

EVENTS OF 2021

LILLIAN WALD SYMPOSIUM EXPLORES LES BLACK HISTORY

The pandemic did not stop Henry Street's annual Lillian Wald Symposium from taking place in 2021; in fact, the April 7 virtual event, Black Communities on the Lower East Side, attracted a record-setting 178 participants. The outstanding panel included Nicole Daniels, editor at The New York Times Learning Network; Rhonda Evans, assistant chief librarian at the Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; Woodie King Jr., founder of the New Federal Theatre at Henry Street; public historian Lauren C. O'Brien; Brian J. Purnell, author of *Fighting Jim Crow in the County of Kings*; and storyteller Kamau Ware, founder of the Black Gotham Experience. Together, the panel shed light on an often untold history of Black New York over four centuries.

THOUSANDS ATTEND SUMMER SATURDAYS, HALLOWEEN & WINTER WONDERLAND

As the air warmed on Henry Street and Lower East Siders yearned for connection after a hard winter, the agency began planning for a series of safe community gatherings, to bring joy and resources to our neighborhood.

These events included three Summer Saturdays for children and families, with magic shows, storytelling, and—of course—COVID testing and vaccine vans. Held at several local parks, these events culminated in our annual Community Day on Henry Street, together attracting nearly 1,000 attendees of all ages during July and August. Three additional free disco roller skating events challenged another 450 participants to remain upright while sporting their best '70s attire.



Fright turned to fun as children emerged from the Halloween ghostly garden walk in MLK Park to meet the Wizard of Oz and collect bags of candy.



The Miracle on Henry Street was a two-day skating bonanza at Henry M. Jackson Park.

For Halloween, the Wizard of Oz-themed ghostly garden walk gave trick-or-treaters a bone-tingling fright through a maze of creatures (aka our MLK Park) to meet with the Wizard (aka CEO David Garza). Children left the October 30 event with big smiles and goodie bags.

Following on the success of summer skating, our Miracle on Henry Street Winter Wonderland took the form of a two-day ice-skating bonanza, welcoming another 1,000 community members at Henry M. Jackson Park on December 11 and 12—the second date, cosponsored by the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau. These events included snacks, a book giveaway, and more.



The Abrons Arts Center Playhouse Theatre reopened to the public with the musical *Dick Rivington & The Cat*, a British “panto”-style celebration of resilience and community.

DICK RIVINGTON & THE CAT DEBUTS AT ABRONS

During December 2021, Abrons Arts Center premiered the musical *Dick Rivington & The Cat*, a British “panto”-style irreverent celebration of resilience and community by the production team ONEOFUS. The hilarious New York City rags-to-riches story tells the tale of a young immigrant and their feline friend who overcome enormous hardships to make their dreams come true. Lead artists Julie Atlas Muz and Mat Fraser have been at the forefront of the Disability Arts and feminist art movements for over 25 years. After an exciting start, *Dick Rivington*, like so many winter productions, closed early as a result of the COVID spike, but not before spreading its message of inclusion and community to hundreds of Lower East Siders, including many young Henry Street program participants.

A JOYOUS RETURN FOR THE ART SHOW

The 2021 Art Show Benefit Preview, Henry Street's largest annual fundraiser, opened on Wednesday, November 3, inaugurating new fall dates on the calendar and creating a safe and joyous return for thousands of artists, collectors,

celebrities, philanthropists, and long-time Settlement supporters who filled the elegant Park Avenue Armory for the 33rd annual event. The festive celebration, organized by the Art Dealers Association of America with support from lead partner AXA XL, a division of AXA Group, raised almost \$2 million to support Henry Street's programs through ticket sales, contributions and sponsorships, and the auction of works generously donated by The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation and Rudolph Stingel at the Sotheby's November day sales.



Luminaries joyfully returned to The Art Show in November 2021; from left Nev Schulman, Henry Street CEO David Garza, Laura Perlongo, Forrest Gurl, and Boris “BC” Slusarev.