‘Culture in Transit’ wins Knight Foundation funding to digitize NYC history

Correction: An earlier version of this post included the New York Public Library as a recipient of the grant funding. It’s actually two of the city’s three public library systems and the nonprofit Metropolitan New York Library Council that received the grant. (3/12/15, 2:29 p.m.)

New York libraries are the beneficiaries of grant funding from the Knight News Challenge on Libraries. (http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/02/budgets-funding/knight-foundation-news-challenge-on-libraries-winners-announced-ala-midwinter-2015/#_)

The funds will enable the Brooklyn Public Library, the Queens Library and the Metropolitan New York Library Council (http://metro.org/) to start digitizing their collections and facilitate the digitization of New Yorker’s private memories, which they can choose to share with the library collection or not, according to a press release. The program will be called “Culture in Transit (http://www.knightfoundation.org/grants/201550377/).

“Culture in Transit will democratize the digitization process and preserve valuable artifacts of New York City’s heritage that might otherwise be lost,” said the Brooklyn Public Library’s Ivy Marvel in the release, who oversees special collections. (She also created the wonderful Brooklyn Collection Tumblr (http://thebrooklyncollection.tumblr.com/).)

We recently wrote about the Brooklyn Public Library’s digitization facilities (http://technical.ly/brooklyn/2015/01/06/convert-analog-media-digital-brooklyn-public-library/) and a local entrepreneur who invented a less expensive way to digitize film (http://technical.ly/brooklyn/2015/02/03/kinograph-matthew-epler/). We have also written about the library’s efforts to digitize the complete Brooklyn Daily Eagle (http://technical.ly/brooklyn/2014/04/21/full-run-original-brooklyn-daily-eagle-now-digitized/).

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