



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING ANNOUNCE A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE 5 BOROUGH ARTS COUNCILS, NYC PERFORMING ARTS SPACES, AND NYC'S SENIOR CENTERS TO CREATE NEW ARTISTS RESIDENCY PROGRAMS**

*Partnership Creates New Work Spaces For Artists And Provides New Arts Programming For Older New Yorkers Throughout The Five Boroughs*

As one component of today's "Age-Friendly NYC" announcement, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced new partnerships with the Bronx Council on the Arts, the Brooklyn Arts Council, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Queens Council on the Arts, and the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island, to place visual artists in studio spaces at targeted senior centers throughout the 5 boroughs. In addition, NYC Performing Arts Spaces (a program of Fractured Atlas) announced that two of the musicians selected to participate in the ConEdison Composers/Musicians Residency Program will be placed in residencies at a Department for the Aging-funded senior center in Queens.

The 5 borough arts councils will match visual artists of all ages with 13 senior centers that will then provide them with studio space. In return for free work space, the artists will participate in the programming of the senior centers through projects such as installing exhibitions of their own work and the work of others, leading classes and workshops, or offering lectures. This pilot initiative grew out of "Above Ground: Information on Artists III, Special Focus New York City Aging Artists (2008)," a study by Teachers College Professor and Director of the Research Center for Arts and Culture Joan Jeffri.

Professor Jeffri reports that aging visual artists have larger social networks, more intergenerational contacts, and higher life satisfaction scores than other older adults. As a result, the Department for the Aging is interested in creating opportunities for visual artists of all ages to regularly interact with senior center participants. The new arts programming will also encourage additional older New Yorkers to make use of the City's senior centers.

NYC Performing Arts Spaces (NYCPAS), a program of the artist service organization Fractured Atlas, has committed to placing two of the participants in its ConEdison Composers/Musicians Residency Program in residence at a senior center in Queens. In return for free work space, these musicians will each offer a public concert, as well as special programming specifically for the senior center participants. NYCPAS is selecting a senior center in Queens in response to the needs of the working musicians in Queens, who too often have to travel to other boroughs for residency opportunities.

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate D. Levin said, "This is an example of New York working at its very best: by leveraging currently unused spaces in the City's network of senior centers, we are able to provide much needed work space for our artists, while simultaneously providing new programming for older New Yorkers this will help ensure that New York remains a creative community for people of all ages."

The Mayor was joined by choreographer Mark Morris and New Yorkers from the Saratoga Square senior center at today's announcement, which took place at the Mark Morris Dance Center. The Center offers ongoing programs for participants in the Saratoga Square senior center and another New York City Housing Authority senior center, as well as a nationally recognized dance program for people living with Parkinson's Disease and their caregivers.

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) supports and sustains New York City's cultural life by investing in programs, operations and capital improvements at the Mark Morris Dance Center and over 900 other nonprofit cultural organizations throughout the five boroughs. Cultural organizations have long been at the forefront of serving individuals of all ages and physical abilities through ongoing cultural programming. Some examples of these sorts of programs include:

- *The Alliance for the Arts* will work with the Department for the Aging, the Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York Academy of Medicine to publish a cultural guide for seniors, with preliminary support from Councilmembers Gale Brewer and Daniel Garodnick. For more information about discounts for seniors and cultural programming across New York City, visit [www.nyc-arts.org](http://www.nyc-arts.org).
- *Bowery Arts & Science* provides an Alzheimer's Poetry Project offering hour-long poetry sessions for seniors with Alzheimer's who often are still able to recall classic poems that they memorized in their youth. 310 Bowery, Manhattan. Call 212.614.0505 for additional information.
- *Bronx Museum of the Arts* employs part-time seniors through AARP. Seniors can work at the Museum's front desk or work in sales at the Museum Store. The Museum reaches out to seniors at Bay Park Senior Center and FEGS Riverdale Manor Adult Home to attend Family Affair events, Trolley nights, First Fridays and opening events. 165th Street, Bronx. Call 718.681.6000 for additional information.
- *Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)*: Seniors can attend all BAM performances for \$10 and bring a guest for \$10 as well. 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn. For additional information, call 718.636.4100.
- *Circuit Productions* hosts performances, demonstrations and workshops by senior jazz and blues musicians. Activities are held in Brooklyn parks and senior centers. Visit [www.circuitproductions.org](http://www.circuitproductions.org) or call 718.638.4878 for more information.
- *Historic Richmond Town* hosts tours for the deaf and hard of hearing on the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 pm. The Museum contains Braille way-finding labels on all floors and sensory opportunities are available throughout the village. 441 Clarke Avenue, Staten Island. For interpreted tours at other times, call 718.351.1611 ext 280.
- *New York Botanical Gardens* offers hearing impaired patrons Guide-U assistive listening devices for all tours. The Guide-U system is a portable, wireless listening device designed to allow live tours to be successfully conducted for multiple groups simultaneously, even in the most noise-sensitive or crowded sites. Bronx River Parkway at Fordham Road, Bronx. For additional information, call 718.817.8700.
- *Queens Symphony Orchestra* offers free tickets to senior centers. Call 718.326.4455 for more information.
- *Rubin Museum of Art* offers seniors age 65 and up free admission on the first Monday of every month. 150 West 17th Street, Manhattan. Call 212.620.5000 for more information.
- *Vocal Ease Cabaret* offers cabaret performances at senior centers, hospitals, and nursing homes across the five boroughs. To find a venue where Vocal Ease is performing, call 212.579.5386.

For more information about cultural programming throughout New York City, please visit [www.nyc.gov/nyculture](http://www.nyc.gov/nyculture).

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