



**MANNY CANTOR CENTER**

197 East Broadway  
New York, NY 10002  
T 646.395.4280  
www.MannyCantor.org  
@MannyCantorNYC

- **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** -

**CONTACT:**

Dara Lehon, dlehon@mannycantor.org, 646.395.4075

**MANNY CANTOR CENTER AND LAURA NOVA PRESENT MOVING STORIES: A SENIOR LED WALKING TOUR OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE**

-Interactive Storytelling and Movement Project with Local Seniors Recognizes **Older Americans Month** -



May 13, 2015 – June 24, 2015; Opening reception May 13, 2015 at 2pm  
Jewish Communal Gallery at the Manny Cantor Center

**LOWER EAST SIDE, NY, MAY 12, 2015 -- *A laundered synagogue on Madison Street, A first kiss at Seward Park Library, Biking hands free on the East River Path.*** Manny Cantor Center, the flagship building of the Educational Alliance, is pleased to present Moving Stories by artist and Lower East Sider, Laura Nova. Moving Stories is an interactive walking tour on the Lower East Side that encourages senior citizens to combine physical movement and memory developed through a series of storytelling workshops and group walks.

- **MORE** -



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*“Walking with the seniors is like walking with an expert, seeing previously unseen fascinations of a familiar world,” said Laura Nova, 2015 artist-in-residence at Manny Cantor Center.*

Moving Stories will be part of an Older Adults Art Exhibition featuring a ballet barre storytelling routine at the Manny Cantor Center to mark Older Americans Month, beginning May 13, 2015 – June 24, 2015. A series of scheduled walking tours led by selected seniors will be presented at the **New Museum’s New Ideas Festival** on May 30, 2015. A film screening will take place at the Manny Cantor Center at 197 East Broadway in New York City in June.

Created in partnership with the Weinberg Center for Balanced Living at the Manny Cantor Center, which provides programs and services for more than 2,000 community members age 60 and up, this immersive journey unravels stories of people and places, of preserving personal identity, and of community and connection. An often overlooked population within a changing neighborhood, many seniors who participate in the project have lived on the LES all of their lives. Others are newer – not only to the neighborhood, but to the United States.

Moving Stories will be featured in the Manny Cantor Center’s Jewish Communal Fund Gallery as part of an Older Adult Art Exhibition featuring the work of Educational Alliance’s Older Adult members. The project includes a ballet barre routine and an exercise video featuring the seniors from Weinberg Senior Center, incorporating gesture and imagery to strengthen the connection between storytelling and physical expression.

“The ‘Moving Stories’ project is one of the Weinberg Center’s most engaging programs this year. We have been thrilled to work with Laura Nova as our artist-in-residence this year, especially because she lives in the neighborhood. Because the project is incorporating memory and location, it’s been really meaningful to our seniors to have someone working with them who is also experiencing the changes happening on the Lower East Side, and wants to ensure that our personal and collective stories are not lost,” said Karen Taylor, Program Director of the Weinberg Center for Balanced Living.

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Moving Stories is made possible in part with public funds from the Manhattan Community Arts Fund, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and SPARC, a collaboration among the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department for The Aging and the City's five local arts councils. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the Department For the Aging.

**For a preview of the project, [click here](#):**



Mendy Erez, Member of the Weinberg Center for Balanced Living and Moving Stories Participant. Mendy tells the story of a laundromat that used to be his synagogue.

### ABOUT LAURA NOVA

LAURA NOVA is an artist, social impact designer, educator and problem solver whose work focuses on the ways that language and technology mediate communication and how physical movement responds to place as stage for meaningful social interaction. An interdisciplinary, participative, and collaborative practice using traditional and digital methodologies, Nova provides expansive tools to collaborate with communities that are often underserved and overlooked by mainstream media. Her work includes a 64' billboard of an order by number menu, a 20-meter indoor running track, an automated praise-singing machine and a karaoke style stage for one-liner jokes. Exercising storytelling, subjective and collective memory and physical movement - Moving Stories is her latest project that pulls all of these elements together.

Nova's work has been included in exhibitions nationally and internationally, including the ICI exhibition *Situation Comedy: Humor in Recent Art* and *Limited Run* at Real Art Ways for which she received a National Performance Network Grant. She is a recipient of the Fund for Creative Communities and the Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grant; these funds were distributed by the LMCC to produce the public work *The Crescendo Project* in Riverside Park. Recent projects include *Feed Me a Story* at First Street Green Art Park in NYC (NEA supported), *The Pot Luck Club* at Lu Magnus Gallery in NYC (NYSCA Media Presentation grant recipient) and *The Soup Doctor* at the Eldridge Street Museum in NYC. She participated in several artist residencies including the Artist in the Marketplace (AIM) at the Bronx Museum of Art, the Henry Street Settlement, LMCC Workspace, Visual Studies Workshop, Vermont Studio Center, Governors Island Swing Space and Ellis Island. Nova received her B.F.A. and B.A. in art and history from Cornell University and M.F.A. from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago as a Jacob Javits Fellow. She lived and worked in London as a Rotary International Scholar and completed Associate Research at Goldsmiths College. Nova is the SPARC artist-in-residence at The Weinberg Center for Balanced Living at the Manny Cantor Center and an Associate Professor in Expanded Media at Bloomfield College in the division of Creative Arts and Technology. She lives on the Lower East Side, NY.

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### **ABOUT THE WEINBERG CENTER FOR BALANCED LIVING**

As perceptions of aging continue to evolve and barriers to exciting new beginnings increasingly erode, older adults are re-defining the very definition of health. The Weinberg Center for Balanced Living at the Manny Cantor Center provides empowering classes, workshops, and social events focused on maintaining personal health, engaging the senses, and motivating its members. In addition to social services and support, Center members get a jam-packed calendar of events, cultural celebrations, deeply discounted tickets to popular shows, and innovative health & wellness programs. On Mondays – Fridays, the Center also serves hot, healthy kosher breakfast and lunch.

### **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 newly renovated 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](http://www.MannyCantor.org). Follow the Center on Twitter and Facebook: @MannyCantorNYC

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