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**THE CREATIVE CENTER AT UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT HOSTS TRAINING INSTITUTE IN  
CREATIVE AGING**

**NEW YORK, NY – March 20, 2013** – Having the experience of conducting arts in healthcare training seminars for over 10 years, The Creative Center at University Settlement completed their largest training institute last week in the burgeoning field of creative aging. Forty-five artists, art educators, nurses and healthcare administrators from across the US and Canada participated in a full week training in the University's Settlement's historic Speyer Hall.

Trainees learned from national leaders in the field including Kerry Mills, MPA, who is well known as a dementia coach through her organization, Engaging Alzheimer's. Her presentation educated trainees about the foundations of intervention and how to have a proactive rather than reactive approach to engaging people with dementia. Additional workshops and presentations focused on bringing the arts to people aging across the spectrum from older adults in community settings to the frail elderly living in residential facilities. Other presenters included, among many others, Gary Glazner, Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Poetry Project, Dr. Betty Lim, Assistant Professor, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Joan Jeffri, Director/founder of the Research Center for the Arts & Culture at the National Center for Creative Aging in Washington DC.

To put the information into context, training participants went on exciting field trips to interview local older artists in their studios, followed by an afternoon at the Museum of Modern Art to learn about their recognized "Meet Me At MoMA" program for people living with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. Other highlights of the training included a presentation of the program, Opening Minds Through Art (OMA), led by Dr. Elizabeth Lokon of Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University of Ohio.

Director of The Creative Center at University Settlement, Robin Glazer, said, "It was fabulous to have such a lively discourse about engaging older adults in creative expression with so many well-informed and passionate advocates for the field from many points of entry- medical, artistic, psycho-social and administrative. The flow of information, both theoretical and hands-on, was amazing. The professional connections that were made between trainees and presenters will definitely further the field."

Participant Heather Zinger also had positive things to say about the experience, "Informative from beginning to end, the jam-packed Creative Aging Training brought together a roster of creative and knowledgeable people whose work has influenced how I'll continue making and teaching art to aging patients."

The Creative Center at University Settlement is dedicated to bringing the creative arts (literary, visual, and performing) to people with cancer, chronic illness, and through all stages of life including the aging spectrum. For more information about The Creative Center, visit [www.thecreativecenter.org](http://www.thecreativecenter.org)

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