

THE POWER OF US





A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Human beings contain multitudes, but systems are too-often biased toward one-size-fits-all solutions. At University Settlement, we know that human connection can create exponential value, and that engaging our neighbors in their powerful individuality helps build stronger communities. Honoring difference, insisting on complexity, and forging relationships are the pillars of our approach to inclusive community development, which we've honed in our neighborhoods for more than 135 years.

When we approach our neighbors holistically, with a wide range of complementary services, with teams who approach their very different work from a shared perspective, and with people who are empowered and encouraged to connect the dots, our work is stronger and more effective.

THAT'S THE POWER OF US.

—Melissa Aase

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

University Settlement forges partnerships between neighbors on the Lower East Side and in Brooklyn, engaging more than 40,000 New Yorkers in efforts to build stronger communities every year.

Established in 1886 as the first Settlement House in the United States, we bring the values of that movement into the 21st century by:

- Fighting poverty and systemic inequality with responsive programs and advocacy;
- Engaging all members of the community from newborns to elders;
- Joyfully nurturing the whole person by addressing basic needs including food, education, culture, learning, and community.

OUR INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

University Settlement is One House—at each of our locations, our teams are able to connect our neighbors with every program and service across our network.

We engage our neighbors where they live and are guided by local priorities—evolving thoughtfully as we listen and learn. Our programs are available in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and other languages our neighbors speak.

We prioritize resources toward people in the most vulnerable situations, to ensure that all people in our communities have access to basic rights, necessities, and opportunities, while centering civic engagement, relationship-building, advocacy, and the arts.

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| Early Childhood | Youth Development + Community Centers |
| Mental Health + Wellness | Housing + Financial Stability |
| Older Adults | Arts |
| Adult English Classes | Advocacy + Community Action |

 **We operate 30+ sites in the LES and Brooklyn.**

SOME DOORS INTO OUR HOUSE

1) 184 Eldridge Street
Our historic headquarters is now home to Early Childhood, Mental Health, Adult English Classes, Youth Development, and Arts programs, including Speyer Hall, our renovated performance space.



2) Neighborhood Center
The heart of our campus for older adults on the Lower East Side engages our aging neighbors with programs that promote longevity through education, art, recreation and nutrition, including self-defense classes beginning in 2021.



3) Park Slope North Early Childhood Center
Trusted by Park Slope parents since 1972, classes here go beyond daycare, offering curriculum-based education that prioritizes creativity, exploration, and discovery.



Legend

- All-Ages Comprehensive Programming
- Early Childhood Programming
- Youth Programming
- Older Adults Programming



4) Cornerstone @ Campos Plaza
A community hub that operates like a “living room” for our neighbors in the East Village, Campos programs include after-school and summer camp for young people.



5) PS / MS 34
Our newest Community School engages each student and family with individualized services, prioritizing access to social supports, mental healthcare, and the arts.



6) Cornerstone @ Ingersoll
A neighborhood hub at the heart of Fort Greene, where we convene after-school and summer camp for children and teens, athletics and wellness opportunities for adults, the Intergenerational Arts Council, and community programs for families.



7) East New York
Our growing campus on Livonia Avenue is home to Early Childhood Education programs including Early Head Start and our home-based childcare teams, Mental Health and Wellness programs focused on infants and toddlers and on preventing family separation, and eviction prevention and financial stability services.

Early Childhood

Our early childhood education programs work to narrow the opportunity gap, spark the imaginations of more than 800 young learners in our neighborhoods, and ensure that every child is prepared for kindergarten and beyond.

Prioritizing education for young children has always been central to our approach; we brought the first kindergarten to the United States in 1890. In 2021, 90% of children moving on from our center-based programs were socially and emotionally “school-ready”—a monumental feat considering the impact of COVID.



90%
of children moving on from our programs considered school-ready*

*classroom average

Mental Health + Wellness

Mental health services can be hard to find and harder to afford, and these challenges are compounded by poverty and societal inequity. We partner with thousands of individuals and families in our neighborhoods to respond to the challenges life presents, offering high-quality care from culturally sensitive professionals.

We are a leader in integrating robust, accessible mental healthcare into all of our programs—our groundbreaking Consultation Center first began offering services to our communities in 1945.

In 2021, our new Prevention Program began partnering with families in East New York to keep children in their homes and out of the child welfare system.

“When we first started with Cathy, she was doing her best with what she had, and she felt tired, and helpless, and judged. It’s been amazing to see her make such progress, reaching out to her network, trusting people to support her, and taking the lead in looking for new solutions. She’s now advocating for herself and her children, and it’s such a breakthrough”

—Princess McPherson,
Director, Prevention Program



Older Adults

Adults over 60 are the fastest-growing group of New Yorkers, and we engage more than 1,200 of our aging neighbors in a thoughtful range of social and recreational activities that promote longevity and well-being through education, art, recreation, and nutrition.

Responding to an uptick in violence and harassment against our AAPI neighbors, in 2021 we partnered with concerned community members to begin offering self-defense classes.

“Now, if anyone harasses me, I can help defend myself a little.”

—May Wong



Adult English Classes

Every year, more than 450 immigrant adults join us to build language, civic literacy, and technology skills they use to gain employment, pursue further education, understand and exercise legal rights and responsibilities, obtain U.S. citizenship, and otherwise participate in their communities.

Forging connections with immigrants as they pursue their goals goes to the heart of our identity as a settlement house, and has always been part of our work, since 1886.

"University Settlement's Adult Literacy Program has helped me a lot in my personal and professional life. At my job, I take calls and now I'm able to talk and have conversations. My progress has been incredible. US also referred me to a program that helps immigrants with engineering backgrounds pursue their profession in the United States. I feel very proud to be here and to be able to speak, write, and read in English!"

—Lenis, Adult Literacy alum



Youth Development + Community Centers

We partner with more than 3,500 young people annually to create safe, fun, purpose-driven environments where they can begin building their futures.

Our after-school, summer camp, and college access programs are rooted in positive youth development and social-emotional learning models that build students' self-awareness, self-expression, and leadership skills.

Building on trusted relationships with families in these programs, in 2021 we further integrated social-emotional and mental health engagement into our summer camps. In the process, we quantified the pandemic-driven mental health crisis we knew was taking place—24% of our campers said they feel down "almost all the time."

"As heartbreaking as it was to hear our campers articulate such challenging emotions, it was also tremendously valuable to have these conversations, as a necessary first step toward healing."

—Melissa Aase, CEO, University Settlement



Housing + Financial Stability

We combat homelessness by partnering with our neighbors to identify financial problems and solve them before they lead to eviction, securing more than 1,500 New Yorkers last year.

Project Home advocates for safe and affordable housing for all New Yorkers, pushes back against landlord harassment, advises people going through housing court proceedings, and supports tenant organizing.

In 2021 we led a coalition of organizations on the Lower East Side to help our neighbors access New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

"I had accumulated rent arrears of more than \$30,000. University Settlement's team was nice, technically adept, and very thorough in helping me navigate the problem-plagued ERAP website. As a result of their efforts, my landlord received a check for almost everything I owed. An enormous burden has been lifted from my shoulders now that I know that I will not be evicted."

—Peter Basta Brightbill



Arts

Art-making is fundamental to human thriving, just like nutrition and education, and we are committed to making sure that thousands of our neighbors can participate in free or low-cost art activities as a central aspect of our mission.

We operate two unique arts programs:

The Performance Project connects young local artists with emerging and established professional artists to create and publicly present new work that includes and is accessible to our communities.

The Creative Center engages people with cancer, chronic illnesses, and everyone aged 60 and over with opportunities to discover how making art can create positive distractions and deepen a person's sense of self.

"When my grandfather was reaching the end of his life, with an Alzheimer's diagnosis, my mother and grandmother (both lifelong art teachers) would paint with him. I came to more fully understand that a person's health is not simply a matter of calorie intake and regular checkups, but is also contingent on community, relationships, and many kinds of mental and spiritual engagement."

—Sophia Heinecke, Director, The Creative Center



Advocacy + Community Action

Through advocacy, we secure access to resources for thousands of our neighbors, supporting policies that help build a more sustainable, resilient, equitable New York City.

Community action is at the heart of University Settlement's mission—throughout our history, we have partnered with our neighbors in their efforts to create a fairer society. We bring our subject-matter expertise and the strategic relationships we've built with governments and other influential institutions into these community partnerships, shifting power and resources to bring lasting benefit to our neighborhoods.

In 2021, we successfully lobbied NYC for additional funding for early childhood mental healthcare in our neighborhoods.

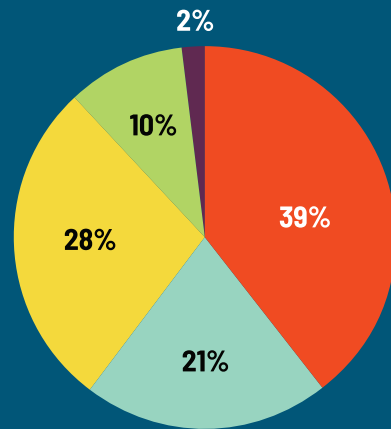
"So often, we hear that children are resilient, but children are not immune from stress and trauma. Our babies and children are much more perceptive than we often give them credit for, and certainly absorb and even carry the weight of the anxieties, fear, or sadness of the adults and caregivers around them... our teachers have been bearing the brunt of the emotional work to support themselves, their families, and so many others. And we need the city to prioritize and fund the Children Under 5 Mental Health Initiative."

—Marilus Castellanos, Senior Program Director of Early Childhood Mental Health and Family Wellness, testifying before the New York City Council



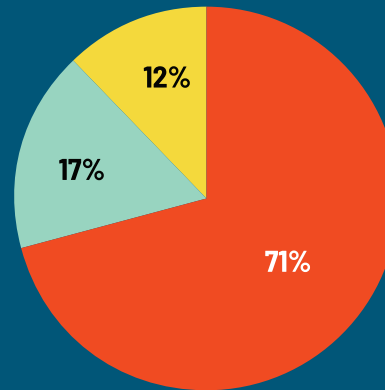
FINANCIAL REPORT

**HOW OUR BUDGET BREAKS
DOWN BY PROGRAM**



- Early Childhood Services
- Youth Services
- Family and Counseling Services
- Management
- Fundraising

HOW WE'RE FUNDED



- Government Grants
- Other Operating Revenues
- Private Support



**Charity Navigator gives us a
100/100 Encompass Rating
on Finance & Accountability**

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MAKE A GIFT TODAY

UniversitySettlement.org/Donate

Charity Navigator gives University Settlement an Encompass Rating of 100 based on our financial stability, efficiency, sustainability, and our commitment to strong governance practice and policies.

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The Power of US

The exponential human value created when we forge relationships and stand up for what's right, together.

**UNIVERSITY
SETTLEMENT**