

SPARC: SENIORS PARTNERING WITH ARTISTS CITYWIDE

OVERVIEW

- SPARC is a community arts engagement program that places artists in senior centers across the five boroughs of NYC
- Artists create and deliver arts programming for seniors in exchange for a stipend and access to work space in centers
- Each residency also includes a public program component such as an exhibit, open house, performance or other cultural event to share seniors' work with the surrounding community
- SPARC was developed as part of *Age-Friendly NYC*, a citywide effort to make the City more livable for seniors
- SPARC is a collaboration between the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the NYC Department for the Aging, in partnership with five local borough arts councils

GOALS

- Positively impact the quality of life of the City's older adults through direct engagement in arts and cultural activities
- Reinvigorate neighborhood senior centers as vital community spaces through increased arts and cultural programming
- Increase opportunities for arts residencies and workspace for artists in a City where affordable space is limited

PARTNERS



HISTORY

- FY09: *Age-Friendly NYC* initiatives include recruiting artists to conduct programs in senior centers to improve the lives of the City's older adults
- FY10: Pilot program "Space for Art" completed with 9 artists and 12 senior centers
- FY11: Program receives a \$200,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- FY12: Full program expansion to 50 artists in 44 senior centers, supported in part by \$200,000 NEA grant
- FY13: Full program implementation with 50 artists in 48 senior centers, supported by \$200,000 from the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) and an in-kind match from DCLA for program administration
- FY14: Program placed 51 artists in 50 senior centers with continued funding from DFTA

RESIDENCY COMPONENTS

- Residencies are six months between January–June
- Project activities have a minimum 40–60 contact hours
- Projects are cultural, in any artistic discipline
- Projects must include at least one public program open to the local community