



Opening Up New Possibilities



We were honored to host the ribbon cutting ceremony for Site 6 at Essex Crossing at our Community Center!

Dear Friends,

Even though Grand St. Settlement is operating in a challenging policy, political, and funding environment, I am confident that we will continue to thrive as an organization and strengthen communities on both ends of the Williamsburg Bridge.

For instance, earlier this week Grand St. Settlement was part of an exciting event--the ribbon cutting ceremony for Site 6 at Essex Crossing. As the lead community partner for Essex Crossing, we were honored to celebrate the upcoming opening of GrandLo Café and our

community center. Because of these two initiatives we will be able to further increase our ability to empower young people and seniors on the Lower East Side. You can read more about the ribbon cutting in this [New York Times](#) article.

However, Essex Crossing is just one of the many things we are looking forward to in the coming months:

- Gearing up for future fundraising initiatives, including [Taste of the Lower East Side](#) and our capital campaign to support renovations at 80 Pitt Street
- Exploring opportunities to expand our reach and impact in some of the highest-need neighborhoods in Brooklyn
- Working with United Neighborhood Houses and our elected officials to advocate on behalf of our participants and secure funding for our programs

Each one of you plays an important role in ensuring that we continue to provide life-changing services to our neighbors--thank you.

Best Regards,

Robert Cordero, Executive Director

Happening Now

BOLD INITIATIVES

We held a Parents' Know Your Rights Training and information forum in partnership with the Migrant Center and with the support of KIND (Kids in Need of Defense). The training covered a presentation on immigrants' rights by a KIND lawyer, followed by a Q&A on general immigration issues.

GRAND STRATEGY

Our Kickstarter campaign for GrandLo Café not only met, but exceeded, its \$25,000 goal! The Kickstarter funds will help support the startup of the job training program.

INSPIRED WORK

Four out of our six Cornerstone centers are working in partnership with the NYPD to put together a Father-Daughter dance this spring!

Moments of the Month

Highlighting Our Early Childhood Programs

City Limits recently spotlighted our early childhood programs and staff in an [article](#) about how NYC can better support Pre-K children who are homeless and have special needs.





Oh My Nosh, What a Success!

We held a preview party at GrandLo Café to show off the space to our friends and supporters in the community. It was a fun night with a DJ and great drinks and food. We are excited to open GrandLo Café in March! Check out [Bowery Boogie's coverage](#) of the event.

Baruch Ribbon Cutting

Our Baruch Cornerstone program held a ribbon cutting event where elementary, middle, and high school participants dazzled the crowd!





Break a Leg!

Youth from our NEST+m program showed off their dancing, singing, and acting skills in "High School Musical, Jr."

A Winning Smile

Andrew Rodriguez, who works at the front desk at 80 Pitt Street, shows off the iPad he won for helping to spread the word about the GrandLo Café Kickstarter!





Taking a Tour

Managing Director Willing Chin-Ma recently toured our early childhood program sites with board members Tracie Golding Gerson and Jenna Shen.

Music to Our Ears

Thanks to Vocal Ease, who entertained the seniors in our NORC program with New Year's related songs in both English and Spanish!





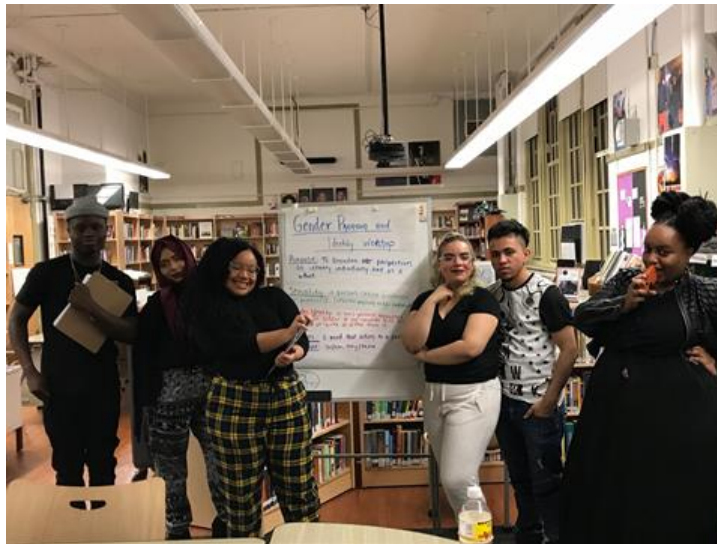
Masaryk Gate Update

Our seniors who attend programming at 80 Pitt Street have been granted limited access through the Masaryk Gate with IDs.

College Door Kickoff

As part of its College Access for All initiative, P.S./M.S. 84 Jose de Diego held a "College Door Kickoff." Each homeroom adopted a college to represent and decorated its classroom's doors in college colors and symbols.





We're Proud of PSOL

Project Speak OUT Loud (PSOL) recently facilitated its first Gender Pronouns 101 workshop at City-As-School High School and were invited to organize a series of conversations on gender and identity in March!

Running for a Cause

We are proud to announce that we are a community partner for the 2018 New York City Marathon! We welcome all to join our team and support our communities at the largest marathon in the world. Please [contact us](#) to sign up or for additional information.



Empowering Our Young Men

In honor of National Mentoring Month, Unity Plaza Community Center's Young Men's Initiative group met with the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity to discuss the importance of mentoring!

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

We recently met Deputy Inspector Rhonda O'Reilly Bovell, the new Commanding Officer of the 7th Precinct, which serves the Lower East Side. We look forward to further strengthening our relationship with the NYPD!



Youth Action Day

Our youth traveled to Albany on Youth Action Day to meet with state senators and assembly members to advocate for funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Want to highlight your favorite moments in the

newsletter or social media? Send a description
and Instagram-worthy pictures to:

ewong@grandsettlement.org

Grand St. Shoutouts

Happy Birthday to Muriel Abeledo, Martina Adames, Wanda Alvarado, Crystal Alvarez, Rachael Brannon, Joey Chen, Ines De La Nuez, Mizael Dejesus, Trisha Diaz, Tracy Durandis, Gladys Fernandez, Jose Figueroa II, Anayely Grande Davila, Eric Grossmann, Richard Ishak, Bodrun Islam, Shiv Kadar, Kayee Lee, Erica Leong, Andy Leung, Rashid Littlejohn, Cooper Lynn, Melanie Ma, Sanjida Malik, Sharmila Malik, Caonabo Martinez, Jannie Mayor, Cheryl Mery, Eva Miranda-Ortiz, Talea Padilla, Brandon Palmer, Israel Perez Jr, Daisy Pimentel, Ayana Reefer, Christina Rivera, Christopher Robinson, Andrew Rodriguez, Share Roman, Altagracia Rosado, Kayla Shaughnessy, Susette Taveras, Cinthya Vargas, Kai Williams, Erica Wong, and Kimberly Wright.

Happy Anniversary to Wanda Alvarado, Parvin Begum, Angel Caban, Keh-Yueh Chen, Willing Chin, Julianne Elsayed, Wanda Garcia, Ruben Gomez, Martha Gonzembach, Erika Hernandez, Joanna Liu, Melanie Ma, Steve Peralta, Steven Romero, Jasmine Rosa, Irene Shin, Stephanie Slowe, Ruth White, and XingYi Yu.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the communities of the Lower East Side and Brooklyn.



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