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Brooklyn Public Library Transforms Into Immersive Abolitionist Exhibition This Spring

The Warehouse brings together artist Vic Liu and organizer
Mariame Kaba for a full-branch takeover exploring life beyond mass incarceration.

BROOKLYN, NY – 3/1/2026 – This April, the Brooklyn Public Library's Bedford Branch will undergo a transformation as *The Warehouse*, a groundbreaking exhibition and public program series that invites New Yorkers to imagine what safety, care, and accountability could look like beyond prisons and punishment.

Running from April 4 through June 28, 2026, *The Warehouse* is a collaboration between artist and writer Vic Liu, abolitionist organizer Mariame Kaba, and the Brooklyn Public Library. The project features more than two dozen new, full-scale paintings by Liu that will cover the library's walls, transforming the public space into an immersive exploration of resistance, survival, and possibility.

"To build a world without prisons we must not be afraid to bear witness to the one we live in today. We must be brave enough to look into the abyss and let it change us," says Liu.

The exhibition expands upon Liu's critically acclaimed book *The Warehouse: A Visual Primer on Incarceration*, co-written with James Kilgore. Spatially divided between the library's Children's Wing and Adult Wing, the installation examines both the realities of incarceration and the practices of building community safety without relying on punishment.

The Children's Wing will feature visual work and information design imagining abolition in practice: what care, safety, and accountability look like beyond the prison system. The Adult Wing will showcase histories and practices of resistance inside prisons, grounded in lived experience and collective struggle.

“At a time of rapid growth in immigrant incarceration, it is important for New Yorkers to better understand the prison industrial complex and how it disappears people and ravages communities. We need to imagine a different way forward as a city and country. This exhibition offers an opportunity for visitors to remove the ceiling from their imaginations so that we can better fight against criminalization,” says Kaba.

Beyond the visual exhibition, *The Warehouse* includes an ambitious slate of public programming designed to make abolitionist ideas accessible and actionable:

- Opening Panel (April 4): A conversation on incarceration, resistance, and abolition through art and organizing with Rachel Herzing, James Kilgore, and Vic Liu
- Community Trainings: "ICE Watch," "Jail Support 101," and "Echoes of Incarceration" filmmaking workshops that provide practical skills for community support and documentation
- "Growing Abolition" (Throughout Exhibition): A living sculpture by jackie sumell molded from organic materials in the shape of a prison sink-toilet that will disintegrate over the course of the exhibition, visualizing the transformation abolition demands
- "Talking to Children About Incarceration": A family-focused discussion led by Mariame Kaba
- Inside/Outside Book Club: A book club that crosses prison walls to bring together incarcerated readers at Sing Sing and Rikers Island with members of the public to discuss *The Warehouse*
- Abolitionist Fair (June 27): A closing fair featuring abolitionist organizers imagining a world without carceral systems, including immigrant rights groups and harm reduction organizations. The fair will also feature a market of goods created and sold by formerly incarcerated people

The Warehouse arrives at a critical moment. With over 1.2 million people currently incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails, ICE detaining thousands more in a parallel system of immigration imprisonment, and digital surveillance expanding into schools, neighborhoods, and borders, the carceral state continues to grow even as its failures remain undeniable. Against this backdrop, the exhibition offers both a searing look at these interlocking systems of control and a generous invitation to imagine something different.

All exhibition viewings and public programs are free and open to the public.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATORS

Vic Liu is an artist and writer whose work examines systems of power, incarceration, and resistance. Liu is the co-author and illustrator of *The Warehouse: A Visual Primer on Incarceration*.

Mariame Kaba is an organizer, educator, librarian and curator who has worked to end violence, free people from prisons and jails, and build a just future for over 35 years. She is the co-founder and co-director of Interrupting Criminalization, an abolitionist organization she co-founded with Andrea J. Ritchie in 2018.

Brooklyn Public Library is one of the nation's largest library systems, serving 2.7 million residents across Brooklyn's diverse communities.

Exhibition Details:

The Warehouse
Brooklyn Public Library, Bedford Branch
496 Franklin Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11238
April 4 – June 28, 2026
Free and open to the public

For high-resolution images, interview requests, or additional information, please contact Nadia Tahoun.