Events of 2022

Outdoor Community Events Keep Growing
For the second year, the Settlement took its family programming outdoors, expanding Summer Fun Saturdays to provide a place for friends to gather and give kids a healthy way to spend the day. All told, 4,300 participants shared in these activities.

Two summer fun carnivals were held at Little Flower and Dry Dock Parks, and two ’70s-themed roller disco events took place at Henry M. Jackson and Dry Dock Parks, attracting hundreds of children, teens, and families. These events culminated in our annual Community Day, taking over Henry Street for refreshments, games, storytelling, a magic show, DJ, and live performances.

On October 30, Henry Street held a “Peanuts”-themed blowout Halloween party at our neighboring Sol Lain Playground. In addition to carnival games and a costume contest, 1,000 participants were treated to an exhibition of Peanuts-inspired artworks by b. Robert Moore, who generously shared images from his “Brown Like Me” series.

The Art Show Proceeds Top $1.3 Million
On Wednesday, November 2, thousands of artists, collectors, celebrities, philanthropists, and long-time Settlement supporters flocked to the beautiful Park Avenue Armory for the 34th annual Art Show Benefit Preview, Henry Street’s largest annual fundraiser. The event was organized by Art Dealers Association of America with support from lead partner AXA XL, a division of AXA Group. More than $1.3 million was raised to support Henry Street’s programs through ticket sales, contributions, sponsorships, and proceeds from an auction of works generously donated by the artist Tomm El-Saieh, sold in Sotheby’s Contemporary Art Day Auction in November.

Lillian Wald Symposium Asks: What Is a Living Wage?
On April 13, the Settlement held its 7th annual Lillian Wald Symposium, What Is a Living Wage: Making Ends Meet in NYC—a virtual panel discussion that brought together experts in labor history, the arts, human services, and economics. Henry Street’s president and CEO, David Garza, set the stage, discussing the overarching need for livable wages in New York City, where many working people struggle to pay for food and housing. The event dovetailed with the Settlement’s announced increase in its wage floor to $22 per hour in July 2022. Speakers addressed a number of trends, including recent labor victories, the idea of guaranteed wages for artists, and protections for gig workers such as ride-share drivers.

2022 Symposium Panelists

Dick Rivering & The Cat! Sells Out at Abrons
The monthlong Abrons Arts Center run of Dick Rivington & The Cat! was cause for joy and celebration, especially after having been cut short by Covid the previous year. The rags-to-riches musical story of an immigrant to New York City and his feisty cat was written in the British Panto style by Mat Fraser and directed by Julie Atlas Muz. With adult and child actors from the neighborhood, it played to packed houses. Over the course of the show, Henry Street distributed more than 1,500 free tickets to shelter residents, afterschool participants, and other neighborhood residents.

2022 Symposium Panelists

Moderator
Paul Sonn, state policy program director, National Employment Law Project

Rayna Rodriguez, chief program and policy officer, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies

Maura Cuffie, director of strategic initiatives and guaranteed income, Creatives Rebuild New York

Tsedeye Gebreselassie, director of work quality, National Employment Law Project

Samar Santi, assistant professor and historian, CUNY School of Labor & Urban Studies