



Spaceworks and Abrons Arts Center are Partnering To Bring 10 Rehearsal Studios Online for Rent by New York City Artists

Spaceworks Partners with Abrons Arts Center To Bring Its First Manhattan Rehearsal Space Online for Dance, Music, and Theater Makers Starting at \$10/Hour

Manhattan, NY October 17, 2019 — [Spaceworks](#), the nonprofit organization that builds and operates below-market creative workspace across New York City, is partnering with [Abrons Arts Center](#), a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood, to bring 10 studios online for dance, music, and theater rehearsals starting at \$10/hour.

"We are very excited to partner with Spaceworks," said Jon Harper, Director of Operations at Abrons. "This partnership will make it much easier for artists to book rehearsal spaces at Abrons, furthering our goal to provide our communities with accessible, affordable space."

Situated at 466 Grand Street (at Pitt Street) on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, Abrons Arts Center is a core program of the Henry Street Settlement. Through performance presentations, exhibitions, education programs and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art. Through this partnership, artists across New York City will be able to rent 10 studios at Abrons through Spaceworks' online booking platform: 5 studios for dance and theater rehearsal, and 5 music studios with pianos.

"We are pleased to launch our first space in Manhattan in partnership with Abrons," said Anisha Steephen, Interim Executive Director at Spaceworks. "Our goal is to activate affordable creative spaces citywide, so that artists of diverse experiences and mediums can pursue their craft. Abrons is an important asset to the LES community. We're honored to partner with and support an institution that is integral to NYC's creative culture."

According to Craig T. Peterson, Artistic Director at Abrons Arts Center, "Affordable space for artistic research and development of new work continues to disappear at an alarming rate in New York City. It is

critical that organizations like Abrons and Spaceworks do everything we can to provide access for artists to incubate bold ideas and build new work. This partnership underscores the collective action needed to not only safeguard creative spaces but to make them easily accessible to artists.”

These studios will be rented at below-market rates, priced at \$12-\$15 per hour for the music studios, and \$15-25 per hour for the dance/theater studios. Grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and Dance/NYC will provide eligible dance artists with access to a \$10 less per hour rate in Abrons’ dance/theater studios. All available music studios, as well as dance/theater studios 302 and G05, are wheelchair accessible. To book space, interested artists can sign up for membership at spaceworksnyc.org. Once they become a member, artists will be able to reserve space online during Abrons’ operating hours.

“Artists have long been a fundamental part of New York City’s DNA, and we want it to stay that way,” said Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl. “To help keep NYC’s artists thriving, we must address issues of affordability, as we’ve committed to doing in the CreateNYC cultural plan. It’s great to see organizations like Spaceworks and Abrons Art Center coming together to take on this challenge too, and helping our city continue to retain and inspire creators for generations to come.”

CreateNYC was released to the public in July 2017 as New York City’s first-ever comprehensive cultural plan. Following months of public engagement that engaged with nearly 200,000 New Yorkers, the plan provided a long term framework for promoting greater equity, access, diversity, and expanding opportunities for all residents to participate in the City’s vibrant cultural life. Spaceworks’ partnership with Abrons Arts Center aims to further the plans’ goals by increasing access to affordable creative workspace.

Rates for Abrons Arts Center

Studio	Operating Hours	Days	Rate per hour	Subsidized Rate
Studio G05	10am - 10pm	7 days	25.00	15.00
Studio 302	10am - 3pm	M - F	20.00	10.00
Studio 1	10am - 3pm	M - F	15.00	
Studio 2	10am - 3pm	M - F	20.00	10.00
Studio 3	10am - 3pm	M - F	20.00	10.00
Music Studio 206	10am - 3pm, 7pm-10pm	M - F	15.00	
Music Studio 208	10am - 3pm, 7pm-10pm	M - F	12.00	
Music Studio 209	10am - 3pm, 7pm-10pm	M - F	12.00	
Music Studio 313	10am - 3pm, 7pm-10pm	M - F	12.00	
Music Studio 314	10am - 3pm, 7pm-10pm	M - F	12.00	

Project Funding

Spaceworks' work is made possible in part by The Ford Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Abrons' rehearsal space subsidies are supported by Dance/NYC's New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program, made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and by the New York State Council on the Arts.

About Spaceworks

Spaceworks is a not-for-profit developer and operator of long-term, below-market creative workspace across New York City. Spaceworks works in partnership with artists and cultural workers to create access to space for expression and entrepreneurship.

Spaceworks was founded as an initiative of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in 2011 and became an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 2012. Since then, the organization has developed four spaces in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx with both private developers and public agencies. Spaceworks also provides space management services to cultural institutions such as The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music and Abrons Arts Center to create greater accessibility to underutilized artistic spaces across New York City.

Spaceworks' current sites in operation are home to 48 artist studios, 28 rehearsal studios, and 4 shared office spaces for cultural organizations. Its growing membership network includes more than 8,000 artists of all disciplines and backgrounds. To date, Spaceworks sites have hosted more than 120,000 hours of rehearsal and community partner programming. Visit spaceworksnyc.org to learn more.

About Abrons Arts Center

Abrons Arts Center is the OBIE award-winning home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood. A core program of the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential to a free and healthy society. Through performances, presentations, exhibitions, education programs and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

The arts have always been an integral part of Henry Street's mission. Their vitality was cemented in 1915 with the opening of The Neighborhood Playhouse and again, in 1975, with the completion and dedication of Abrons Arts Center, one of the first arts facilities in the nation designed for a predominantly low-income population. Today, the OBIE award-winning institution is an essential cultural resource, providing diverse audiences with artistically bold work while offering artists opportunities to dynamically grow.

Each year, Abrons premieres over 20 performances, six gallery exhibitions, hosts multiple residencies for performing and studio artists, and offers 100 different classes in dance, music, theater, and visual art.

Abrons also provides New York City public schools with teaching artists, introducing more than 3,000 students to the arts. Visit abronsartscenter.org for more information.

About Henry Street Settlement

Founded in 1893 by social work and public health pioneer [Lillian Wald](#) and based on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Henry Street Settlement delivers a wide range of social service, arts and health care programs to more than 60,000 New Yorkers each year. Distinguished by a profound connection to its neighbors, a willingness to address new problems with swift and innovative solutions, and a strong record of accomplishment, Henry Street challenges the effects of urban poverty by helping families achieve better lives for themselves and their children. Henry Street has a staff of 450 full-time and 400 seasonal employees, an active Board of Directors, partnerships with several organizations and a burgeoning alumni network.

Declaration of Inclusion

Abrons Arts Center values freedom of expression and creativity, ever striving to provide creative communities with a space that celebrates diversity of thought and experience. Abrons aims to be an anti-oppressive home to people from all backgrounds and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, citizen status, ancestry, age, religion, disability, sex or gender identity. As definitions of expression and inclusion evolve, Abrons is committed to continually revising this statement in collaboration with our communities.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

Nulelìntàmuhëna èli paèkw Lenapehoking. Kulawsihëmo ènta ahpièkw. Nooleelundamuneeen eeli payeekw Lunaapeewahkiing. Wulaawsiikw neeli apiiyeekw.

We are glad because you people came to Lenapehoking. Live well when you are here. Abrons Arts Center is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We pay respect to Lenape peoples, past, present, and future and their continuing presence in the homeland and throughout the Lenape diaspora. We offer our care and gratitude to the land, water and air of Lenapehoking, and are committed to resisting colonialism and imbalance with Mother Earth through the support of Indigenous-led programming and Indigenous artistic practices.

Thank you to the [Lenape Center](#) and Emily Johnson/Catalyst for their partnership in developing Abrons Arts Center's Indigenous Land Acknowledgment.

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