



## NEWS RELEASE

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# Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund deepens relationship with The Creative Center at University Settlement with two year grant

*New York, NY* – The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund has awarded The Creative Center at University Settlement a significant grant over two years, the nation’s first settlement house announced today.

The Creative Center was founded on the belief that “medicine cures the body, but art heals the spirit.” Its programs include Hospital Artists-in-Residence (AIR) that bring arts instruction to patients, caregivers, and medical professionals at 10 partner hospitals, daily in-person and virtual Arts Workshops, Creative Aging consulting, and an annual Training Institute for Artists and Administrators in Arts-in-Healthcare and Creative Aging.

The grant will support The Creative Center’s programs generally, with particular emphasis on the Hospital AIR program as well as its Creative Aging consulting work.

“Decades of research strongly demonstrates that the arts have an important role to play in reducing stress, helping individuals in their healing process and in building healthier communities,” said **Laurie M. Tisch**, founder and president of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund. “The Creative Center at University Settlement has long been a leader in this field, and we’re pleased to expand our partnership and help increase access to these services to more people and communities who can benefit.”

“Although we know that arts-in-healthcare and creative aging programs make a positive impact in patients’ lives and prognoses, most existing programs remain private and expensive,” said **Melissa Aase**, CEO, University Settlement. “With the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund’s investment, The Creative Center will continue to address this inequity by intentionally connecting to diverse communities marginalized by systemic healthcare disparities. Our freshly expanded partnership will also ensure that each of The Creative Center’s programs are able to continue sustainably.”

## **About University Settlement**

University Settlement partners with 40,000 New Yorkers on the Lower East Side and in Brooklyn every year to build on their strengths as they achieve healthy, stable, and remarkable lives. For over 135 years, we've collaborated with our neighbors to pioneer highly effective programs that fight poverty and systemic inequality. Established in 1886 as the first Settlement House in the United States, we bring the values of that movement into the 21st century by meeting New Yorkers where they live, listening deeply to all perspectives, engaging with every individual holistically, and creating space for people to organize. Joining together with our neighbors to advocate for justice and equality, we help build community strength.

We work with New Yorkers of all ages. We infuse a commitment to civic engagement, equity, and communal action into each of our programs, which include early childhood education, mental health and wellness, benefits assistance and eviction prevention, adult literacy and education, healthy aging, community and recreation centers, performing and visual arts, and youth development.

Learn more at [www.universitysettlement.org](http://www.universitysettlement.org).

## **About the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund**

The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund is a New York City-based foundation that aims to improve access and opportunity for all New Yorkers and foster healthy and vibrant communities. The Illumination Fund plays an active role in supporting innovative approaches across a range of issues – ensuring that the arts and arts education are accessible to all, increasing access to healthy food, promoting civic service, and promoting economic opportunity. In 2018, the Illumination Fund launched Arts in Health, a multi-million dollar, multi-year initiative to support organizations working on health issues that impact New York communities and that emphasize the arts as a tool for healing and building understanding. The initiative's areas of focus include the role of the arts in addressing mental health stigma, trauma, and aging-related diseases. In 2021 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Illumination Fund added a focus to support organizations utilizing the arts to address mental health issues in communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic. For more information, visit [www.lmtif.org](http://www.lmtif.org) or follow @LMTischFund on X (formerly Twitter).