

OPEN

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LES



# Welcome

**Open Arts LES** celebrates the dynamic cultural life of the Lower East Side community!

For ten days each October, Open Arts LES is a community-wide arts open house – during which our local cultural organizations invite neighbors to visit and get to know what they do.

All programs are free and many offer unique opportunities to connect with folks making art in the LES.

For 2020, we've updated our guide to LES arts and culture organizations to serve as a year round resource highlighting both grassroots local groups and major institutions in the Lower East Side.

Open Arts LES is a project of FABnyc

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# The 4th Street Photo Gallery

67 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[the4thstreetphotogallery.com](http://the4thstreetphotogallery.com)

The 4th Street Photo Gallery has been home to the non-profit art organization Minority Photographers since 1973. This black-led and founded historical Lower East Side institution has served as a community resource for underrepresented artists, both local and international, for over four decades.

Over its tenure The Gallery has hosted hundreds of exhibiting artists, workshops, screenings, community meetings and events. In recent times the work of the space has shifted to archiving and documenting the rich history of the organization, the neighborhood and it's membership. The space remains open and active as refuge for conversation, networking, mentorship and as a museum of photographic technology and New York history.

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*We're moving into more history keeping and archiving and informal mentorship... creating a network of artists that are supporting each other and collaborating with each other, and making sure that these connections are still alive in the community. - Kendra Krueger*



# 6th & B Garden

6th Street & Avenue B, New York, NY 10009

[newsite.6bgarden.org](http://newsite.6bgarden.org)

6th & B Garden is a 17,813 square ft. lush, green oasis offering beauty, peace, education and entertainment to local residents and visitors of all ages. The garden contains fruiting trees, flowering shrubs and innumerable herbs, flowers and vegetables. Members cultivate their plots (raised beds of soil) and stage programs of crafts, horticultural/science workshops, culinary events, films, multicultural festivals, as well as musical and theatrical performances from around the world.

One of the garden's annual events includes Typewritten Tales (since 2015) -- a story sharing initiative which invites local residents and visitors, strangers and friends, young and old, to type up personal memories and hopes for the Lower East Side on a typewriter. The stories are displayed on clotheslines, shared via social media, read aloud, and archived via an LES Zine. The initiative also features a curated lineup of talented local writers who read their work during the event.



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# ABC No Rio

107 Suffolk Street, #305 New York, NY 10002 (mail only)

[abcnorio.org](http://abcnorio.org)

For 40 years ABC No Rio has been a multi-disciplinary arts center where people shared resources and ideas to impact society, culture, and community in an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual support.

Our gallery and performance space was founded by artists committed to an engaged culture that promotes critical analysis and an expanded vision of possibility for our lives and the lives of our neighborhoods, cities, and societies. We've retained these values to the present. Events included exhibitions, poetry readings, performance, concerts, screenings, forums and workshops, and our public facilities included a zine library, darkroom, screenprinting shop, and computer center.

In 2016 ABC No Rio vacated its building in advance of demolition and the construction of a new facility. During this period ABC No Rio continues "in exile" at other venues and in collaboration with other organizations, providing a renewed focus towards collaborative work that brings ABC No Rio back to its roots - ABC No Rio was founded as a project of the 1970s artist group Collaborative Projects.



# Abrons Arts Center

466 Grand Street, New York, NY 10002

[abronsartscenter.org](http://abronsartscenter.org)

Abrons Arts Center is a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts. A core program of the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential to a free and healthy society. Through performance presentations, exhibitions, education programs and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

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*I think the relationship to the Lower East Side, and all the incredible cultural ecosystems that have been born and thrive here, definitely inform what we curate and what we produce. I think... how can artistic practice serve the public good, has always been forefront.*

*I definitely consider us to be an all ages venue, a public space, and I think that this space feels accessible to to all kinds of creative thinkers. - Ali Rosa-Salas*



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# Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company

70 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[alphaomegadance.org](http://alphaomegadance.org)

Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company creates, performs, and educates through the art of dance. We explore, celebrate, and provoke thoughts while connecting cultures and bridging audiences to contribute to life's infinite expressions. Under the artistic direction of Enrique Cruz DeJesus, the organization continues to build audiences by delivering performances by our troupe of professional dancers that are energetic, uplifting, cultural, passionate, and all-around entertaining experiences.

Additional organizational programming includes arts education, a young adult dance workshop, choreography lab for seniors, as well as artist residencies providing technical assistance opportunities and a platform for the presentation of multi-disciplined performing artists.

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*I encourage the community to just stop by and ask questions... I have the TV monitor that says everything that we have in the front, and people will stare... I usually go like this (beckons) - come in. Maybe they'll come in, ask a question or two. It's not that complicated...*

*We are a whole little homegrown organization that is providing something that was provided for us. It was provided to me. Now it's my turn to provide it to you.*  
- Enrique Cruz de Jesus



# Anthology Film Archives

32 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10003

[anthologyfilmarchives.org](http://anthologyfilmarchives.org)

Anthology Film Archives is an international center for the preservation, study, and exhibition of film and video, with a particular focus on independent, experimental, and avant-garde cinema.

Opened in 1970 by Jonas Mekas, Jerome Hill, P. Adams Sitney, Peter Kubelka, and Stan Brakhage. Anthology has grown far beyond its original concept to encompass film and video preservation; the formation of a reference library containing the world's largest collection of books, periodicals, stills, and other paper materials related to avant-garde cinema; and a remarkably innovative and eclectic film exhibition program.

Anthology screens more than 900 programs annually, preserves an average of 25 films per year (with 900 works preserved to date), publishes books and DVDs, and hosts numerous scholars and researchers.



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# Art Loisaida Foundation

608 East 9th Street #15, New York, NY 10009 (mail only)

[artistasdeloisaida.org](http://artistasdeloisaida.org)

Art Loisaida Foundation grew out of an artist collaborative, Artistas de Loisaida, which was formed by three artist friends (Mario Bustamante, Carolyn Ratcliffe, and Robert Slaughter) in 1995 when we launched two shows simultaneously in conjunction with Earth Celebrations' *Rites of Spring* Pageant. We then proceeded to take on more exhibits and presented our work in various locations throughout New York City including Cork Gallery, Avery Fisher Hall, and Lincoln Center for 10 years.

Artistas de Loisaida, an artists' collaborative, was merged into Art Loisaida Foundation by Carolyn Ratcliffe (Artistic Director), Mario Bustamante and Onno de Jong (our current president) in 2008 and continues to put on an average of six visual art/multidisciplinary events every year. It hosts artist exhibits, art slams, multidisciplinary performance events and holds children's workshops using art to teach about environment and healthy food.

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*We have a major concern about what happens to the environment and our neighborhood. The environment has always been a focus with Art Loisaida - how we care for it, how to engage neighbors to help care for it. How to have a better, healthier life. - Carolyn Ratcliffe*



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# Artists Alliance Inc.

107 Suffolk Street #411, New York, NY 10002

[artistsallianceinc.org](http://artistsallianceinc.org)

Artists Alliance Inc (AAI) is dedicated to launching, strengthening, and advancing the vision of emerging and underrepresented artists and curators through fully-funded residencies, paid exhibition opportunities, and commissioned projects. Rooted in the Lower East Side (a long-standing epicenter of creative experimentation and cultural diversity) and in NYC at-large, AAI focuses on cultivating art practices that challenge the way we experience ourselves, our communities, and our world. Through three initiatives—Cuchifritos Gallery, LES Studio Program, Public Works—AAI widens the audience for contemporary art and encourages public dialogue using art as a catalyst.

Since its founding in 1999, AAI has operated within two buildings of cultural significance: Clemente Soto Velez Education & Cultural Center and Essex Market. Through the location of its programs and diverse advisory board, artists, curators, and volunteers, AAI demonstrates the connections between art and life; addresses financial and perceptual barriers to art access; comments on the production and distribution of knowledge; and reflects on the circumstances that shape it.

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*The majority of our programs are accessible through open calls. No model is perfect, but we feel like that is one of the more democratic models for people to access our opportunities. - Jodi Waynberg*



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# Arts For Art

107 Suffolk Street #300, New York, NY 10002

[artsforart.org](http://artsforart.org)

Arts For Art is dedicated to serving a diverse community of artists and audiences in music, dance, poetry and visual arts that utilizes improvisation as a way to express a larger, more positive American dream of inclusion and freedom. We work to promote and advance FreeJazz—an American indigenous art form in which improvisation is principle. FreeJazz embodies music, dance, poetry, and visual arts and is recognized for its variety of highly developed and personalized improvisational languages.

AFA works not only to preserve the legacy of Free Jazz, but to ensure a vital future through its reimagination by new generations of artists. Spearheaded by the internationally renowned Vision Festival, AFA's programming brings together multiple generations of vibrant, diverse and highly skilled artists.

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*You play free jazz on the street and everyone gets it. This idea that it's elitist is nonsense...*

*The whole thing about the music, this 'free' thing is it's not about just playing. Some people think 'free' is just blasting out. That's an element of freedom... but it's really the freedom to play the music or dance the dance or paint the whatever... to do it as it comes to you without fear. Just really releasing yourself to the creativity that's coming through you. - Patricia Nicholson*



# Bond Street Theatre

2 Bond Street New York, NY 10012 (mail only)

[bondst.org](http://bondst.org)

Bond Street Theatre's mission is to promote peace and mutual understanding through the arts. The Company initiates creative programming that inspires and educates youth, addresses human rights issues, provides tools for healing communities affected by conflict, and promotes the value of the arts in shaping a peaceful future.

Bond Street Theatre responds to humanitarian crises through the uplifting powers of the arts, and has initiated innovative theatre and theatre-based programs in over 50 countries worldwide, reaching populations in refugee camps, schools, shelters, prisons, rural villages and urban centers.

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*We dedicate a significant amount of time to an area so we don't just drop in, do something, and then leave... When we worked in the Balkans and Kosovo, Bosnia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Albania, we work in that area for eight years, creating a show working with different theater groups.*

*- Joanna Sherman*



# Bowery Poetry Club

308 Bowery, New York, NY 10012

[bowerypoetry.com](http://bowerypoetry.com)

Our club, Bowery Poetry, presents, preserves, and develops the oral tradition of poetry via live readings, various forms of social media, publications, educational workshops, and various co-productions with other artistic communities.

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*Find a community of writers you can learn from. Write everywhere. Read everything. There is no one way. There is no one voice. Find your own voice and share it. - Mahogany L. Browne, interview with PEN, 2020*



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# Center for Remembering and Sharing

123 4th Avenue FL2, New York, NY 10003

[crsny.org](http://crsny.org)

Everyone has something precious to give. Our mission is to help you to discover, develop, and use your gift, and to appreciate the joy of sharing it. In 2004, we founded CRS (Center for Remembering & Sharing) with the help of a community of healers, seekers, and artists. While open to everyone, CRS has from the beginning attracted many people from abroad, and has become known for presenting healing, arts, and cultural programs from around the world.

CRS is a spiritual healing and art center. Our mission is guided by A Course in Miracles (ACIM). ACIM says that recognizing that you and your brother are actually one is the only way to experience peace. The Center is home to a thriving Sufi arts community and currently presents visual art exhibitions, the Crossing Boundaries international traditional/experimental concert series, and the Four Seasons in NY: Gems of Japanese Music concert series.

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*I've learned about really listening, not just for the words, but what is it that people really want to do? Because often, people start talking like, 'Oh, I think what I really want to do is not possible. So let me just go with my idea of what is possible.'*

*And we have to listen for beyond that... not limit ourselves unnecessarily. Let's shoot for the stars and then see how it goes. Trust that more is possible than we think that every time. - Christopher Pelham*



# Centre-fuge Public Art Project

[instagram.com/centrefugepublicartproject](https://www.instagram.com/centrefugepublicartproject)

Centre-fuge Public Art Project re-beautifies New York City and encourages the community to express itself in a public forum by refurbishing transitional spaces such as construction sites and derelict walls throughout the five boroughs into public works of art. With the persisting presence of construction cluttering neighborhood streets with garbage containers, pop-up office trailers and scaffolding, Centre-fuge revitalizes drab structures and brings artists together to paint, wheat-paste and uses other artistic mediums to transform eyesores into community focal points.

The goal is to bring together a community, broken apart by congestion and blocked road-ways, with a dose of color and to act as a catalyst for the future pursuit of creativity within those who live in the surrounding area or simply walk or drive by. Centre-fuge allows for any artist, whether unknown or famous, the opportunity to legally display their art to the bustling streets of New York City.

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*Don't be intimidated by art. Don't be intimidated by a museum or a gallery. It could be your first time looking at a piece of art... look at it 10 times, and now you're educated on that piece of art, you have an opinion on that piece of art. And everybody's opinion matters...*

*It was never about how famous you are or how many followers you have... It's always about if we liked your art, and if we thought the community would appreciate your art. - Jonathan Neville*



# Chen Dance Center

[chendancecenter.org](http://chendancecenter.org)

Established in 1979, Chen Dance Center has provided moving experiences in Asian-American history through contemporary dance, artistic creation, arts education and presentation.

Despite the loss of its home-base due to a major fire in January 2020, Chen Dance Center continues programming through online dance classes and workshops for NYC & NYS students.

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*We are making special workshops for schools, free of charge, and this is really important, because since the pandemic, there's been a lot of hostility towards Asian Americans.*

*We just feel that when children know and understand another culture then they are not the "alien other", they are your neighbors. You understand who they are, and why they do certain things that way. It's really to understand how we, as New Yorkers, can find unity. - Dian Dong*



# City Lore

56 East 1st Street, New York, NY 10003

[citylore.org](http://citylore.org)

City Lore is a cultural conservation organization. Founded in 1986, City Lore's mission is to foster New York City—and America's—living cultural heritage through education and public programs. We document, present, and advocate for New York City's grassroots cultures to ensure their living legacy in stories and histories, places and traditions. We work in four cultural domains: urban folklore and history; preservation; arts education; and grassroots poetry traditions. In each of these realms, we see ourselves as furthering cultural equity and modeling a better world with projects as dynamic and diverse as New York City itself.

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*We started on the Lower East Side at first... but for a long time, we were a museum without walls and we did things, all kinds of things, all over the city. And then in 2014, we ended up again in the Lower East Side.*

*The Lower East Side, because it's such an immigrant hub of activity and history, always seemed to be the right place to go. When we looked at other neighborhoods, none of them ever seemed right. It seemed like we should always be on the Lower East Sides, even though we're doing projects all over the city...*

*We're happy to make our space as much of a community space as we possibly can. - Steve Zeitlin and Molly Garfinkel*



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# The Clemente

107 Suffolk Street, New York, NY 10002

[theclementecenter.org](http://theclementecenter.org)

The Clemente Soto Vélaz Cultural & Educational Center Inc. is a Puerto Rican/Latinx multi-arts cultural institution that has demonstrated a broad-minded cultural vision and inclusive philosophy rooted in NYC's Lower East Side/Loisaida.

While focused on the cultivation, presentation, and preservation of Puerto Rican and Latinx culture, we are equally committed to an international latitude, determined to operate in a collaborative and polyphonic manner, to provide subsidized working space and venues to artists, small arts organizations that reflect the cultural diversity of the LES, house and promote original and independent producers, offer support services and sustainability pipelines to our internal and external communities of practice. We are guided by our namesake's legacy of building multigenerational leadership, local power, and mutuality in times of crisis.

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*I think we're very conscious and intentional about the work that we want to produce and exhibit and show. We want to be as radically inclusive as possible.*  
- Libertad Guerra



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# Creative Time

59 E 4th Street Floor 6, New York, NY 10003

[creativetime.org](http://creativetime.org)

Over the past four decades, Creative Time has commissioned and presented ambitious public art projects with thousands of artists throughout New York City, across the country, around the world—and now even in outer space. Our work is guided by three core values: art matters, artists' voices are important in shaping society, and public spaces are places for creative and free expression.

We are acclaimed for the innovative and meaningful projects we have commissioned, from Tribute in Light, the twin beacons of light that illuminated lower Manhattan six months after 9/11, to bus ads promoting HIV awareness, to Paul Chan's production of *Waiting for Godot* in New Orleans, and much more. In partnership with a variety of well-known cultural institutions and community groups, we have commissioned art in unique landmark sites from the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Governors Island, and the High Line, to neglected urban treasures like the Lower East Side's historic Essex Street Market, Coney Island, and New Orleans's Lower 9th Ward.

We are committed to presenting important art for our times and engaging broad audiences that transcend geographic, racial, and socioeconomic barriers.



# Danspace Project

131 E 10th Street, New York, NY 10003

[danspaceproject.org](http://danspaceproject.org)

Danspace Project presents new work in dance, supports a diverse range of choreographers in developing their work, encourages experimentation, and connects artists to audiences.

For 45 years, Danspace Project has supported a vital community of contemporary dance artists in an environment unlike any other in the United States. Located in the historic St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, Danspace shares its facility with the Church, The Poetry Project, and New York Theatre Ballet. Danspace Project's Commissioning Initiative has commissioned over 570 new works since its inception in 1994.



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# Dixon Place

161A Chrystie Street, New York, NY 10002

[dixonplace.org](http://dixonplace.org)

An artistic incubator since 1986, Dixon Place is a Bessie and Obie Award-winning nonprofit institution committed to supporting the creative process by presenting original works of theater, dance, music, puppetry, circus arts, literature and visual art at all stages of development. Presenting over 1,000 creators a year, this local haven inspires & encourages diverse artists of all stripes and callings to take risks, generate new ideas and consummate new practices. The artist's experience is given top priority through our professional atmosphere and remuneration, and their process is enhanced through the reaction of our adventurous audiences. Dixon Place is a local haven for creativity as well as an international model for the open exploration of the process of creation.

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*And so there's been, you know, a lot of people going through, like that first first step kind of thing... but we also have a lot of mid career artists who need a place to work on new ideas and really try stuff out. The difference now is just in the new theater, we have really professional production values, we're a state of the art space, so that's the biggest difference, of course, from the living room, where there were clip-on lights with a homemade dimmer that my father made.. - Ellie Covan*



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# Dorill Initiative

[dorill.org](http://dorill.org)

Dorill Initiative is a multidisciplinary arts organization committed to empowering youth to tell their stories and transform communities. Dorill continues to live by our mantra #LoveThroughArt by remaining committed to our mission: to engage students through artistic and creative expression, academic enrichment, and community engagement to ensure student success artistically, academically, and professionally. We train our youth to develop a unique voice through literary, visual and performing arts education. Our goal is to help each young artist develop a deeper understanding of self, and advance their artistic capacity.

Dorill's Saturday Arts Program is a free seven-hour curated multidisciplinary arts education program held at the Lower East Side Girls Club every Saturday for two semesters. The program focused on art composition as a bridge between the arts and community engagement. NYC Youth between the ages of 9 and 18 years old are invited to participate. Summer Arts Program is a four-week multidisciplinary arts program which fosters engagement and exposure to the arts for youth between the ages of 10 and 18 years old.

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*Even though we're an arts organization, our goal isn't to transform these kids to, you know, be on Broadway or work in the TV or film industry. We're working to have a more well rounded and whole person, a more whole human.*  
- Ebony Sojourner



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# Downtown Art

70 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[downtownart.org](http://downtownart.org)

Downtown Art (DTA) is a cultural/community center committed to supporting creative projects which help build community, strengthen equity, and support artists whose practice is centered in local engagement.

Under the leadership of theater artist Ryan Gilliam since 1990, Downtown Art has an extensive history of working with youth to create performances, festivals, and other special events on East 4th Street. The company hosts a broad range of community and cultural events, and is a home for FABnyc programs.



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# Duo Multicultural Arts Center

62 East 4th Street New York, NY 10003

[duotheater.org](http://duotheater.org)

Duo Multicultural Arts Center (DMAC) has a rich and diverse history. Originally built in 1889, the space has hosted numerous endeavors by notable artists, including John Philip Sousa and Andy Warhol. In 2012, Duo Multicultural Arts Center, in conjunction with Rod Rodgers Dance Studio, won the prestigious Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award, issued by the New York Landmarks Conservancy. Today, DMAC operates space for artistry and innovation, housing new work in dance, visual art, film, theater and music.



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# Earth Celebrations

638 East 6th Street, New York, NY 10009

[earthcelebrations.com](http://earthcelebrations.com)

Earth Celebrations was founded as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization on the Lower East Side of New York City in 1991, by social action artist Felicia Young, to engage communities to generate ecological and social change through the arts. For the past 30 years our programs have applied the inspirational power of the arts to build community, collaboration and action on climate change, water quality, river restoration, waste management, and the preservation of species, habitats, nature, gardens, parks, and a healthy urban environment. Our Save Our Gardens Project (1991-2005) utilized the transformative power of the arts and a large-scale annual theatrical pageant to build a grassroots local and citywide garden preservation coalition effort that led to the preservation of hundreds of community gardens in New York City.

Our current Ecological City: Cultural & Climate Solutions Action Project engages gardeners, artists, organizations and residents to co-create a theatrical pageant to bring together and celebrate climate solution initiatives throughout the community gardens, neighborhood and East River Park Waterfront.

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*I feel this is a joyous affirmation. It's affirming the positive and I always feel that the process is as important as the goal we're trying to achieve. Just by engaging people to work together through this collaborative process and creative, cultural form of expression is, you know, such a positive impact. - Felicia Young*



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# East Village Art View

111 3rd Avenue, #15H, New York, NY 10003

[juliajusto.com/east-village-art-view](http://juliajusto.com/east-village-art-view)

Founded in 2018 by artist Julia Justo, East Village Art View is an inclusive exhibition space in a NYC apartment. It uses the traditional format of a gallery setting to mitigate and confront systemic problems of exclusiveness in the arts. It seeks to provide a platform for presentation of projects by overlooked and marginalized communities as well as to create dialogue between artists and audiences on a global stage.



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# East Village Community Coalition

143 Avenue B - Simplex, New York, NY 10009

[evccnyc.org](http://evccnyc.org)

The East Village Community Coalition works to preserve the unique vibe of the East Village through our retail diversity, preservation and sustainability initiatives. EVCC publishes the popular *Get Local Shopping Guide* to foster the diverse independent shops and services that are an essential part of life in the East Village, and responded to the COVID-19 crisis by creating the *WhatsOpenEV.com* online map.

To highlight the impact of commercial real estate pressures on our neighborhood, we collaborate with photographers James and Karla Murray on their annual storefront photography and oral history workshops, and with the cross-disciplinary designers of Flint Collective on site-specific storefront installations.

Each of our neighborhood's historic buildings has a story to tell. EVCC works with our preservation organization partners to expand Historic Districts and Individual Landmarks protections in our community, so these stories may live on for future generations. EVCC champions human-powered transportation as the best way to appreciate our neighborhood.

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*Arts are so critical to our community. In the East Village, we have a lot of theatres and performance venues. Other than Broadway, can you think of a neighborhood that has this many? No. You really can't. - Laura Sewell*



# Educational Alliance Art School

197 East Broadway, New York, NY 10002 (mail only)

[mannycantor.org/art](http://mannycantor.org/art)

For more than a century, Educational Alliance Art School has been a platform of opportunity by which New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds have pursued creative expression, skill acquisition, and arts appreciation.

Seminal artists—including revolutionary American sculptors Chaim Gross and Louise Nevelson, as well as the great Abstract Expressionist painter Mark Rothko—have served as students and faculty here, and today, the Art School at Manny Cantor Center is one of New York City’s premier community art schools, with an expansive selection of classes and workshops to choose from.

Whether in person or via Zoom, our classes feature personalized instruction in a small-group setting. We are committed to serving the greatest diversity of students, out of our belief that everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, or socio-economic status, should have the opportunity for self-expression and lifelong learning.

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*Our commitment is to everyone. Our tagline used to be “Everyone is Welcome Here.” Now we’ve changed it to “You Belong Here.” - Susie Walter*



# FABnyc

61 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[fabnyc.org](http://fabnyc.org)

FABnyc is a team of artists and organizers working to preserve, sustain, and grow the cultural vibrancy of the Lower East Side.

FABnyc was founded in 2001 by a coalition of cultural and community nonprofits on East 4th Street to save their homes. Today our commitment to sustaining the cultural character and diversity of the community extends across the LES—from 14th Street to Canal, Bowery to the East River.

We work in partnership with the community, bringing artists and arts strategies to fight both physical and cultural displacement, build collective power and collaboration, increase equity and access to cultural resources and public space, and support local resiliency and community health.

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*In the Lower East Side, we've been hit with decades of gentrification and displacement... communities that have historically been marginalized have been pushed even further...*

*I think arts and culture has to choose - that there's no sidelines here, no neutral. We're either supporting this destruction, and just by doing nothing we are supporting it.. or we're actively trying to rebuild a sense of community, an inclusive community, one where everyone knows they belong. - Ryan Gilliam*



# First Street Green

33 E 1st Street, New York, NY 10003 (physical location)

[firststreetgreenpark.org](http://firststreetgreenpark.org)

Since 2008, First Street Green has converted a derelict building lot at 33 East 1st Street in Manhattan into an open art space and garden serving the Lower East Side community. Working with NYC Parks and Partnership for Parks, FSG has successfully incorporated the lot into First Park. After collaborating with the BMW Guggenheim Lab in 2010 to hold a series of visioning workshops with the community, FSG launched its first season of cultural programming on Earth Day in 2011 with a public sculpture.

Today, FSG provides ongoing cultural activity in First Park by engaging with artists, community, and cultural groups through programs that activate this public space. Each year volunteers and artists gather to host events, art workshops and continue with park's stewardship and beautification efforts. To date, FSG has hosted more than 300 events in the park and is looking to provide a community resource, even more, going forward.

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*If you are an organization or an individual, and you have a great positive idea, that's what we want in our space. We want our space being activated by the entire community and bringing in as much positive energy...especially right now.*  
- Jonathan Neville



FAB

# FRIGID New York

85 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[frigidnewyork.info](http://frigidnewyork.info)

FRIGID New York's continuing mission is to seek out new art, new artists, and new audiences. We do this by creating an accessible community of varied voices that value collaboration, resourcefulness, diversity, and innovation. We provide a home for independent theater artists, with a focus on voices that require amplification. We nurture their development and we help to establish their careers by promoting their work to local, national, and international audiences.

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*I think the biggest takeaway from 2020 is that the people in charge don't always know what they're doing. And the ways that people have evolved to do things are not always the right ways. So if you have an idea to start something, do it. By all means, do your research. But new ways of doing things are important, old ways of doing things are always evolving.*

*Everybody that tells you that they know how to do something - they don't necessarily know. So look around, pay attention, figure out where you can do it better. - Erez Ziv*



# Gene Frankel Theatre

24 Bond Street, New York, NY 10012

[genefrankeltheatre.com](http://genefrankeltheatre.com)

The Gene Frankel Theatre has remained steadfast since Gene Frankel founded the theatre in 1949; finding and cultivating an audience that can share with us the discovery and excitement of theatre. Currently, the Gene Frankel Theatre is operated by Executive /Artistic Director Gail Thacker & Associate Artistic Director Thomas R. Gordon.

We are looking to give a home to artists that cultivate a theater that speaks not only of a socio-political change – but a personal change, the only truly manageable change that can lead to a new and better social, political, economic world. The work that has come from this venue for the last seventy-one years has had civil rights and progressive thinking at its core. Today this is more relevant and necessary than ever. We are looking to reach out to our community and invite its people in their whole to celebrate new thinking, new ideas and a deeply emotional positive change.

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*I'm very old school. I call people up. 'I saw your work. Would you like to come over to the Gene Frankel Theatre?..' or I'm talking to someone who I know or I just met, and they tell me about something and I'll say, 'Can I read it? Let's talk, hey, let's get together..' It's very old school. But I like to meet people feel their energy, know their work, and work on it on that level. - Gail Thacker*



# GOH Productions

309 East 4th Street, Suite 3B, New York NY 10009

[gohproductions.org](http://gohproductions.org)

Seven Loaves/GOH Productions is a non profit arts organization founded in 1974 in the Lower East Side. Bonnie Sue Stein became director in 1982. GOH works with artists whose work is not easily categorized, and has toured Loisaida projects worldwide, and brought artists from around the world to NY.

The original Seven Loaves was a coalition of seven artists' groups expanded later: Lower East Side Print Shop, Black Maria, Kenkeleba House, CHARAS, Quality of Life Magazine, East River Amphitheater, Musicians Unlimited, Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre, East Village Dance Project (EVDP), Art in Odd Places (festival along 14th Street) and multimedia artist, Carrie Beehan /Trystette. Three organizations: Seven Loaves, Adopt a Building, and CHARAS, took over the abandoned P.S. 64 at 605 East 9th St in the early 80s, and developed El Bohio Community Center, until 2001, when they were evicted by the city. EVDP and GOH founded Avenue C Studio in 2011, as a dance and movement development space on the corner of East 4th St. GOH Productions receives support from City, State and Federal grants; as well as several foundations and private donors.

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*I always tell people... I learned a lot of lessons the hard way. But the only thing that you can expect is not to expect what you expect. - Bonnie Stein*



FAB

# Green Map System

292 E 3rd Street #1A New York, NY 10009 (mail only)

[greenmap.org](https://greenmap.org)

With the mission of promoting sustainable living, a creative response took root in this community in the early 90s before spreading to 65 countries. An artist turned eco-designer chose mapping as her means of guiding people towards greener, healthier choices. These Green Maps help people experience local nature and culture as they gain insight into social and environmental challenges, thus sparking action for community wellbeing and to reduce climate impacts. While utilizing universal icons and an adaptable methodology, each locally-made map is unique.

A selection of these beautiful maps and related artifacts appear in the exhibit and event series 'How Green Is My City?' at MoRUS, the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space. See [GreenMap.org](https://GreenMap.org) to explore how people have utilized this process to share knowledge, build networks and develop capacities. Consider how mapmaking can help you share your perspective and promote the places you value in your hometown.

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*We've worked with many artists over the years... there have been murals and tile projects, all kinds of interesting interpretations of mapping in a public space.*

*Working with other people in your neighborhood - bringing knowledge together, creating an experience that's exciting, memorable - naturally leads to richer mapping. - Wendy Brawer*



FAB

# IATI

64 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[iatitheater.org](http://iatitheater.org)

IATI is a bilingual Latinx theater company that provokes introspection through cutting-edge performing arts.

We support multicultural, diverse and underserved communities while harnessing and empowering unique voices. We produce works that are original, exciting, bold, experimental, intimate and engaging.

While highlighting the complexity, contradictions, richness and depth of the myriad experiences among the many Latin cultures, IATI creates theater with subject matter that is culturally relevant, political, challenging, as well as entertaining.

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*We are basically open to all the artists that are around us, or in another country, or all around the world. We are like a bridge with the artists and the community.*  
- Vivian Deangelo



# International Center of Photography

79 Essex Street, New York, NY 10002

[icp.org](http://icp.org)

The International Center of Photography is the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture. Cornell Capa founded ICP in 1974 to champion "concerned photography"—socially and politically minded images that can educate and change the world. Through our exhibitions, education programs, community outreach, and public programs, ICP offers an open forum for dialogue about the power of the image.



# Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum

280 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002

[kkjism.org](http://kkjism.org)

Kehila Kedosha Janina (the Holy Community of Janina) is the only Romaniote synagogue in the Western Hemisphere. Our congregation was first organized in New York in 1906 by Greek-speaking Romaniote Jews from the city of Ioannina in Northwestern Greece.

For the past 90 years, Kehila Kedosha Janina (KKJ) has served the Romaniote community on the Lower East Side and in 1997, a Museum was created in the women's gallery to tell the story of this distinct community, Greek Jewish culture and history.

Today, KKJ is proud to be one of only a handful of active synagogues that remain on the Lower East Side.

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*Our story is not only the story of a very distinctive Jewish community... we also incorporate the story of immigration... I have many school groups that come in where we educate them on the importance of immigration. All of us that are involved in the Lower East Side know how important that story is.*

*- Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos*



# Kenkeleba House

219 E 2nd Street, New York, NY 10009

[kenkeleba.org](http://kenkeleba.org)

Kenkeleba House is a non-profit art gallery dedicated to celebrating and presenting the visual aesthetic and cultural legacy of African American artists and other artists of color that have been historically overlooked by the art world establishment and cultural mainstream. Kenkeleba has been at the forefront of positive change in New York City's East Village for more than 30 years.

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*I think to some extent things have improved for Black artists from the time when we wanted to create a place for an audience of peers, but most don't have a place to show their work. Also, they may need support over a lifetime because for some it takes a long time to develop...*

*It's difficult for all artists in a society like this that sees success in a different way than most artists view it; but the problems are exacerbated for Black artists.*  
- Corinne Jennings, interview with *The Villager*, 2010



# KGB Bar and Red Room

85 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[kgbbar.com](http://kgbbar.com) | [redroomnyc.com](http://redroomnyc.com)

Founder Denis Woychuk came to the Ukrainian Labor Home, now KGB Bar at 85 East 4th Street as a young boy with his father, a Ukrainian immigrant who couldn't get work because he was blacklisted as a communist. Denis was able to get public assistance and attend college and law school. He did work for the Ukrainian Labor home with an option to buy the building. In 1983 his first business venture in 85 East 4th Street was the Kraine Art Gallery during the day and at night the Kraine Theater which is now solely the Kraine Theater. Kraine Gallery Bar (KGB) was opened 10 years later and quickly became a literary landmark. KGB Bar was once the Palm Casino Speakeasy, owned by Lucky Luciano.

The Red Room, on the 3rd floor of 85 East 4th Street was the headquarters of Emma Goldman's Secret Society of Anarchists that eventually was remodeled as a black box theater and in 2013 was redesigned as a Deco speakeasy performance venue.

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*I think the creative spirit is the thing that keeps us most alive. You know, you can have a boring job, but if you have an active creative life, you're taking a bite out of life. You're not dying inside. You're living. - Denis Woychuk*



# Kinesis Project

44 East 2nd Street, New York, NY 10003 (by invitation)

[kinesisproject.com](http://kinesisproject.com)

Kinesis Project, directed by choreographer Melissa Riker, is a dance organization that creates dance concerts, facilitates educational programs and invents site-specific performances with diverse communities. A company at the forefront of the international discussion of placemaking, art engagement and the cultural imperative of art in public space, Kinesis Project dance theatre invents large scale, space-changing, breath-taking experiences. Since 2005, Kinesis Project's work has been experienced in San Francisco, San Diego, Seattle, Boston, Philadelphia, Vermont, Florida and New York City.

Riker also co-directs Women in Motion an annual commission opportunity for female choreographers; EstroGenius Festival, the longest running annual celebration of female identifying, non binary and racially diverse artists and is a founding member of Dance Rising, a collective that exists to bring attention and conversation to the lives and artistry of dancers.

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*I started to find that I was really interested with what outdoor spaces offered... the way we saw people's faces change in those experiences, the way we would see children gather or watch dancers, probably children that wouldn't normally sit still in a theater. Right? And folks who were kind of walking by - asking what we were doing, asking if this was a yoga class. And we would say this is a dance performance. And they would say, oh, what are you doing it for? We're doing it for you. - Melissa Riker*



FAB

# La MaMa

66 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[lamama.org](http://lamama.org)

La MaMa is dedicated to the artist and all aspects of the theatre. La MaMa's 59th Season explores how new work is created, performed and viewed using new technology and forms. La MaMa's vision of nurturing new artists and new work remains as strong today as it was when Ellen Stewart first opened the doors in 1961 and has presented more than 5,000 productions by 150,000 artists of all nations, cultures, races and identities.

Cultural pluralism and ethnic diversity are inherent in the work created on our stages. Here, artists find a supportive environment for artistic exploration, and audiences are part of the development of an artist's work over time.

A recipient of the 2018 Regional Theater Tony Award, and more than 30 Obie Awards and dozens of Drama Desk, Bessie, and Villager Awards, La MaMa has been a creative home for thousands of artists, many of whom have made lasting contributions to the arts.

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*Ellen had not only a space where artists could follow their creative drive with very little barrier, but also a commitment to international theatre. She very early on saw the importance of not only taking the La Mama artists in New York abroad to tour but also bringing international artists back to New York... It really was a space where the boundaries of theater as an art form were being pushed very, very hard. And now, you know, sixty years later, we're still here doing that kind of thing. - Sophie Glidden-Lyon*



# Living Theatre

151 1st Avenue #136 New York, NY 10003

[livingtheatre.org](http://livingtheatre.org)

"Sixty-five years ago, Julian Beck and I found the Living Theatre, and it continues to do play after play. The Living Theatre is a company of actors who want to bring about the Beautiful Non-Violent Anarchist Revolution. We wanted to find a theatre that would grow with history and in history. That is why we called it The L I V I N G Theatre, because we wanted it to change with time. People say 'Yeah—the world is in lousy shape, and there are wars and horrors going on all the time. But what am I gonna do? Who am I? What can I do?' And to give people the sense that there is something they can do, that they are empowered. That begins in the theatre." - Judith Malina

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*"One of the great privileges of being with The Living is that at 73 years old, we can look at the evolution of the culture of the city, of our company, and realize that there is time... and if you know that there's time, and you act like there's time, then you can build something for the long term... Over five years, over 10 or 15, over 20, what can you be doing so that you can look back and say I'm so proud that I built this into my community?" - Brad Burgess*



FAB

# Loisaida Inc.

710 East 9th Street, New York, NY 10009

[loisaida.org](http://loisaida.org)

Loisaida Inc. addresses the systemic inequalities facing Latinx residents of the Lower East Side (LES), offering multi-generational, cross-disciplinary programming that appeals to the social & cultural sensibilities of our neighborhood within New York City and abroad. We began as a grassroots movement in the Lower East Side led by Puerto Rican activists, artists, and Hispanic residents in the mid 1970's. We build global connections between community, learners, scholars, creators & artists through artistic residencies, original productions, exhibitions, and arts at the intersection of technology and innovation.

Loisaida Inc.'s latest project, LoisaidaTV, is an independent media channel streamed 24/7 with regular live programming. On this channel we highlight community initiatives, cultural initiatives, local and international artists, musicians, and partnerships. LoisaidaTV is operated out of our "Semillero," a community space equipped for creative media cross-training, video and music production, prototyping, and multi-disciplinary collaboration.

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*How can we look at the intersections of art and technology and provide a platform for our community... Get the community that's here, that's always being pushed out, to know we're here, these resources belong to them.*

*- Alejandro Epifanio*



# Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy

338 Grand Street, 2001 New York, NY 10002

[nycjewishtours.org](http://nycjewishtours.org)

The Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy, a small non-profit in its 21st year committed to preserving the Jewish heritage of the Lower East Side, this country's oldest and most famous immigrant neighborhood – a place that has embodied the hopes, dreams and struggles for hundreds of thousands of immigrants that embarked on the road to the American Dream.

We accomplish our mission to preserve, celebrate and share this history by providing private customized walking tours, public tours, and an educational curriculum showcasing the history of this iconic neighborhood as well as other New York City Jewish neighborhoods. We aim to inspire and enlighten visitors of all ages and faiths, and consider it both an honor and a very important mission as our tours help to sustain the communities we visit.

We believe that our tours allow us to reveal the richness and the diversity of these historically and culturally important neighborhoods, enabling visitors to gain a greater appreciation of the American Jewish immigrants journey. We look forward to the opportunity to be able to continue this for many years to come.

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*The idea was... If people are coming in to the neighborhood to be on a tour, not only are they learning about the history, they're also helping to support the neighborhood... eating lunch...shopping at the stores... - Lori Weissman*



FAB

# Mabou Mines

150 1st Avenue Second Floor, New York, NY 10009

[maboumines.org](http://maboumines.org)

Mabou Mines is an artist driven intergenerational artist collective whose performance pieces subvert social, cultural and disciplinary constructs. Mabou Mines is a collaborative hub for diverse, avant-garde theater artists. Our mission is to generate, support, and connect audiences with original works of experimental performance and inventive re-imaginings of the classics, while nurturing the next generations of innovative theater artists. Mabou Mines' creative vision is informed by the ethos of our co-founders: JoAnne Akalaitis, Lee Breuer, Philip Glass, Ruth Maleczech, and David Warrilow.

Fifty years later, the company remains committed to collaboration and providing a platform for work that interrogates, innovates, and represents a multiplicity of identities and experiences. Company members include Co-Artistic Directors Karen Kandel, Sharon Fogarty, Carl Hancock Rux, Mallory Catlett; Artistic Advisors Lee Breuer and Terry O'Reilly; Associate Artists Clove Galilee, Maude Mitchell and David Neumann.

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*It's also our 50th anniversary, and so this spring gave us a chance to really think deeply about the company and the future. I mean, when you're 50, you have to think about, you know, is there another 50 ahead? What will it look like? What will it feel like? What does our community need? - Sharon Fogarty*



FAB

# Magnum Foundation

59 E 4th Street 7W, New York, NY 10003 (mail only)

[magnumfoundation.org](http://magnumfoundation.org)

Magnum Foundation is a nonprofit organization that expands creativity and diversity in documentary photography, activating new audiences and ideas through the innovative use of images.

Through grantmaking and mentorship, Magnum Foundation supports a global network of social justice and human rights-focused photographers, and experiments with new models for storytelling.

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*We're an organization with a global mission, but it's also really about local stories and local storytelling and supporting local movements as well... figuring out how the arts can support activism and movement building.*

*We've been thrilled to do a lot of projects that are related to the Lower East Side community... with Clayton Patterson, with our neighbor downstairs Alex Harsley..*

*We've both worked with our emerging photographers who are documenting the community, and also tried to highlight the roles of people who have been contributing to the community for a very long time. - Kristen Lubben*



# Merchant's House Museum

29 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[merchantshouse.org](http://merchantshouse.org)

The Merchant's House Museum is the City's only family home preserved intact—inside and out—from the 19th Century. It is a remarkable survivor of Old New York, offering a rare and intimate glimpse of domestic life in New York City from 1835 to 1865, when the city evolved from a colonial seaport to a thriving metropolis. The house was built in 1832 in what was then known as the Bond Street area, an exclusive residential neighborhood; it is today's NoHo.

In 1835, wealthy merchant Seabury Tredwell bought 29 East Fourth Street and moved in with his wife, Eliza, their seven children, and their Irish servants. Their last child, Gertrude, was born in the house in 1840, never married and died in an upstairs bedroom in 1933, leaving her home complete with the family's original furnishings, household objects, clothing, and personal memorabilia.

Many say the Tredwells never left. Reports of strange and inexplicable happenings began in 1936, as soon as the house opened as a museum. For those who enter our doors, it may well be the Tredwells' presence that makes the 19th century palpable, offering an authentic and unmistakable experience of life 175 years ago.

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*Bridget, a typical Irish name, actually became a slang term so instead of talking about the servants in your house, you might talk about the Bridget that you employed. Or you might refer to all of your servants as Bridget, even if her name were actually Mary or Catherine... So we tell both the story of these wealthy merchants, and the story of these young Irish women who worked in homes like this throughout the neighborhood. - Emily Hill-Wright*



# Metropolitan Playhouse

220 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10009 (mail only)

[metropolitanplayhouse.org](http://metropolitanplayhouse.org)

Metropolitan Playhouse explores the United States' diverse theatrical heritage to illuminate contemporary American life. The Playhouse produces early American plays and new plays drawn from American culture and history to challenge assumptions and question the status quo.

Founded in 1993 and resident on East Fourth Street since 1997, Metropolitan has rejuvenated plays from the past 250 years with an eye to pointing out their meaning for today. In our East Side Stories festival, we also commission new plays every year based on the life and lore of the Lower East Side, including new one act plays and performances based on oral histories of East Village neighbors.

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*The Lower East Side is pretty perfect for what we do. It's such a vital, storied, changing and responsive neighborhood... It's a perfect space for us to be trying to look at the roots of U.S. cultural development. - Alex Roe*



FAB

## More Art

[moreart.org](http://moreart.org)

More Art presents innovative works of art in public space that focus on the human element at the core of the complex issues that shape public life. The New York City-based nonprofit provides commissioning opportunities, strategic project support, mentorship, educational programs and artistic development resources for socially engaged artists at all stages of their career.

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*One part of our work are projects that take a very long time to develop, always in collaboration with local communities and social service organizations... The other part is a program that helps early career artists develop their first public art project... but all in an effort to really connect public art with people's lives.*

*We believe, especially in times like this one, that art that can be there.*

*Artists have vision - and if we can try to give voice to that vision, form to that vision, I think that will help us find creative solutions to social, political, economic problems. - Micaela Martegani*



FAB

# MoustacheCat Dance

[moustachecatdance.org](http://moustachecatdance.org)

MoustacheCat Dance (MCD), founded in 2015 by Kaoru Ikeda – choreographer, dancer and Japanese immigrant – is a dance company that uses art to mirror human nature to audiences by bringing awareness to social issues and abandoned history.

Our mission is to explore and create more informed work as well as provide a way for individuals to pass their histories forward to younger generations. MCD has presented at numerous international and local dance festivals, community colleges, and social justice gatherings. We approach audiences unfamiliar with art or history, and present work to encourage them to access both. We are dedicated to serve Asian and Asian American Communities in the U.S. and elsewhere.

In 2019, MCD launched a unique activity class combining Japanese language instruction with a creative movement class for children to introduce Japanese culture with a fun twist. MCD works to help our communities by offering the opportunity to share the joy of creation and self-expression through dance, and stimulate and improve health through movement. We believe in the power of the arts and dance for the betterment of society.

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*I learned at the heart - a dance can cross the cultural barrier, especially different languages. So I decided to use dance as a communication tool to raise my voice, an Asian immigrant voice, Asian American voice in the United States.*

*- Kaoru Ikeda*



FAB

# Movement Research

150 First Avenue, New York, NY 10009

[movementresearch.org](http://movementresearch.org)

Movement Research is a NYC based creative services organization offering classes, workshops, residencies, exchanges, informal showings, discussions, and both printed and online publications that all serve as laboratories for the investigation of dance and movement-based forms.

Movement Research is dedicated to the creation and implementation of free and low-cost programs that nurture and instigate discourse and experimentation while striving to reflect the cultural, political, and economic diversity of its moving community.

Began as an artist-run organization, Movement Research continues today to be primarily staffed and run by working artists, valuing the individual artist and their creative process and creating opportunities that spur interaction and exchange among choreographers and movement based artists.



# Museum at Eldridge Street

12 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002

[eldridgestreet.org](http://eldridgestreet.org)

The Museum at Eldridge Street is housed in the Eldridge Street Synagogue, a magnificent landmark synagogue. The building has been meticulously restored to 19th-century grandeur after decades of decay. Built in 1887, the synagogue is the first great house of worship built in America by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Today, the Museum is a non-sectarian organization that explores the rich history of Jewish life and immigration on the Lower East Side. Tours, exhibitions, cultural events and educational programs explore architecture and historic preservation, inspire reflection on cultural continuity, and foster collaboration and exchange between people of all faiths, heritages and interests.

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*When it comes to racial and social justice, that's something that really is rooted in the history of the Lower East Side. We talk at this museum about union leaders and labor activists and suffragettes... about the effort towards positive change...*

*When I think about what the past six months have looked like, about resiliency, I think about the history of our building. It's been around for over 130 years. This building has seen the last pandemic that we had. It's seen war, it's seen the Great Depression. It's seen 9/11 and hurricanes. And yet, it's still standing here. So I think for us, as a staff, we really see this building as a symbol of New York. It's a symbol of its resiliency. - Rachel Serkin*



# Museum of Chinese in America

215 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013

[mocanyc.org](http://mocanyc.org)

Founded in 1980, the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) is dedicated to telling the untold stories in the making of America through the lens of the Chinese immigrant experience.

As a nationally recognized nonprofit cultural institution, MOCA aims to engage audiences in an ongoing and historical dialogue, in which people of all backgrounds are able to see American history through a critical perspective, to reflect on their own experiences, and to make meaningful connections between the past and the present, the global and the local, themselves and others.

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*We have seen the escalation of Sino-U.S. tensions... seen how this has actually affected Chinese Americans... the same type of issues and the tensions, we've seen happen before...*

*What we know to be true is that once you come to our museum, and you see the story, empathy is just natural. People just begin to see themselves in the stories that they're seeing through the exhibitions...*

*And sometimes we think - maybe if we had just gotten more of this message out, it could have made some difference. Oh, but you know, we're going to keep doing that. We're going to keep doing that. - Edward Cheng*



# Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space

155 Avenue C, New York, NY 10009

[morusnyc.org](http://morusnyc.org)

As a living history of urban activism, the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space (MoRUS) chronicles the East Village community's history of grassroots action.

MoRUS celebrates the local activists who transformed abandoned spaces and vacant lots into vibrant community spaces and gardens. Many of these innovative, sustainable concepts and designs have since spread out to the rest of New York City and beyond.

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*We're a history museum that's archiving the social activism that gave rise to the community gardens and the squats in the Lower East Side... and the East Village has the highest concentration of community gardens of any neighborhood in the United States. - Sheila Jamison*



FAB

# New York Neo-Futurists

93 4th Avenue, P.O. Box 111 New York, NY 10003 (mail only)

[nyneofuturists.org](http://nyneofuturists.org)

The New York Neo-Futurists are a diverse collective of writer-director-performers. We create theater that is a fusion of storytelling, sport, poetry, and living-newspaper. Through this, we foster a spontaneous community embracing those unreached or unmoved by conventional theater and inspiring them to thought, feeling, and action.

The New York Neo-Futurists created a show called *The Infinite Wrench*: the award-winning, energetic, always changing attempt to perform thirty original plays in about an hour. We continue the experiment with the podcast *Hit Play* and the digital live show, *CyberWrench*.

Since opening in 2004, the NY Neos have premiered nearly 6000 new plays. We tour, teach masterclasses in theater-making and storytelling, and we have produced several award-winning main-stage productions including: *Steve: A Docu-Musical*, *The Human Symphony*, and *The Complete and Condensed Stage Directions of Eugene O'Neill: Vol. 1*. We have been nominated for three Drama Desk Awards and more than a dozen New York Innovative Theatre Awards.

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*We're trying to create theater for people who don't traditionally think of themselves as theater goers, who are not necessarily reached or moved by what theater is. We try to expand what that is. - Rob Neill*



FAB

# New York Theatre Workshop

83 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[nytw.org](http://nytw.org)

We are a community of artists and audience members who believe in the transformative power of theatre. For 40 years, New York Theatre Workshop has cultivated a space where our common humanity is affirmed—where audiences are both challenged and delighted by the daring vision of our artists. Together, we seek to understand what it means to be alive today; we are committed to exploring new ideas, seeing new perspectives, and hearing new voices.

We believe theatre can deepen empathy and spark wonder. It can help us better understand our world—and that's exactly what we strive to do, through innovative productions, a dynamic workshop system, and empowering community engagement programs.



FAB

# Nuyorican Poets Cafe

236 East 3rd Street, New York, NY 10009

[nuyorican.org](http://nuyorican.org)

Over the last 45 years, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe has served as a home for groundbreaking works of poetry, music, theater and visual arts. A multicultural and multi-arts institution, the Cafe gives voice to a diverse group of rising poets, actors, filmmakers and musicians.

The Cafe champions the use of poetry, jazz, theater, hip-hop and spoken word as a means of social empowerment for minority and underprivileged artists. Our educational programs provide literacy and public speaking to thousands of students and many school groups each year.

We are proud that our ongoing efforts to provide affordable support for the creative life of underprivileged artists have given the Cafe a crucial role in the artistic life of New York City.



FAB

# The Performance Project @ University Settlement

184 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002

[universitysettlement.org/us/programs/arts](http://universitysettlement.org/us/programs/arts)

Since 2007, The Performance Project @ University Settlement has been offering local young artists and professional emerging artists opportunities to connect, create and publicly present new work.

We support artists who are interested in how live art can heal, empower and activate. The artists we work with commit to organizational and creative practices that promote trust, imagination and power-sharing.

Our incubator for the next generation of citizen artists is fueled by our distinct, yet connected, cohorts: the Artist-in-Residence Program, The Performance Project Fellowship Program for Early Emerging Artists, our Community Arts & Culture Councils for Public Housing Residents and our annual Performance-Making Intensive for Young Artists & Leaders. We also host other community programs and dynamic guest artists seeking an affordable and supportive opportunity to self-produce their work.

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*We have our fellowship program, which is for younger emerging artists, generally between the ages of 18 and 26... who have a background working in their own personal communities, who may like the idea of personal activism and are trying to explore what more of that is. - Emma Rivera*



FAB

# Performance Space New York

150 First Avenue, 4th Fl, New York, NY 10009

[performancespacenewyork.org](http://performancespacenewyork.org)

Founded as Performance Space 122 in 1980, Performance Space New York present artists whose work challenges boundaries of live performance and visual art.

We are dedicated to supporting the creative risks taken by artists from diverse genres, cultures and perspectives. Our lasting presence from the pre-gentrification East Village neighborhood fervently aims to create an open environment for artists and audiences, and thus foster community through performance and discourse—to be a countering force to the often-exclusionary nature of urban development.

For the year of 2020 a group of NYC based artists and collectives has been given the mandate to run the organization together with our staff, board, and leadership.

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*In a city like New York City, with so many artists and so many opportunities, my job is to keep focused and really bring us into the future...*

*We pride ourselves on being an artist-centric organization. We were founded by artists, and we're here to make artists' dreams possible. - Jenny Schlenzka*



FAB

# Phoenix Theatre Ensemble

[phoenixtheatreensemble.org](http://phoenixtheatreensemble.org)

Phoenix Theatre Ensemble is an award-winning resident company of artists and a diverse ensemble of highly skilled classically trained actors who present 2-4 productions annually in the East Village of New York City.

The company founded in 2005 provides an arts-in-education program for grades 6-12 four days a week, school-day, in-school, theatre conservatory studios for the entire academic year at East Side Community High School, a NYC Title 1 Public School on East 12th Street between Avenues A and B.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Elise Stone, Phoenix Theatre Ensemble has maintained its place as a respected and leading arts organization in New York's Lower East Side.

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*As someone who has chosen to spend their entire life in a live theater environment... knowing what the communion of people in the same space is, how that changes us, living and breathing together, telling and experiencing stories... That is the life-, possibly world-changing, thought-changing experience that I really love. So I'm really looking for how we get back together...*

*We don't know what yet and we don't know where... but we are yearning like everyone else to be back in spaces sharing. - Elise Stone*



FAB

# Ping Chong + Company

47 Great Jones Street, New York, NY 10012

[pingchong.org](http://pingchong.org)

Ping Chong + Company (PCC) creates theater and art that reveal beauty, invention, precision, and a commitment to social justice. Founded in New York City in 1975 by leading theatrical innovator and National Medal of Arts recipient Ping Chong, the company engages multigenerational interdisciplinary artists to build on and expand a prolific catalogue—at the root of which is Ping Chong and his singular and visionary body of work. The company's work centers innovation, collaboration, and community engagement, and amplifies underrepresented voices.

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*I think one thing that's important to express is that people like to pigeonhole you. So, you know, oh, you're an Asian American artist. It's not that simple. I think the spirit of our organization is an open, cultural one... - Ping Chong*

*We'd love to see the next generation of interdisciplinary artists of color, people who have trouble fitting into prescribed kinds of tracks or slots, just like Ping has expressed his experience in terms of the arts industry... (we're) making space for artists who don't neatly fit into a box, supporting a hybrid interdisciplinary approach to creating work. - Jane Jung*



FAB

# The Poetry Project

131 East 10th Street, New York, NY 10003

[poetryproject.org](http://poetryproject.org)

For more than five decades, The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery has provided transformative space, community, and programming that expand access to poems, poets, education, and public opportunities for sharing creative work.

Premised on the vision that poetry can radically change our communities, and that cultural action at the local level can inspire broader shifts in public consciousness, we regularly produce a dynamic range of live readings, performances, workshops, lectures and discussions, a fellowship program, and an ongoing publication of poetry and criticism.

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*I think, in addition to being a home for poetry, part of what distinguishes us within the ecosystem of arts on the Lower East Side and also within our national and global context... is that the the Poetry Project is a very specifically community driven place.*

*We're thinking about how poetry and community mutually form and shape one another... How do we change the ways we listen to, recognize and work with one another through poetry? - Kyle Dacuyan*



FAB

## QUEER|ART

140 2nd Avenue #503, New York, NY 10003

[queer-art.org](http://queer-art.org)

QUEER|ART was launched in 2009 to support a generation of LGBTQ+ artists that lost mentors to the AIDS Crisis of the 1980s. By fostering the confident expression of LGBTQ+ artists' perspectives, stories, and identities, Queer|Art amplifies the voice of a population that has been historically suppressed, disenfranchised, and often overlooked by traditional institutional and economic support systems.

Our programs are organized under three major areas of support — PRACTICE (Creative and Professional Development), PRESENTS (Events, Exhibitions, and other Public Presentations), and AWARDS (Residencies, Grants, and Prizes). Each of these areas of support operate across four fields of creative practice: Film, Performance, Visual Art, and Literature.



FAB

# Rod Rodgers Dance Company

62 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[rodrogersdance.org](http://rodrogersdance.org)

Rod Rodgers Dance Company (RRDC) came into existence during the 1960s when many artists were called upon to create work that reflected newly positive community consciousness. Founder Rod Rodgers' belief was that dance images reflected truths about human experience and have the unique ability to touch people on a primal level of "feeling identity." RRDC uses dance as a vehicle for human development, including helping people realize their positive potential and inner beauty.

We strive to educate and stimulate dialogue about culture, society and the historic contributions of African American landmark figures through concerts, touring, training, residencies, classes and workshops.



FAB

# Swiss Institute

38 Saint Marks Place, New York, NY 10003

[swissinstitute.net](http://swissinstitute.net)

Swiss Institute (SI) is an independent nonprofit space for international contemporary art. SI presents exhibitions, public programs, and education workshops. Open to the public five days a week, always free of charge. SI presents 6+ exhibitions per year, with weekly public programming and daily education classes.

SI's education program provides opportunities for children, pre-teens, teens, and older adults to engage with contemporary art and take part in artist-led workshops. SI's education partners include GO Project, Little Missionary's Sara Curry Preschool, Free Arts NYC, Sirovich Center for Balanced Living, and School of the Future. SI proudly partners with nonprofit Young New Yorkers, an arts diversion program for young people, as well as our neighbor Women's Prison Association.

Printed Matter / St. Marks bookstore is located in the lobby. Founded in 1976, Printed Matter, Inc. is the world's leading non-profit organization dedicated to the dissemination, understanding and appreciation of artists' books and related publications.

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*A little over two years ago, we opened the space here in the East Village, which we see as our long term home. It's a much bigger space... which has allowed us to really expand our education and community programs. - Lou Neyland*



FAB

# Teatro Círculo

64 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[teatrocirculo.org](http://teatrocirculo.org)

Teatro Círculo was founded in 1994 by a consortium of Latino artists and academics. From its inception, Teatro Círculo has been committed to preserving and promoting Latino cultural heritage through the commissioning, production and presentation of creative, inclusive and educational theatre works.

Our mission is to introduce the public to the best works of Spanish and Pan-Latino playwrights, both contemporary and classical, and to foster an appreciation of the richness of Latin American and Iberian cultures in the context of the pluralism that characterizes New York City.

In addition to our production work, we offer a residency program for seniors, a touring program to take our productions to underserved communities in NYC and a training program for professional Latino actors.

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*The Latino community in the city is humongous. I mean, there are probably ten companies that are producing all year long, you know, constantly producing in the city. But there are like four hundred American companies doing the same thing, right? Even if those ten companies had a show every single night with full houses, there is no way... there is not sufficient offering. The offering for Latinos, the offering, related to the demand, is very disproportionate. - Jose Oliveras*



# Tenement Museum

103 Orchard St, New York, NY 10002

[tenement.org](http://tenement.org)

At a time when issues surrounding migrants, refugees, and immigration have taken center stage, the Tenement Museum is a potent reminder that, as a nation shaped by immigration, our brightest hope for the future lies in the lessons of the past.

Our mission is to foster a society that embraces and values the role of immigration and migration in the evolving American identity through guided tours of our tenement buildings and our Lower East Side neighborhood; curriculum and programs for teachers and the public; stories, primary sources and media shared on our website; and interactive online experiences such as virtual tours, digital exhibitions, *Your Story, Our Story*, podcasts and more.

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*One of my favorite programs at the Tenement Museum is called Shared Journeys. The sessions are free and designed to be conducted in English for people who are in the process of learning English and want to practice... people who may share some piece of modern day migration experience... making connections and recognizing differences between the individual experiences that people are having today and experiences of the past. - Rose Connolly*



# Think!Chinatown

[thinkchinatown.org](http://thinkchinatown.org)

Think!Chinatown (T!C) is a community-based nonprofit that strives to listen, to respond, and to build Chinatown's capacities as a strong and vibrant immigrant neighborhood of NYC.

T!C's mission is to build intergenerational community through civic engagement, storytelling, and the arts, growing out of connections made by Chinatown neighbors who got to know each other through community events.

T!C has grown to a network of dedicated volunteers from a broad spectrum of professional backgrounds: urbanists, artists, journalists, lawyers, architects, designers, tech specialists, photographers, poets.

T!C leads collaborative projects that sit at the cross-section of civic & neighborhood engagement, storytelling, and the arts. It's hard to categorize our work sometimes, but whatever we're working on... it's to support what we love about Chinatown!

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*The transference of intergenerational knowledge originally comes from listening... from storytelling and understanding of our collective history. And the way to really celebrate all of that is through the arts... to get people to understand its value... for people to be drawn to and proud of these stories. - Yin Kong*



# Theater for the New City

155 First Avenue, New York, NY 10003

[theaterforthenewcity.net](http://theaterforthenewcity.net)

THEATER FOR THE NEW CITY (TNC) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning community cultural center that is known for its high artistic standards and widespread community service. One of New York's most prolific theatrical organizations, TNC produces 30-40 premieres of new American plays per year, at least 10 of which are by emerging and young playwrights. TNC also presents plays by multi-ethnic/multi-disciplinary theater companies who have no permanent home.

Among the well-known companies that have been presented by TNC are Mabou Mines, the Living Theater, Bread and Puppet Theater, the San Francisco Mime Troupe and COBU, the Japanese women's drumming, and dance group. TNC productions have won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and over 42 OBIE Awards for excellence in every theatrical discipline.

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*Art is a civic necessity. The theatre has to be affordable, and it should be free wherever possible, and we believe very strongly in the neighborhood in which our theater lives. - Crystal Field, Theatre Times, 2020*



FAB

# The Ukrainian Museum

222 East 6th Street, New York, NY 10003

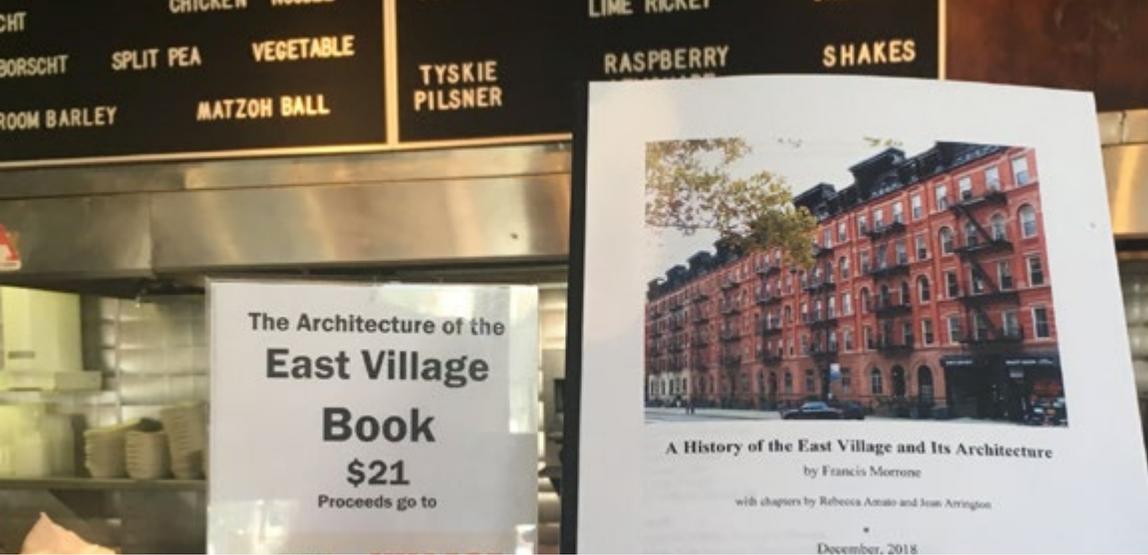
[ukrainianmuseum.org](http://ukrainianmuseum.org)

The Ukrainian Museum is the largest museum in the U.S. committed to acquiring, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting articles of artistic or historic significance to the rich cultural heritage of Ukrainians. Its unparalleled array of folk art, exceptional collection of fine art, and extensive compendium of archival materials make it one of the most unique and dynamic museums in New York City, with broad appeal for diverse audiences.

Each year, the Museum organizes several exhibitions, publishes accompanying bilingual catalogues, and conducts a wide range of public programming, frequently in collaboration with other museums, educational institutions, and cultural centers.

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*"The Lower East Side of Manhattan really was an area that had been set up in the many ways of various immigrant groups. And Ukrainians settled in this area in the beginning of the 20th century. [They] tended to form the center usually around the churches... the activity would would congregate around the churches, they would form choirs there, they formed dance groups there. And each group really tried to kind of keep its identity visible..." - Maria Shust*



FAB

# Village Preservation

232 East 11th Street, New York, NY 10003

[villagepreservation.org](http://villagepreservation.org)

Village Preservation (The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation) was founded in 1980 to preserve the architectural heritage and cultural history of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo. Village Preservation is a leader in protecting the sense of place and human scale that define the Village's unique community.

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*You know, our neighborhoods are little in some ways, but their imprint on the culture is a lot bigger than a lot of other places...*

*The things that happened here are known and studied and appreciated by a much broader audience than just the people who are lucky enough to live here. And that's a great thing. Because it's things that should be celebrated... like this incredible pioneering spirit of these neighborhoods in terms of social justice movements, outside of the box approaches to music and literature and the arts...*

*We want that to be appreciated and celebrated far and wide - even by somebody who may never set foot here. - Andrew Berman*



# Wild Project

195 East 3rd Street, New York, NY 10009

[thewildproject.org](http://thewildproject.org)

Wild Project, a nonprofit company and venue, is an innovator among producing companies, supporting the diverse independent theatre, film, music, visual arts and spoken-word artists of New York City. Since 2007, Wild Project has presented and produced theatre that enriches, educates, and unifies its East Village community in an environmentally responsible green space.

Located on E. 3rd St. in Manhattan, Wild Project curate's resident companies in its 89-seat theatre and devotes specific initiatives toward LGBTQIA+ and POC projects and the work of local East Village artists, to ensure nonprofit theatre sustains its roots in the community.

Wild Project fosters a climate where artists explore their creative vision in a supportive atmosphere that brings together theatre and the environment in a unique way.



FAB

# Works in Progress NYC

59 East 4th Street, New York, NY 10003

[worksinprogressnyc.org](http://worksinprogressnyc.org)

Works in Progress NYC (WIP) is a fully functioning production silk screen and graphic design studio. During the school year, WIP hosts NYC high school interns, partnering with a variety of schools. WIP also offers community weekend classes, on site printing events, and corporate and private workshops.

Led by founder and Executive Director Emily Clark, Works in Progress NYC prides itself on quality workmanship, unparalleled customer service and a history of community involvement for over 30 years.

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*Basically, our mission here is to give at-risk youth within the local community a work-based learning experience. We have about six to seven kids each semester from all over the city. They come in and they use this as an internship... They learn how to silkscreen from start to finish. They get some structure here, they get some creativity, they all, at the end of the process, walk away doing their own silkscreen project. - Kristina Keenan*



FAB

# WOW Café Theatre

59-61 East 4th Street, 4W, New York, NY 10003

[wowcafe.org](http://wowcafe.org)

WOW Café Theatre is a woman and/or trans people collective which has had its home on 4th Street since 1984. We create as many types of arts as there are depending on our artists interests. WOW has no Artistic Director nor any centralized control over the works that appear, and Producers have artistic liberty to produce what they desire. The tradition here is that women and/or trans people provide the central creative impetus behind a show at WOW.

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# The W.O.W. Project

26 Mott Street, New York, NY 10013

[wingonwoand.co/aboutwowproject](http://wingonwoand.co/aboutwowproject)

The W.O.W. Project is a women and non-binary led, community-based initiative that is working to sustain ownership over Chinatown's future by growing, protecting, and preserving Chinatown's creative culture through arts, culture, and activism. Our core mission is to create space for conversations to happen across language barriers and generational gaps to actively shape the future of Chinatown.

Located inside Wing On Wo & Co., the oldest continually-run family business in New York's Chinatown, The W.O.W Project was established in 2016 by fifth-generation store owner, Mei Lum, to bring concerns of a rapidly changing Chinatown into a resident-led space for intergenerational dialogue and action.

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*There were quite a few of these general stores and they were operated as a space for community to convene, to send letters to and from China to relatives, to pick up a piece of home...an everything store...*

*And so think about the ways in which the W.O.W Project is operating now. It's almost harkening back to that original incarnation of the way the shop was. We're convening folks, we are thinking about how a storefront can contribute to a neighborhood outside of just pure economic development, trying to really cultivate a space for politicization, for cultural production, for storytelling as well...*

*- Mei Lum*

# Additional Resources



## Art, Education, & Community Practice, Steinhardt, NYU

[steinhardt.nyu.edu/art/education/community\\_practice](http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/art/education/community_practice)

Our socially engaged artists/designers, educators, activists, and community organizers work together to create critical art interventions that inspire dialogue and catalyze social change.

FAB



## Bullet Space

292 East 3rd Street New York, NY 10009

[bulletspace.org](http://bulletspace.org)

Bullet Space is a community access center for images, words, and sounds of the inner city. The center was founded in 1985 and was part of the squatter movement.



## Chinatown Art Brigade

[chinatownartbrigade.org](http://chinatownartbrigade.org)

Chinatown Art Brigade (CAB) is a cultural collective of artists, media makers and activists creating art and media to advance social justice.

FAB



## Die Jim Crow Records

[diejimcrow.com](http://diejimcrow.com)

Die Jim Crow Records is the first record label in the United States for formerly and currently incarcerated musicians. Our mission is to provide our artists with a high-quality platform for their voices to be heard.

FAB



## East Village Dance Project

466 Grand St, New York, NY 10002

[eastvillagedanceproject.com](http://eastvillagedanceproject.com)

EVDP offers extensive after school dance classes for youth and teens, a pre-professional teen performance troupe, performances & dance festivals open to the public, and workshops & drop-in classes for adults.



## Grand Street Settlement

80 Pitt St, New York, NY 10002

[grandsettlement.org](http://grandsettlement.org)

Grand Street offers daily activities for seniors in English, Spanish and Chinese feature cultures and traditions from around the world through art, dance, music, games and food.

FAB



## Hemispheric Institute

20 Cooper Square, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10003

[hemisphericinstitute.org](http://hemisphericinstitute.org)

The Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics connects artists, scholars, and activists from across the Americas and creates new avenues for collaboration and action.

FAB



## How! Arts

6 E 1st St, New York, NY 10003

[howlarts.org](http://howlarts.org)

How! Arts is dedicated to preserving the past and celebrating the contemporary culture of the East Village and Lower East Side. Gallery, performance space, art collection and archive.



## Joe's Pub

425 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10003

[publictheater.org](http://publictheater.org)

Joe's Pub, a program of the Public Theater, is an independent, non-profit music venue, dedicated to supporting performing artists at every stage of their careers.



## Lower Eastside Girls Club

402 E 8th St, New York, NY 10009

[girlsclub.org](http://girlsclub.org)

Our 35,000 square foot state-of-the-art community center offers programs in the arts, sciences, leadership, entrepreneurship, and wellness for girls in middle and high school.

FAB



## Mark DeGarmo Dance

107 Suffolk St #310, New York, NY 10002

[markdegarmodance.org](http://markdegarmodance.org)

MDD provides high quality, interdisciplinary arts programming for New York City public elementary school students who live in economically challenged and under-resourced communities.

FAB



## Moving for Life

[movingforlife.org](http://movingforlife.org)

MOVING FOR LIFE DanceExercise for Health® is dedicated to helping people challenged by cancer and aging, through free and low-cost dance exercise classes offered at hospitals, health and wellness centers, libraries and other community-based sites.

FAB



## New Museum

235 Bowery, New York, NY 10002

[newmuseum.org](http://newmuseum.org)

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas. It is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and is respected internationally for the adventurousness and global scope of its curatorial program.



## Third Street Music School Settlement

235 E 11th St, New York, NY 10003

[thirdstreetmusicschool.org](http://thirdstreetmusicschool.org)

Third Street Music School Settlement is the nation's longest-running community music school, offering students of all ages the opportunity to become the best musicians, dancers, singers and composers that they can be.



## Village Alliance

8 E 8th St, New York, NY 10003

[greenwichvillage.nyc](http://greenwichvillage.nyc)

The Village Alliance is a neighborhood BID (Business Improvement District) which also programs art and cultural events in Astor Plaza.

# Acknowledgements

Open Arts LES is coordinated by FABnyc, a team of artists and organizers working to preserve, sustain, and grow the cultural vibrancy of the Lower East Side neighborhood.

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