

# Let's Work Together



*Ariun Sanjaajamts*

In today's increasingly divided world, embracing two complementary principles can feel impossible. In the workplace, for example, there is both the push for innovation and an acknowledgement of "experience", often used as code to diminish the knowledge and know-how of older workers. While the



*Jean Emile*

number of older adults in the workforce is increasing, far too many still struggle to be hired by prospective employers, who too often stereotype and mislabel older employees as stubborn and problematic, incapable of grasping new technology and approaches to workplace demands instead of perceiving them as the capable

professionals and problem solvers they are.

Every second week in March, our country attacks these outdated and discriminatory notions by celebrating National Older Workers Employment Week. This year, from March 11 through March 17, we recognized the many contributions of older adults and encouraging employers to tap into their talents and achievements. Through our social media channels, we've spotlighted dynamic, creative, and resourceful older New Yorkers who've completed our Older Adult Employment Program and are making great contributions to their organizations. Workers like Mongolia native Ariun Sanjaajamts, whose role helps fellow New York residents volunteer with the city's Foster Grandparent Program

and Dance Artist Jean Emile who joined Cirque du Soleil and was hired at a local non-profit.

To promote and advance our city's vibrant older workforce, NYC Aging created an Employer Toolkit designed to help reduce ageism in the workplace. The toolkit, which was released this week and can be found on our website, educates employers who may be unaware of ageist biases in the hiring process and human resources policies.

This week and every week, NYC Aging hopes prospective employers will recognize that older workers, with their strong ethical foundations and decades of knowledge and experience, can embrace innovation, lead change, and be valuable additions to multigenerational organizations.

If you're a 60+ New Yorker searching for employment, check out one of our several programs offering the skills and confidence needed to find new jobs or re-enter the workforce. For more information, businesses or older residents can visit the agency's website - [www.nyc.gov/aging](http://www.nyc.gov/aging) - or call Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469) and ask for employment services.



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