

# The Wolfe Institute

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*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,  
presents*

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## Bed-Stuy in Crisis



*1962 image of parishioners with renowned minister, Rev. Gardner C. Taylor,  
now retired pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Bed-Stuy*

AP

Through the latter half of the twentieth century, Bedford Stuyvesant was one of the nation's premiere black urban communities. It was called a ghetto by outsiders. In 1964, it exploded in riots, causing remaining whites to depart. But five generations of Black Americans lovingly called Bed-Stuy home and embraced it with pride. "Bed-Stuy, do or die," they would say. Now many believe Bed-Stuy is in fact dying. As black renters are being forced out and black homeowners are tempted to sell, the complexion of the community has been changing at an astounding clip, even by the standards of a rapidly gentrifying borough. What does this mean for Brooklyn? Activists say realtors are using illegal means to get long-time renters to leave their units. What can be done about that? Optimists say many middle class blacks are also moving in and will help make Bed-Stuy a special multiracial venue. Is this likely? There is anger in the air. Bed-Stuy die-hards say white newcomers show no appreciation for the neighborhood's history and culture. And some of these critics foresee the worst crime of all: that realtors will change the neighborhood's name.

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**Thursday, November 6, 2014  
6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Glenwood Lounge, 2nd Floor  
Brooklyn College Student Center  
Campus Road and East 27th Street**

**For information:** 718.951.5847 [wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu) **Twitter:** [twitter.com/Wolfe\\_Institute](https://twitter.com/Wolfe_Institute)

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## Bed-Stuy in Crisis

### Speakers:

**Ron Howell**, associate professor of journalism, will moderate the panel. He is writing a book entitled *Boss of Black Brooklyn* about Bertram L. Baker, the late Bed-Stuy resident who in 1948 became Brooklyn's first Black elected official.

**Richard Flateau**, Bed-Stuy native, is the owner of Flateau Realty, Corp. Mr. Flateau is chair of the Economic Development Committee of Community Board 3 that covers Bedford Stuyvesant. He was an economics major at Harvard College and holds an MBA in Finance from NYU.

**Mark Winston Griffith**, a native of Crown Heights, is executive director of the Central Brooklyn-based community organizing group, the Brooklyn Movement Center, and is an activist who has worked for social and economic justice in Central Brooklyn for three decades.

**Jerome Krase**, professor emeritus, is a Brooklyn-born scholar-activist and well-known urban sociologist and author of *Seeing Cities Change: Local Culture and Class* (Ashgate, 2012).

**Judge Betty Staton** '76, a former Family Court Judge, is now president of Brooklyn-based Legal Services NYC, overseeing representation of Bed-Stuy renters alleging illegal expulsion from their apartments.

**Lupe Todd**, a resident of Bed-Stuy for over a decade, is director of communications for Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson. Ms. Todd was formerly a spokesperson for Brooklyn Congressman Hakeem Jeffries.

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