



January 2023

Dear Prospective Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming you into our new home. As a coop community, consisting of children and their families, teachers and the physical space, we know that it is important to keep our families apprised of this move and its progress. The design and construction phase of the renovation at 910 Union Street are in process. Our teachers are planning their rooms and eagerly awaiting the new school year in a freshly renovated space.

For many of us, this move evokes a sense of poignancy as well as anticipation and excitement. The red church has been the home for generations of BFS children, families and staff. As we take a step back and reflect on the years that we have been with the school, we recognize that although the red church has been our shelter as we learned and played, home is not a physical space. The home we know is created by the people and our shared belief of how children learn and grow. The teachers, children and families are invaluable parts of Brooklyn Free Space. So, as we bid farewell to the red church, the school lives in each of us who help construct its culture and values.

Our new home is minutes away from many fantastic resources, including Prospect Park, the Brooklyn Library, the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and the Prospect Park Zoo. We will continue our neighborhood explorations and utilize nature to make connections to the world around us. We are a school that supports children in asking questions and leading their own investigations to deepen their learning. We remain the school that sees every child as unique individuals who learn in their own way. Our values will always support diversity and inclusion, so that we can be a community where individuals are able to both accept themselves and others for who they are.

During our renovation process, we are working with two respected local architects. The first is Fred Tang, a former parent of two BFS children, who has, at times, been a member of Steering and a parent liaison to the BFS board. The other is a colleague who designed the recent Maple street school expansion and has been working with us over the New Home search process. Our staff are collaborating closely with the two to bring our vision of the space to life. The new home will have five classrooms, an atelier and library, cozy places and a dedicated gross motor space. At long last, we will also be ADA compliant, furnished with an elevator and larger bathroom spaces. We are thrilled about what is to come and are excited to share renderings and information as they become available. The renovation is mostly cosmetic, and we anticipate, even with contingencies, completing our work well before the beginning of school next September.

Warm Regards,
Oi, Angel, Bob and Deidre