



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2024

Contact:

dhughes@universitysettlement.org

The Creative Center at University Settlement to Receive \$40,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

New York, NY – The Creative Center at University Settlement is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a Grants for Arts Projects award of \$40,000. This grant will support the Training Institute, a four-day program offering intensive training, seminars, and networking opportunities to advance the integration of arts in healthcare and promote well-being.

This grant enables the upcoming launch of The Creative Center at University Settlement's annual Training Institute for Artists and Administrators in Arts-in-Healthcare and Creative Aging, which will span four days and feature an intensive schedule of trainings, seminars, and networking opportunities held at Speyer Hall. Additionally, participants will visit museums such as the Museum of Modern Art, The New Museum, and the Asia Society, as well as studios of older adult artists.

In total, the NEA will award 1,135 Grants for Arts Projects awards totaling more than \$37 million as part of its second round of fiscal year 2024 grants.

"Projects like The Creative Center's Training Institute exemplify the creativity and care with which communities are telling their stories, creating connection, and responding to challenges and opportunities in their communities—all through the arts," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "So many aspects of our communities such as cultural vitality, health and wellbeing, infrastructure, and the economy are advanced and improved through investments in art and design, and the National Endowment for the Arts is committed to ensuring people across the country 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. "The Creative Center will continue to connect the arts and diverse communities marginalized by systemic healthcare disparities."

For more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

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.

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 or follow @LMTischFund on X (formerly Twitter).