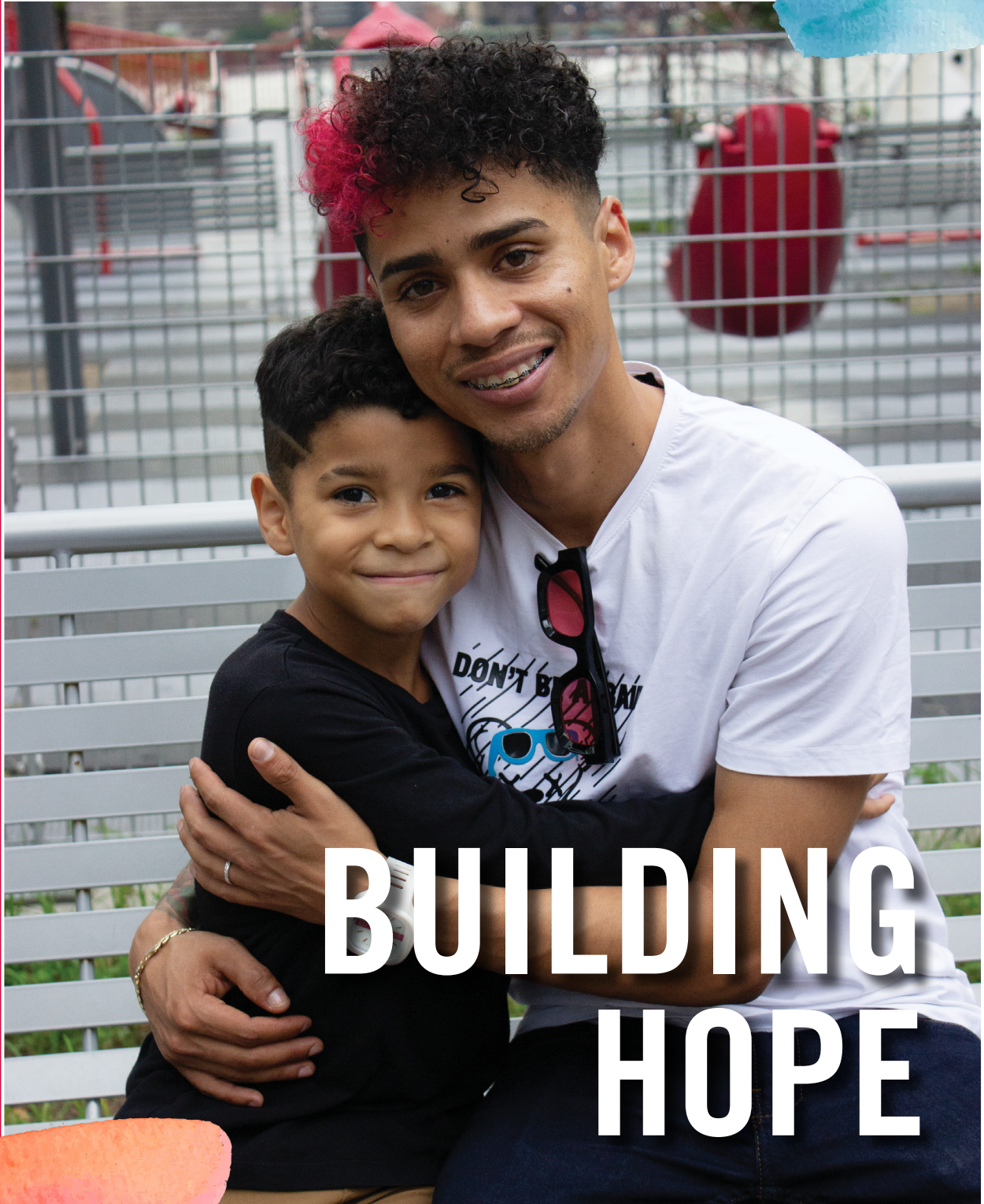




HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT



BUILDING HOPE



Greetings from the CEO

DEAR FRIENDS,

A responsibility of any organization with Henry Street's breadth and maturity is to consistently ensure that we are sustaining the trust of our community that has been our bedrock since our founding. That process includes revisiting our core values and measuring progress against our own past, ensuring we're the best we can be and have ever been over our 131 years.

To that end, Henry Street has finalized an inclusive and thoughtful process of putting our values on paper to share with our team and the public. There was no easy way to

put into words the ethos that drives us, inspires us to continually improve, and makes us unique—but we've given it our best shot. Our values don't just live on a piece of paper; they are embodied and demonstrated daily by our team as well as shared with the public, and highlighted through a feature called "Values in Action" in our weekly e-newsletter that goes out to our team of 650 people.

Sharing these values among our colleagues and the people we serve is our job, and it's deeply meaningful to

see the ways in which our team members act on our core beliefs. Whether a Henry Street receptionist walks a visitor to our mental health clinic to make sure they get the help they need or an employment coordinator meets a client at their job because the client is having a rough day, our values compel us to go the extra mile for our community.

Behind each of the stories in this newsletter is a team that not only provides services but goes above and beyond, concentrating on the individual behind the need. Our team is living our values, and I couldn't be more proud. Thank you to our team, for embracing our values so collaboratively, caringly, and passionately. And thanks to YOU, our friends and supporters, who ensure they can do their jobs so effectively.

Peace. Health. Hope. Values.

David Garza,
President & CEO



HENRY STREET CORE VALUES

We are guided by our **Community**.

We seek opportunities to listen, reflect, and act to meet the most pressing needs of our community and team members. We put our participants front and center.

We strive to make a positive **Impact**.

Our work is mission-driven. Whether on the frontlines or behind the scenes, we work toward opening doors of opportunity, always assessing the results of our work, making improvements wherever possible, and approaching challenges with creativity and flexibility.

We **Care** for each other.

We treat one another with care, grace, and compassion; support one another; and strive to overcome biases. We purposely seek avenues of inclusion, access, and equity for members of our team and community members who have experienced bias or discrimination. We are all Henry Streeters.

We act with **Integrity**.

We strive to be honest, authentic, transparent, trustful, and respectful to each other and to our community. We show how much we value one another by being candid, including with our praise and constructive feedback.

We believe in the power of **Collaboration**.

We are better together. We seek knowledge of Henry Street's programs outside of our own departments so that we can proactively collaborate across the agency to meet the full range of our participants' needs and take action as problem solvers.

We are **Passionate** about our work.

We are proud of what we do. We are fully present and ready to step up, lending a hand whenever needed, and going above and beyond on behalf of those we serve.

We are informed by our **History**.

In the spirit of our founder, Lillian Wald, we strive to follow the ethics she represented: to uphold human dignity; to uplift diversity in areas of culture, race, gender expression, and disability; and to keep a service mindset.

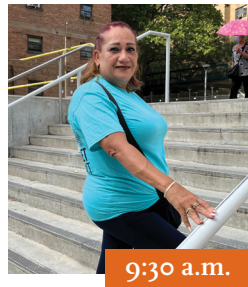


A Day in the Life of a Senior Companion: August 6, 2024

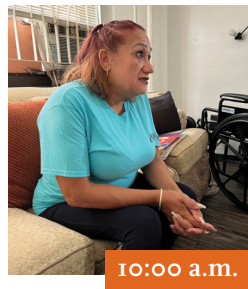
Senior Companion Volunteer **Diana Cruz**, 61, learned about this Henry Street program in 2022 through her aunts, who preceded her as volunteers. For Cruz, participating in the program is a natural extension of the care she has always provided her elders.

Among the benefits that volunteers gain from joining the Senior Companion Program—which is supported by AmeriCorps Seniors—are the camaraderie they experience with fellow volunteers and their clients and a sense of accomplishment from serving their community. Volunteers who are eligible can receive a stipend for the hours they devote to the program.

Diana leaves the Baruch Houses—her home of 30 years on the Lower East Side—to visit her first client, Estelle Torres.



Diana takes her place on the couch across from Estelle, who sits in a wheelchair, smiling at her friend's arrival. Estelle has had home attendants since she was injured in a fall two years ago. But she thrives on the socialization and companionship that Diana brings every weekday. Speaking in Spanish (both are from Puerto Rico), Estelle tells Diana stories of when she was young. Estelle came north at age 14.



Estelle spends much of the day doing word-search puzzles, watching the news, and painting with gel pens in vibrant colors. When Diana arrives, she switches to conversation. Sometimes Diana picks up Estelle's prescriptions or stops at the grocery store on the way, bringing fresh fruit.



Estelle's adoration of Diana is clear. **"If she were a little doll, I could keep her with me all the time,"** Estelle says, grinning.

Diana heads nearly a mile south to her next client. On the way, she stops in at the Senior Companion office, picking up some paperwork from Susana Sanchez, Senior Companion program manager.



Diana arrives at the home of Maria "Angie" Angel, who answers the door and leads the way into an art-filled apartment. Angie, also from Puerto Rico, has lived in the Baruch Houses, along the FDR, since 1976. **"I raised five children and most of my grandkids in this apartment,"** Angie says.

Diana has known Angie since she was a child, and Angie requested her help just under a year ago, when Angie's asthma, emphysema, and swollen feet began to make it harder for her to get around.



"I wanted a companion because I feel lonely," says Angie, who worked in a sewing factory when she was younger. A home attendant comes to the apartment, but **"with Diana, we talk a lot, we go to the supermarket and take the bus to the doctor."** Diana helps Angie navigate the streets using her walker and provides support with daily tasks, making it easier for Angie to stay independent and to continue to age with dignity.



Angie says she talks about everything with Diana. **"If Diana didn't come here, I would be in my room, watching TV and playing with the phone,"** Angie says. **"When she's here, I don't sit in front of the TV."**

On this day, Diana places a call to the phone company to assist with Angie's bill.



Still full of energy, Diana bids farewell to Angie and heads home for the evening. Another day well done.

From Venezuela to Henry Street: A Dangerous Journey to Safety

Henry Street serves our new migrant neighbors in multiple programs, from English classes to mental health services to community schools. Our participants come from countries all over the world—Guinea, Sudan, China, Ukraine, Venezuela, and many more.

Several things distinguish the current influx of immigration from earlier waves. Notably, rampant violence, from civil strife to gang warfare, has spurred many of these immigrants to leave their homes. Often, they come here alone, with no family in the United States to house them and smooth the transition. In addition, the United States is granting refugee status to fewer people, leaving asylum seekers few options except to walk through Latin America to cross the border. To meet their needs, Henry Street's team goes beyond our established program options, providing necessities such as food, subway fares, clothing, and legal assistance.

On April 23, 2024, Henry Street devoted its annual Lillian Wald Symposium to the subject of how we can best serve our new neighbors. One of the speakers was Arnel Lanoy, pictured at right on the panel, who, with his son, seven-year-old Arwill, spent three months walking across the continent.



“I had a barber business in Venezuela, but my neighborhood was controlled by gangs, and if you don't pay extortion money to the gangs then bad things can happen to you and your family. I fled to Ecuador with my son to escape the gangs, but Ecuador has a major crime problem as well, and I was the victim of a traumatic kidnapping there.

Anyone who is a parent knows that we want the best for our children, so I decided to leave Ecuador with my son and come here. It wasn't easy to leave my work, family, friends, and life to go into the unknown. It took us two months to cross seven countries, then it took us another month to cross through Mexico. We survived the crossing through Mexico, and I decided to come to New York because many people said it was a welcoming, safe city to go to.

It was a difficult journey, especially in the jungle. When my son was down, I tried to help him feel better by showing him how the nature could be so beautiful. When he saw me in the same situation, he tried to help me the same way; he'd say, “Hey Papa, look, this is beautiful.” He gave me back that encouragement. He is so strong.

I came to Henry Street Settlement in December 2023. Henry Street has been a key support center for us. We arrived with nothing, and Henry Street gave us clothing and even Christmas presents for my son. Here I've taken my first steps at learning English, and I was able to connect with people and obtain a job. I now work as a barber and stylist in Queens. **Ever since I arrived at Henry Street Settlement, I've been able to walk more freely without looking over my back and feeling the constant anxiety of danger.** I feel comfortable here. I hope through my Henry Street ESOL courses I can become fluent in English and continue to grow at work. I hope to maintain my relationship with Henry Street long into the future.”



—ARNEL LANOY *Translated from Spanish*



An Unexpected Training Program Opens a Lane to the Future

After high school, Queens-born Tyler Montanez, 24, enrolled in college, planning to study biotechnology. But, he says, “Covid changed the whole dynamic of college. My whole life, I was used to learning things in person. Out of nowhere, you had to move everything online.”

Remote learning wasn’t working for him, and after two semesters of college he withdrew, getting work delivering food for Uber Eats and training to become a tackle football coach. But he was concerned about what he would do to find a more stable job and, ultimately, a career.

Then, a friend told Tyler about the Building Automation Systems Training (BAST) program—a partnership between Henry Street and the nonprofit Stacks+Joules. “He knew that I was smart and had a good memory and was good with my hands. I thought, ‘What can I lose?’” Tyler says.

Since its launch in 2021, BAST has trained seven cohorts of students, totaling 140 graduates. Seventy-seven percent of graduates are working in the industry, making an average hourly wage of more than \$26.

Tyler started the program in February 2024 at Henry Street’s Lower East Side neighborhood center. “I had never in my life thought of this type of career,” he says, “and I wound up making friends, too.” He valued the program’s practicality: “It wasn’t like math. It was more like figuring out what everyone’s strengths were; it was amazing,” he says.

For many BAST participants, economic obstacles can prove more challenging than educational ones in completing the program. “There are countless barriers—housing, food insecurity...” says Mahin Ashik, career innovation specialist at the Settlement. “Although the training is free, students have to support themselves.”

During a check-in with Tyler, Mahin asked about his living situation, and Tyler revealed that he was in a financial jam. Henry Street was able to provide him a grant through the Point Source Youth program, which seeks to prevent young-adult homelessness. One month’s worth of help with rent, groceries, and utilities enabled him to stay in his apartment and graduate from the program.

By the end of the training, Tyler had earned the EPA 608 Universal Certification for refrigerants and Niagara software certification. He has since earned OSHA certification.



77% of graduates are working in the field, making more than \$26/hour.

In June 2024, graduates presented their skills to energy companies, prompting Tec Systems to interview Tyler. “I got regular interview questions,” he says, “and then they asked me to draw the entire wiring diagram that I had presented at the skills showcase.” Despite his nerves, he succeeded and was offered a three-month internship paying more than \$20/hour. Tyler is now assisting experienced technicians with HVAC installations on two college campuses. If all goes well, he and several of his peers from the training program will be hired into jobs that pay more than \$30/hour, bringing Tec Systems’ total hires to 12 graduates.

Aside from the stability of having a consistent salary, Tyler says, the job has made him “feel like I’ve grown up and taken on a leadership role.” He adds, “It feels good to know I have a lane

where I can be very steady. If I would like to switch lanes, I can branch off and try something new instead of being worried about my next move. I’ve gained some peace of mind.”



Tyler Montanez demonstrates a wiring system at the building automation skills showcase in June 2024.



Gavin Rumph Finds Connection at Henry Street

"I'm not a saint but I'm going marching in," Gavin Rumph, 40, says with a laugh, describing his enthusiastic embrace of Henry Street's CONNECT (Continuous Engagement between Community and Clinic Treatment) support groups.

As a teenager from Georgia, Gavin struggled to fit in at school when he moved to Texas to live with his father. In an effort to explain why he felt different from his peers, he told people he was from New York City. Slowly that fib turned into a goal.

For 20 years, Gavin moved around the South, working a variety of jobs and briefly serving in the Army, but never having stability or an emotional support system. "It was like a building without a foundation," he says.

In 2024, after years of struggling with anxiety, depression, and

substance use, Gavin boarded a bus to the city of his dreams. Homeless upon arrival, he was soon hospitalized. When he was released from Bellevue Hospital to a Brooklyn shelter, a social worker provided him with a list of resources that proved fortuitous: it included Henry Street's CONNECT food pantry.

As Gavin began visiting the pantry for grocery staples, he also accepted the team's offer of individual psychotherapy and case-management services. He soon began trying out the support groups that CONNECT provides. Starting with the meditation group, he went on to join anger management, acupuncture, healthy relationships, and relapse prevention, coming to CONNECT nearly every day.

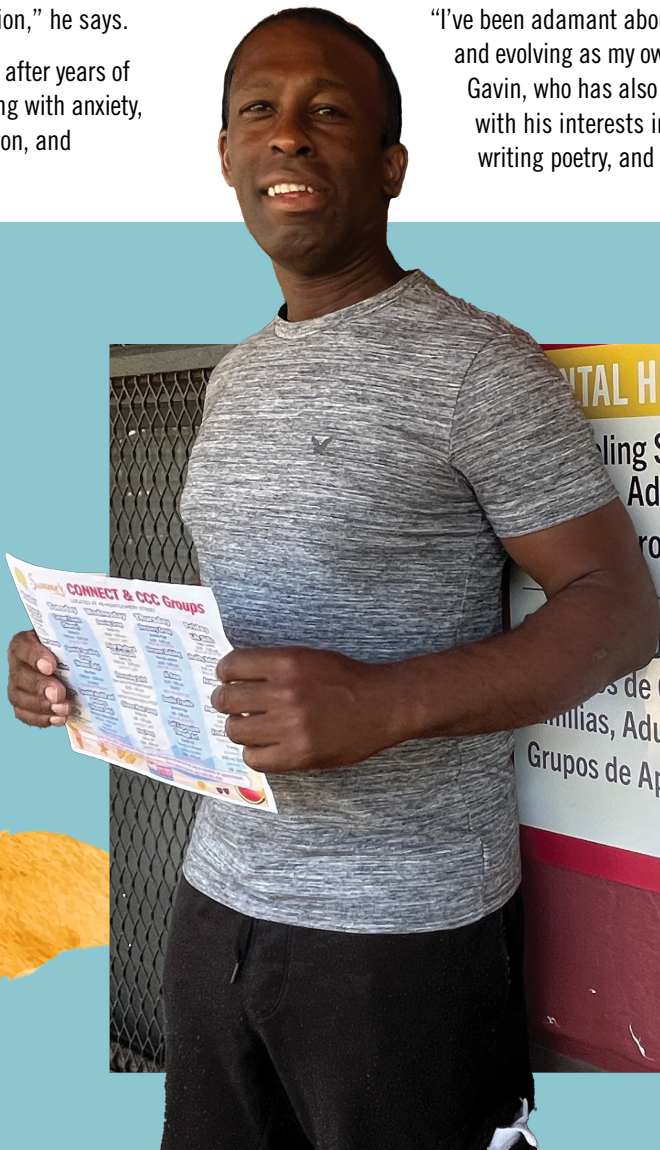
"I've been adamant about self-growth and evolving as my own person," says Gavin, who has also reconnected with his interests in singing, writing poetry, and spoken word.

CONNECT was conceived to help people just like Gavin—who need additional support beyond the typical 45-minute therapy session to thrive in the community.

“They care about my wellbeing; they want to see me prosper.”

"Gavin's remarkable tenacity and determination have been evident since I first met him," says Shanell Kitt, the CONNECT program director, Gavin's therapist, and his instructor in the Self-Expression Through Art group. "CONNECT's flexibility enables us to help people like Gavin navigate challenges and keep thriving in the community."

"It's been a fantastic therapeutic process," Gavin says. "They care about my wellbeing; they want to see me prosper. This is the first time."





Why We Love Boys & Girls Republic Afterschool & Summer Camp

During the pandemic, Ivrose Jean-Jacques, a busy X-ray technician for The Mount Sinai Hospital, was looking for a safe place for her daughter to spend her afternoons. Her union referred her to Henry Street's Boys & Girls Republic, which picks up children from her daughter's school. Now Chloe, 10, and her brother, Noah, 8, attend BGR Afterschool and Summer Camp.

HOW DOES BGR SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN?

Ivrose: We live in Brooklyn and it's a long commute. By the time we get home, my kids are very tired and don't have the energy to do homework. The thing I love about BGR is that not only do they do their schoolwork and get a meal, but they also have productive activities like sports, self-government—it's really teaching them how to be team players.

My son started summer camp last year before starting at a new school on the Lower East Side. Some of his friends from BGR were in his class, so he already had friends when he started school!

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS TO DO AT BGR?

Chloe: We play in gym and do art, which is really fun. We also have literacy which I really like. And I like theater, like last time we practiced standing in front of a crowd and talking.

Noah: I like gym and going to the park. And I liked the camp carnival!

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE IN BGR'S SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM.

Chloe: Last year I was elected prosecuting attorney.

Noah: When you're a prosecuting attorney, when someone has done something bad, you have to send them to the courtroom, and you talk to the jury and the mayor to find out how to fix the problem.

Chloe: I want to run for prosecuting attorney again next year!

Ivrose: That's another reason why I love this program; it teaches them how to be part of the community and understand civic duty. That brought out a lot of confidence in Chloe.

Noah: Yeah, she finally figured out how to do a cartwheel!

WHAT IS MOST SPECIAL ABOUT BGR?

Ivrose: As a parent, one of the most important factors is knowing your child is in a place where they're safe and they're being cared for. And this is the place. The people here are like extended family. They've known my daughter since she was 5; she's 10 now. This is a place that everyone should bring their kids.

HOW TO HELP

Why we need your support

As Henry Street strives to meet the most pressing needs of our community, the Settlement needs you. Your support directly translates into sustaining our life-affirming continuum of human services and arts programs while helping Henry Street stay agile and creative to meet the evolving needs of our neighbors.

DONATE Financial gifts of any amount directly support life-changing services for our community. Donate online at henrystreet.org/donate.

VOLUNTEER Henry Street offers a variety of volunteer initiatives for corporations and individuals. Read about current opportunities at henrystreet.org/volunteer.

SPREAD THE WORD Let your friends and family know about Henry Street Settlement's work. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn, and share our platforms with your networks.

Expanding Access to the Arts

ABRONS ARTS CENTER TO REOPEN THIS FALL

After extensive renovations, Henry Street's Abrons Arts Center will be dedicated and fully operational this October! We hope you'll visit to see the key upgrades that further our values of inclusivity, transparency, and accessibility, including:

- An accessible "LULA elevator" so that everyone can enter from a common point
- Two new ADA-compliant restrooms in the building's main lobby
- A ramp in the Upper Gallery to make the space accessible to all artists and audiences
- An expansion of the Main Gallery to host community events and visual art
- New glass walls along the Main Gallery above the amphitheater, increasing visibility and connectivity between interior space and the neighborhood
- A new vestibule for the Experimental Theater that separates the sound and light of the Main Gallery and the theater.

Li/Saltzman Architects designed the renovation, initiated by a transformative \$2 million capital gift from the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, which has inspired significant additional investments. **The renovated Amphitheater will be named the Miriam and Harold Steinberg Plaza.**

"With the Steinberg Charitable Trust's investment, we will be able to build upon the important legacy of the arts center and develop new models for creative expression and community belonging," says David Garza, Henry Street president & CEO.

Abrons Arts Center, originally the Arts for Living Center, designed in 1975 by architect Lo-Yi Chan of Prentice & Chan, Ohlhausen, is an extension of Henry Street Settlement's historic Neighborhood Playhouse. It is widely regarded as a case study in making the arts accessible to diverse communities.

ARTS CENTER EXPANDS ACCESS THROUGH TUITION SUPPORT

Piloted in 2021, our NYCHA Arts Initiative is entering its third year stronger and more popular than ever. **The initiative removes cost as a barrier to participation in the arts by providing free tuition to our arts education programs for public housing and other low-income housing residents** in four zip codes, ensuring that all of our neighbors can benefit from the transformative power of artistic expression. Sliding-scale tuition is available to all community members. This year, tuition assistance has enabled neighbors of all ages to gain skills, confidence, and community through group instruction in theater, piano, hip-hop, ballet, salsa dance, sculpture, ceramics, painting, and more.

HENRY STREET YOUTH ATTEND BUCK'S ROCK ARTS CAMP

This year, 14 Lower East Side youth attended the legendary Buck's Rock sleepaway camp, where they learned glass blowing, ceramics, sculpture, theater, instrumental music, and more in rural Connecticut. Henry Street is grateful to Buck's Rock for providing this invaluable experience at no charge to our community.

65% of students in Abrons Arts Center group classes receive free or discounted tuition



Dariusz Trochim and Gilbert Morales, glaziers with Talisen Construction, hoist a glass plate into its frame at Abrons Arts Center.



There's no limit to creativity in the Draw Paint Build class at Abrons Arts Center! Our student Anakin makes a mask. Photo: Brian Hatton Photography



Jacob Valpais practices glass blowing at Buck's Rock camp.