, trainings, and outreach, while partnerships with tenant unions, legal defense groups, and grassroots coalitions expand the organization's capacity. Through this combination of shared governance, cultural knowledge, and strong community relationships, Mayday ensures that its management practices remain accountable to the people most impacted by the issues it addresses.

Sebastián Angel Romero, Program Lead -- Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro

Sebastián Angel Romero is a Colombian-born musician, composer, teaching artist, and cultural organizer based in New York. His work centers music as a tool for social change and cultural affirmation, with a focus on immigrant, undocumented, and BIPOC communities. He creates original compositions integrating cumbia, bullerengue, porro, and gaita, developed through ensemble workshops and community dialogue. A founding member of Maraca Bruja and performer with Los Mochuelos and Chispa, he has presented at Lincoln Center, Pregones Theater, the Brooklyn Folk Festival, and the North Carolina Folk Festival, among others. Sebastián founded and has directed Escuela Popular de Arte Sonoro at Mayday Space since 2021, building it into a free, year-round bilingual music school serving immigrant and BIPOC youth in Bushwick. He is a collective member of Mayday Space and serves on its board.

Ryan Page, Operations Director

Ryan Page serves as Operations Director of Mayday Space, overseeing day-to-day organizational operations, facilities management, and administrative functions. He has been active in Bushwick mutual aid and food justice initiatives, including Comida Pal Pueblo and Woodbine, and is committed to people-powered movements and collective care. Page has served on Mayday's board since 2023 and joined the staff in an operational capacity as the organization has grown its programming and revenue base.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board List:

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Mayday Space is a collectively managed organization governed by a hands-on Board of Directors that works closely with staff, including the Operations Director, Music Director, Grants Manager, bookkeeper, cleaning crew, and volunteers, to steward the organization's mission and daily operations. The board provides strategic oversight while actively contributing to fundraising, community partnerships, program development, nonprofit compliance, volunteer engagement, finance, and outreach through committee-based leadership, with each member serving on multiple committees. In addition to fulfilling its governance responsibilities, the board regularly supports the implementation of fundraising initiatives, cultivates organizational

partnerships, and helps design community programs and class offerings, ensuring that long-term planning remains closely connected to community needs. Day-to-day operations are led by the full-time Operations Director, Ryan Page, who oversees facilities management, event bookings, financial management and budgeting, fundraising, grant administration, and organizational planning. Drawing on extensive project management experience, financial expertise, and a background in community organizing and electoral campaigns, the Operations Director works alongside staff and board leadership to ensure Mayday Space remains a sustainable, responsive, and mission-driven resource for artists, organizers, and the broader Bushwick community.

FISCAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

FY25 Financial Reports

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-YK9QNUneaTC8lbK8Kc98qvl1681WkRc/view?usp=sharing>

Mayday Space is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has strengthened its fiscal health through strategic planning, diversified fundraising, and careful financial management. While Mayday reported operating deficits of \$98,101 in FY2023 and \$62,774 in FY2024, these deficits were primarily the result of multi-year grant timing under accrual accounting, with grant revenue recognized in an earlier fiscal year while related program expenses were incurred across subsequent years. Despite these planned deficits, Mayday closed FY2024 with \$49,437 in net assets and has maintained clean financial records with no audit findings to date. In FY2025, Mayday's total income increased by 56%, growing from \$158,251 to \$247,627 as new multi-year grants were recognized, resulting in a \$44,693 operating surplus.

In response to rising facility costs, reduced earned revenue from sliding-scale community use of the space, and delays in public funding reimbursements, Mayday has strategically shifted toward a more diversified and sustainable funding model. The organization hired a dedicated Grants Manager to expand institutional funding, strengthen grant management, better pace revenue across fiscal years, and build an operating reserve to support future cash flow needs. Mayday's FY2026 budget projects \$218,750 in revenue and \$212,625 in expenses, maintaining a balanced budget while continuing to invest in community programming and equitable artist compensation. Through its solidarity economy approach, Mayday prioritizes fair pay for artists and educators by providing living wages when possible, directing 75% of tuition revenue from artist-led classes to instructors, compensating guest artists according to W.A.G.E. standards, and using grant support to sustain free arts education programs while ensuring cultural workers are fairly compensated.