



NEWS RELEASE

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University Settlement awarded \$148,500 by the New York State Council on the Arts

New York, NY - University Settlement announced today a grant totaling \$148,500 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support the recovery of the nonprofit arts and culture sector. Following New York State's \$105 million in the arts for FY2022, NYSCA has awarded more than \$80 million since June 2021.

NYSCA funding will be used to support both of of University Settlement's arts programs:

- [The Performance Project](#), which engages young local artists alongside emerging and established professional artists with opportunities to connect, create, and publicly present new work.
- [The Creative Center](#), which engages people with cancer, chronic illnesses, and aging-related complications with opportunities to discover how making art can create positive distractions and deepen a person's sense of self.

"We are grateful to NYSCA for its support of our arts programs," said **Melissa Aase, CEO of University Settlement**. "The arts give people the space to explore feelings, build self-awareness, and cope with challenges; they bring us together, and they give us the opportunity to become our best selves. University Settlement is committed to making sure our neighbors can participate in free or low-cost art-making activities; it's central to our mission."

"The arts have long been a critical sector in our economy, and as we continue to rebuild a stronger New York, it's essential we do all we can help this industry thrive once again," said **Governor Kathy Hochul**. "These awardees represent the best of what New York's vibrant communities have to offer and with this funding in hand, they will be able to not only continue their creative and inspiring work, but help spur revitalization in their own backyard as well."

"NYSCA applauds Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature for their responsive investment of \$105 million for the nonprofit arts and culture sector. 2022 will

continue to bring change and University Settlement will play a vital role in the renewal of our state's economy and creative ecosystem," said **Mara Manus, Executive Director, NYSCA**. "On behalf of the entire NYSCA Team, we wish to extend our sincere congratulations on your award."

"Council congratulates University Settlement on this grant award! New York State arts and culture organizations inspire New Yorkers and cultivate community in every region," said **Katherine Nicholls, Chair, NYSCA**. "Arts and culture are crucial to our state's health, and Council recognizes the dynamic impact of NYSCA grantees on the well-being of all New Yorkers."

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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 130 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.