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SPACEWORKS NYC LAUNCHES CREATIVE ECONOMIC INITIATIVE (CEI), OFFERING FREE SPACE FOR ARTISTS AND CULTURAL WORKERS TO HOST INCOME-GENERATING CLASSES AND PROGRAMS

New Initiative Facilitates Artists Using Spaceworks Spaces to Earn a Living While Also Providing Low-Cost Programming to Local Communities

A Range of Classes Begin This Month at Spaceworks Long Island City

Brooklyn, NY, July 12, 2018 — **Spaceworks**, the increasingly vital nonprofit organization that develops subsidized space for artists working in New York City, today announced the **Creative Economic Initiative (CEI)**, through which artists and cultural workers can host and charge for classes and other programs in Spaceworks spaces.

The Creative Economic Initiative represents a significant expansion of the support Spaceworks provides to artists. They can now use Spaceworks spaces not only to pursue their own creative and cultural practices, but also to generate income by offering workshops and classes. The CEI kicks off this month with a range of programs at Spaceworks' Long Island City facility. On Sundays, **Antonio Mendoza**, dancer and Artistic Director of Xochipilli Dance Ensemble, will offer **Folklórico Fit**, in which attendees will get a unique workout by learning different styles of Mexican folk dance. Each weekend this summer, acclaimed jazz bassist and educator **Lorin Cohen** will offer **Saturday Morning Jazz Jam**, a fun, highly interactive workshop that will demystify the art of playing jazz. Also on Saturday mornings, hula hooping expert **Kenya Murray** will lead **Hula Hoop Dance and Cardio Flow**, which will give people of all ages, fitness levels, body shapes, and experience levels an hour of exhilarating, full-body exercise. To see the full initial slate of CEI classes, please visit <https://spaceworksnyc.org/programs/classes-workshops>.

The Creative Economic Initiative is conceived and led by **Spaceworks artist-in-residence Tanisha Christie**, who says, "Finding multiple income streams has been a key part of my development as an artist and cultural worker. Most of my fellow artists want to give back to their communities, but struggle to provide for themselves. This initiative allows individuals to nurture their creative practices and their communities simultaneously."

"Subsidized space allows artists to survive in New York City, but earning income helps them to thrive, and their thriving is our goal," says **Risa Shoup, Executive Director of Spaceworks**.

About Spaceworks

Established in 2011, Spaceworks is a nonprofit cultural community development organization dedicated to expanding the supply of subsidized rehearsal, studio and community space for New Yorkers. The organization does this in collaboration with artists, partners, and neighborhood residents.

Spaceworks' unique role as a cultural services and community development organization enables it to more deeply serve its mission by creating a participatory process for planning and programming. Spaceworks co-creates spaces that become resources for artists and communities so that neighborhoods and cultures can continue to thrive in place.

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