



MANNY CANTOR CENTER
Educational Alliance

– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE–

CONTACT:

Dara Lehon | dlehon@mannycantor.org | 646.395.4075

HISTORIC EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE ART SCHOOL TO REOPEN WITH NEW STUDIOS, CLASSES, VISION

*- Renowned Lower East Side Community Arts School to Serve People of all Backgrounds at
Manny Cantor Center -*

– OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 10, 2014, 6-8PM –

NOVEMBER 25, 2014, New York, NY – Following a two-year gut renovation of its landmark building, Educational Alliance, a leading provider of social services and programs throughout downtown New York City, today announced the reopening of its community art school at the [Manny Cantor Center](#). The new facility on the Lower East Side of Manhattan builds on the school's near-century-old legacy of offering high-quality art classes.

Art classes at the Educational Alliance were informally offered as early as 1895. When the school was officially established in 1917, under the direction of Russian-born artist Abbo Ostrowsky, it was conceived as a community art center dedicated to exploring “the inherent cultural potentialities” of its members, providing a highly professional environment for serious students. The school was attributed to fostering the Ashcan School, an artistic movement best known for works portraying scenes of life in New York, often in the city's poorer neighborhoods, where it is located. Notable twentieth century artists who got their start at the Art School include **Peter Blume, Adolph Gottlieb, Louise Nevelson, Barnett Newman, Mark Rothko, and Max Weber**, among others.

As the 125-year-old Educational Alliance building underwent construction, for the past three years, the school has run off-site programming from several downtown locations including the Compleat Sculptor and Educational Alliance's Sirovich Senior Center and the 14th Street Y. Classes have included Ceramics, Beginning and Advanced Oil Painting, Abstract Painting, Drawing, Comic Book Art, Figure Drawing and Stone Carving. The school also has offered special on-location drawing and painting classes in Central Park, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Brooklyn Botanical Garden.

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In January 2015, the Art School will reopen with new studios in the Manny Cantor Center, a state-of-the-art community and cultural center and the original site of the Educational Alliance. The School's modernized facilities provide a supportive environment for creative development and arts study where students enjoy spacious, well-lit painting and drawing studios, a newly-equipped ceramic and sculpture studio, a multidisciplinary studio, and two gallery spaces. It will offer an expanded curriculum to reflect community needs and desires, including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture classes, and jewelry-making for all skill levels and at affordable prices.

"Through exceptional arts education, public programs and exhibitions - and now a beautiful new space - we will foster a dialogue in the arts, an opportunity for artistic discovery, and a chance to honor the history of our storied neighborhood and the people who helped build it," said Emily Aldredge, Director of the Art School.

ART SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Manny Cantor Center will host an Art School open house featuring art-making demonstrations and an opportunity to meet instructors in the new studios

December 10, 2014 | 6-8PM
Manny Cantor Center
197 East Broadway, NYC 10002

Class registration for the fall term begins December 8, 2014.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: MannyCantor.org/Art or email artschool@MannyCantor.org

MANNY CANTOR CENTER

The Art School is the final piece of the \$55 million transformation of Educational Alliance's flagship building on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The Manny Cantor Center opened in February 2014 as a community hub that fosters interaction and collaboration among diverse populations. From light-filled early childhood classrooms, to a state-of-the-art fitness center, spacious art studios and a beautiful top-floor community space for community events and rent, the Center's programming includes:

- A 7,000 square-foot, fitness center featuring the latest equipment, personal training and group exercise classes
- Nationally recognized Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms alongside private early childhood preschool and a parenting center
- After school programs for teens, a partnership with Boys and Girls Club of America
- Innovative adult and two-generation programs including College Access and Success to help prepare parents of children in Head Start Programs to earn college degrees
- Holistic older adult programming focused on maintaining personal health and motivation through fitness, general wellness, arts and culture
- Public and community programs that reflect the neighborhood's distinct character
- Glass-enclosed rooftop rental space for private and community events

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“Thousands of people pass through our doors each day, and we’re so thrilled to welcome our art school back in its original space, with newly renovated studios. We hope the school will nurture creative expression and arts appreciation in an inclusive environment and with top-notch programming,” said Rabbi Joanna Samuels, Executive Director of the Manny Cantor Center.

“We believe that everyone, regardless of background, should have the opportunity for self-expression and lifelong learning. When a diverse group of New Yorkers come together – young and old, of all backgrounds and languages – we know that barriers are broken down and human connections are found. Out of our art classes comes improved skills – and an improved city.” said Alan van Capelle, CEO of Educational Alliance.

ABOUT EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE:

Founded in 1889, the Educational Alliance is a community-based nonprofit organization, offering a wide range of programs in downtown Manhattan, including early childhood education, after school activities, senior centers, college prep programs, meals for the homeless, an art school, subsidized housing, health and fitness classes and addiction services. The Alliance is a Jewish organization and proudly serves people from all ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. For more information, visit www.edalliance.org.

ABOUT THE MANNY CANTOR CENTER:

The Manny Cantor Center, a project of Educational Alliance, is a state-of-the-art, 103,000 square-foot, six-story community and cultural center located at 197 East Broadway on the Lower East Side. The Center offers high-quality services for people of all ages, backgrounds and income levels including: a new health and fitness center, a Jewish preschool, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, parenting programs, a senior center, an Art School, a Teen Center and cultural programs. For more information on the Lower East Side’s new hub, visit www.MannyCantor.org. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @MannyCantorNYC

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