

The Creative Center at University Settlement Receives Support from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund's Arts in Health Initiative in 2020

The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund announced that The Creative Center at University Settlement, one of the Arts in Health initiative's inaugural cohort of grantees, will once again be part of the cohort of organizations receiving funding in its 2020 Arts in Health initiative to promote creative aging and as an outlet for patients and survivors of cancer and other serious diseases. In 2020, The Creative Center will advance core programs, including Hospital Artists-In-Residence in New York City, daily workshops in visual, performing, and literary arts, and a Training Institute for Artists and Administrators in Healthcare and Creative Aging. In addition to this funding, the Fund will support several scholarships in TCC's annual Training Institute as well as professional development for staff.

The grant is part of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund's Arts in Health initiative, which the Fund launched in 2018 to support organizations working on health issues that impact New York communities and that utilize the arts as a tool for healing, with a special emphasis on improving access and addressing disparities in health outcomes. The initiative highlights the health value of multiple artistic disciplines, including visual art, dance, music, theater, and film, and focuses on three main issues: mental health stigma, trauma, and aging-related diseases.

"We know from decades of research that the arts have an important role to play in helping individuals in their healing process," said Laurie Tisch, Founder and President of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund. "The arts provide cognitive benefits as well as help reduce stress and build healthy and vibrant communities. But there is great disparity in access. The organizations that are part of our Arts in Health initiative are working to expand program reach and impact, particularly in communities that are often underserved or challenged by health disparities."

As one recent participant in TCC's Arts Workshop Program attested: "This class showed me that I can do other things and taught me that I should try things even though I am sick. It truly was a healing and rebirth of my identity after cancer. It expanded my creativity and gave me lots of joy, excitement and happiness through the creative process in a safe environment."

"The Creative Center is part of a growing national movement to use the arts to address health-related issues," said Rick Luftglass, Executive Director of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund. "It also is perfectly aligned with findings from a national Harris poll that gauged the public's attitudes about opportunities for the arts. The poll found that more than 8 in 10 Americans agreed that the arts can help people address key health challenges in their lives and in the lives of their loved ones by challenging mental health stigma, helping to overcome traumatic events, and providing therapeutic benefits and quality of life for people with aging-related diseases such as Alzheimer's, other dementias and Parkinson's. We're pleased to support The Creative Center in strengthening and advancing innovative programs that truly can change lives."

About the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund

The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund is a New York City-based foundation that strives to improve access and opportunity for all New Yorkers and foster healthy and vibrant communities. The Illumination Fund plays an active role in supporting innovative approaches across a range of issues – ensuring that the arts and arts education are accessible to all, increasing access to healthy food, promoting civic service, and promoting economic opportunity. In 2018, the Illumination Fund launched Arts in Health, a \$10-million, multi-year initiative to support organizations working on health issues that impact New York communities and that emphasize the arts as a tool for healing and building understanding. The new initiative's areas of focus have included the unique role of the arts in addressing mental illness stigma, trauma, and aging-related diseases. For more information, visit www.lmtif.org or follow @LMTischFund on Twitter.