

Valerie S. Mason  
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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

April 22, 2025

Honorable Mayor Eric Adams  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos  
New York City Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

**RE: Expanding arts education access for NYC students**

Dear Mayor Adams and Chancellor Aviles-Ramos,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on April 16, 2025, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

**WHEREAS** the arts and arts education has been shown to be helpful for mental wellness, particularly of young people; and

**WHEREAS** the arts and arts education has continuously been shown to have a positive impact on students' socio-emotional development; and

**WHEREAS** increased arts education coincides with increased civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS** even modest investments in arts education funding can yield significant benefits for students and their communities;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan (CB8M) supports the following initiatives, bills, and policy proposals aimed increasing arts education and literacy in the New York City (NYC) public schools: (1) more funding for arts education initiatives in both the state and city budget; (2) support for [New York State Senate Bill S1072](#) (sponsored by State Senator Jose M. Serrano), which directs the commissioner of education to require public schools to report on compliance with art education instruction requirements; (3) consistent funding for a sequential K-12 arts program in all NYC public schools; (4) a dedicated arts instructor in every NYC public school; (5) increased

transparency from the NYC Department of Education around arts education access; and  
(6) the codification of arts education in the New York State budget.

Please advise our office of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Valerie S. Mason*

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Chair

*Taina Borrero and Addeson Lehv*

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Co-Chairs, Youth, Education and Libraries Committee

*Alida Camp*

Alida Camp  
Chair, Arts Committee

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York  
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Jerrold Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District  
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District  
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District  
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District  
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District  
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District