

Subject: High Holy Days at Lab/Shul: Safety, Security & Welcome

Dear Lab/Shul Community,

As we prepare to gather for the High Holy Days, we want to share some important information about safety, security and how we'll welcome you into BMCC this year.

We know that gathering in Jewish community today asks us to hold multiple truths at once: to take security seriously, to recognize the diversity of our community's lived experience regarding safety and security, to remain attentive to the world around us, and at the same time to resist allowing fear to define the spaces we create together.

At Lab/Shul, safety and belonging are not opposites. They are both practices of care.

This year we have strengthened our approach with several overlapping layers of support: professional security consultation, BMCC's House Management and Public Safety teams, trained Lab/Shul staff and volunteers, and our new **SWEPT — Safety and Wellness Engagement Planning Team**. Our SWEPT members, along with the entire Lab/Shul staff, production team and members of our Board of Directors have received specific training in recognizing distress, responding to conflict, and practicing nonviolent de-escalation.

Here's what we need you to know before you arrive:

- **Please enter through the 190 West Street entrance to BMCC.**
DO NOT use the 199 Chambers Street entrance. If you enter at 199 Chambers you will be redirected to walk around to the 190 West Street entrance.
- **BMCC security guards will be stationed at the West Street entrance.** They will check bags and screen attendees using handheld metal-detecting wands.
- Alongside them, **Lab/Shul SWEPT** team members and volunteer greeters will be there to welcome you, answer questions, help keep entry moving smoothly, and serve as a calm, familiar community presence.
- **Once you have been screened, you will receive a wristband** so that you can leave and re-enter as needed without repeating the full screening process.
- **Please do not bring bags that are larger than a backpack or purse.** The less we have to screen, the faster and smoother entry will be for everyone.
- Give yourself **extra time to enter** and cooperate with the BMCC security team as they complete the screening process.

- If something concerns you while you are with us, please tell a SWEPT member, Lab/Shul staff member, production team member or volunteer. They will be wearing orange Lab/Shul lanyards and will be easily identifiable.

We know that people move through spaces in many different ways because of culture, disability, neurodiversity, anxiety, immigration status, racial identity and countless other reasons, and we are committed to treating every person who enters our space with dignity and respect.

We hope all of these measures remain exactly what they are intended to be: precautions that allow us to turn our attention toward what we have actually come together to do: prayer, contemplation, celebration and being in community.

Thank you for your patience, your awareness and your partnership in helping us create a High Holy Day experience grounded in safety and belonging.

Shana Tova,

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Co-Founder & Executive Director

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