

Welcome to *Borrowed*, stories that start at the library.

We are a narrative podcast from Brooklyn Public Library about superhero librarians, neighborhood stories and what it means to be a free, democratic place in today's changing world.

Each episode dives into a different aspect of library services, highlighting the stories of our librarians and everyday Brooklynites who make the library come alive. We've told stories about libraries during natural disasters, intellectual freedom at the public library, the challenges of homelessness, and NYC's fraught relationship with trash.



How do I listen to *Borrowed*?

You can listen right on our website (bklynlibrary.org/podcasts) by clicking the audio player. Or, subscribe to the podcast on any of the podcast apps on your phone. All you have to do is search for "Borrowed" on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn](#), [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [iHeart Radio](#) or [RadioPublic](#), to name just a few. Then click "subscribe" or "follow" to get new episodes downloaded to your device as soon as they come out. Plus, now you can listen to *Borrowed* on your library's Libby app!

Which episode should I start with?

It depends on what you like!

- For the budding activist: [Something to Offend Everyone](#) or [Decolonizing Dewey](#)
- For the sleuthing archivist: [Oil Spills and Moldy Paper](#) or [Free Brooklyn](#)
- For the social work warrior: [Getting Home](#) or [Showing Up](#)
- For the light-hearted listener: [Good News](#) or [The Secret Lives of Librarians](#)
- For the New York City history buff: [Our Garbage, Ourselves](#) or [Building Brooklyn](#), our five-episode mini-series on four neighborhoods that shaped Brooklyn.

The *Borrowed* Team

Way back in 2018, Chief Librarian Nick Higgins, VP of Marketing Robin Lester Kenton, Press Officer Fritzi Bodenheimer, and Director of Engagement Krissa Corbett Cavouras decided BPL needed a flagship podcast to tell the stories of its many branches and communities. They hired Virginia Marshall to create *Borrowed*, which launched in March 2019. Four years and over 65 episodes later, *Borrowed* is still making (sound) waves!



Originally, there were two hosts and one writer/producer. Now, a rotating team of library professionals contribute to the content and sound of each episode. You hear their names at the end of each episode. Here, we've collected short bios about the people behind the podcast.

Adwoa Adusei (host and writer) is a native New Yorker who has been with BPL since 2015. She should have known she would be a librarian from an early age but tempted fate seeking out titles like artist, curator, dancer, designer, teacher and activist—as a librarian she gets to be all of these and more.

Felice Belle (emeritus host) has performed at The Apollo Theater, Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, and TEDWomen as a poet and playwright. She worked as a Literacy Advisor at BPL's Central Adult Learning Center for five years and was honored to be a co-host for Season One of *Borrowed*.

Fritzi Bodenheimer (content editor and new host) handles press and media relations for Brooklyn Public Library. Previously, she worked in radio as a writer, producer and newscaster.

Krissa Corbett Cavouras (emeritus host and writer) is a librarian by training and a marketer by trade. She served as the Director of Engagement for Brooklyn Public Library's Marketing & Communications team. When she's not working, she reads fiction about complicated women and listens to podcasts about culture, half-heartedly trains for half marathons, and hangs out with her husband and two sons.

Robin Lester Kenton (content editor) is Brooklyn Public Library's VP of Marketing & Communications. Previously, she helped plan and promote NYC's bikeshare system, ran traffic safety campaigns and educated the public about how potholes get filled at the NYC Department of Transportation.

Virginia Marshall (creator, writer, producer and new host) is BPL's Senior Audio Producer. She came to BPL from WBUR, Boston's NPR news station. She also writes fiction and essays.

Damaris Olivo (content editor) is BPL's Director of Communications. She previously worked at the New York State Senate and oversaw Communications for the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Ali Post (writer and new host) is an adult librarian at BPL. She loves thinking about history through sound, and has experience with producing audio stories, organizing oral history projects, and preserving audiovisual archives.

Art, Music & Social Media

Our logo was designed by Meryl Friedman. Billy Libby composed the music on our podcast. Jennifer Proffitt and Ashley Gill advise on social media strategy for the podcast. Almost every member of BPL's Marketing & Communications and Art & Design teams have had a hand in supporting and promoting *Borrowed*!

What people are saying about *Borrowed*

Borrowed won an [Anthem Award](#) for Education, Art & Culture, and has been rated among the best book podcasts by [Podcast Review](#) and [Town & Country](#).

“*Borrowed*, despite its name, feels original. ... The show has moved away from interviews and book reviews to deliver stories sourced from its local community, stories like the history of Black women’s suffrage, why Brooklyn produces so many great writers, and tales from the library itself, asking that question we’ve all been dying to have answered: What do librarians do all day?”

[Alice Florence Orr, Podcast Review](#)

“The genius of the show is how they use the library as a springboard to tell a specific story from an area in Brooklyn.”

[Daniel Stephens, The Guardian](#)

“The podcast really gets into the human stories of the people using the libraries, whether that’s the ‘New Americans’—immigrants who use the library as a resource for immigration advice—or history lessons of notable people, like Clara Whitehill Hunt, an amazing 19th century librarian who made the library accessible for children.”

[Hannah J Davies, BBC](#)

“It’s informative, charming, sweet, funny, and above all else, adds kindling to the love of libraries I’ve had my whole life. I look forward to every new episode!”

[Apple Podcasts review](#)

“Even if you’ve never been to Brooklyn, you will like *Borrowed*. Plus, each episode comes with a reading list. What more could you want?”

[Emily Burack, Town & Country](#)

About *Borrowed*

Our Mission

As a public library podcast rooted in the borough where we are made, one of our main goals is to help you feel more connected to your community. We aim to center the voices of our patrons and our librarians and find stories that challenge your idea of the public library, and of Brooklyn, too.

Accessibility

We have transcripts (and pictures) for all of our episodes on our website (bklynlibrary.org/podcasts). Just click on the detail page for the episode in question.

Contact

Email podcasts@bklynlibrary.org with questions or to get in touch about reviews or interviews. Photographs of our team are available upon request.

Listening Statistics

Steaming: As of February 2023, *Borrowed* has over 65 episodes and over 100,000 unique downloads across the full catalog. Episodes in the last two seasons had an average of 800 downloads in the first week of release, which puts *Borrowed* in the top 5% of all podcasts. Apple Podcasts estimates over 5,000 listeners and 2,000 followers on that platform alone.

Radio: Thanks to our participation in PRX’s Exchange, 12 community and public radio stations have aired 24 of our episodes in Alaska, Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, Maine, New York, Iowa, Washington, and the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma. Through PRX Remix (which also streams on XM radio and TuneIn), 13 of our episodes aired on 36 stations nationwide, plus Antartica! The five episodes in our Building Brooklyn mini-series aired on WFUV’s “Cityscape,” reaching an estimated 10,000 people.