



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Museum of the City of New York Announces Upcoming Programs Celebrating the Intersection of Music and Dance in New York

(New York, N.Y.) – The Museum of the City of New York (MCNY) is pleased to announce a series of public programs that celebrate the intersecting histories of music and dance in New York City. Expanding upon the Museum’s current exhibitions, including ***Urban Stomp: Dreams & Defiance on the Dance Floor*** and ***Songs of New York: 100 Years of Imagining the City Through Music***, the events will welcome visitors to engage with the Museum through conversations, live performances, dance tutorials, and more.

This summer the Museum will host a special screening of ***Heart & Soul: A Love Story*** with a live performance by musician and film director Kenny Vance. In July our annual summer block party **Uptown Bounce** returns for its 12th year, in collaboration with the Hip Hop Hall of Fame, Vinyl Nights, and El Museo del Barrio. The Museum will host back-to-back events in August: **The Lindy Hop Sessions**, an intimate tour and conversation with Curator Derrick León Washington, and **Rhythm of the City: Swing Saturday**, featuring a performance by Dandy Wellington and dance tutorials by Gabby Cook.

“We’re looking forward to celebrating the vibrant legacy of music and dance in New York this summer,” said Vice President of Education and Engagement, **Nick Martinez**. “From inside the Museum’s galleries to outside at our annual block party, visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to experience the impact of dance and music on the city’s cultural landscape.”

Please find details about the Museum’s programs and exhibitions below:

Heart and Soul: A Love Story

Wednesday, July 10, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m

Price: General Admission \$20 | Members \$15

Join us for a special screening of *Heart & Soul: A Love Story* and live performance by musician and film director Kenny Vance. *Heart & Soul: A Love Story* (Kenny Vance, 2023, 91 min) is a powerful documentary exploring the roots of Doo-Wop and the young Black and Latino artists of the 1950s and ’60s who reshaped music and youth culture. Through rare footage and personal interviews, the film celebrates the rhythms, dances, lyrics, and harmonies that made teen-driven music a cultural force.

Uptown Bounce: Retro Rewind 80s to 2000s

Thursday, July 24, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Price: Free

Celebrate the golden era of Hip Hop and Pop with our annual summer party in collaboration with the Hip Hop Hall of Fame and Vinyl Nights. Dance to DJ sets by Grand Wizzard Theodore and DJ Misbehaviour. Co-presented with El Museo del Barrio, highlights of the night will include themed cocktails from our Park View Bar, free arcade games featuring your favorite retro classics, delicious gelato flavors by Avrilililly's Creamery, and more.

The Lindy Hop Sessions: Armstrong, Swing, and the Birth of Lindy Hop

Saturday, August 16, 2025

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Price: General Admission \$15 | Members \$10

Step into interactive galleries and move through the rhythm of dance and music in a guided exploration through the roots of the Lindy Hop led by Derrick León Washington, curator of *Urban Stomp: Dreams & Defiance on the Dance Floor*. Hear how Louis Armstrong helped shape the sound of early swing through rare recordings. Dive into the stories of New York's most iconic ballrooms—where Frankie Manning and other dancers sparked a movement. Along the way, you'll encounter original instruments from music legends, vintage photographs, sculptures, and film clips featuring some of the greatest musicians, dancers, and Lindy Hoppers of all time. Each tour ends on the "All Dancing Allowed" floor—where you're invited to try the Lindy Hop and other social dances. No experience needed—just bring your curiosity (and maybe your dancing shoes).

Rhythm of the City: Swing Saturday

Saturday, August 16, 2025

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Price: Included with Admission

Join us for Swing Saturday, a lively afternoon of jazz and swing. Don't miss the electrifying sounds of world-renowned jazz performer Dandy Wellington and his band. Live swing dance tutorials will be led by special guest instructor Gabby Cook between sets. Open to all skill levels, swing to the rhythm of jazz and experience the vibrant energy of the city through music and dance. Drinks will be on sale at our MCNY Bar.

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Exhibitions on View

Urban Stomp: Dreams & Defiance on the Dance Floor

Through February 22, 2026

Celebrating the creativity and joy of New York City dance cultures, *Urban Stomp* is a first-of-its-kind exhibition that explores over 200 years of social dance in the city, from the ballrooms and bars of the 19th century to the parks, living rooms, and clubs of today. The exhibition illuminates how New York's dance cultures and their related dance floors create spaces of collective celebration and social possibilities that have an impact everywhere.

Urban Stomp is presented in collaboration with the Institute of Jazz Studies, Rutgers University–Newark.

Songs of New York: 100 Years of Imagining the City Through Music

Ongoing

Playful, kinetic, and full of surprises, *Songs of New York* is an immersive interactive experience that introduces visitors to a full range of music from and about New York City, from the 1920s to the 2020s, showcasing everything from be-bop to K-pop, across genres, boroughs, and musical movements.

Above Ground: Art from the Martin Wong Graffiti Collection

Through October 5, 2025

Above Ground centers on the many artists - including Rammellzee, Lee Quiñones, Lady Pink, and Futura 2000 - who transitioned from illegally writing on subway cars to creating paintings on canvas and exhibiting in galleries and museums. Their works embody an important transitional moment for the movement's evolution, as it permeated broader consciousness and significantly influenced global culture. The exhibition provides a window into a vibrant subculture of young creators and highlights previously unseen treasures from the Museum's major collection of graffiti-based art.

Changing the Face of Democracy: Shirley Chisholm at 100

Through July 20, 2025

To commemorate the centennial of the birth of Shirley Chisholm (1924–2005), the Museum of the City of New York and the Shirley Chisholm Project at Brooklyn College present the

first major museum exhibition on the life and legacy of this pathbreaking politician and New Yorker. Set against the broader landscape of New York politics, Caribbean communities, and Black women's activism, this exhibition explores Shirley Chisholm's life, from her early years in Brooklyn and Barbados to her lasting impact on U.S. politics.

The Stettheimer Dollhouse in a New Light

Ongoing

The Stettheimer Dollhouse, a beloved highlight of the Museum of the City of New York's collection, will return to MCNY's galleries following an extensive conservation project. With a refreshed appearance, this extraordinary object promises to captivate both first-time visitors and those who have cherished the dollhouse for generations.

New York at Its Core

Ongoing

This exhibition captures the human energy that drove New York to become a city like no other, featuring the city's "big personalities" – among them, Lenape Sachem Penhawitz, Alexander Hamilton, Elizabeth Jennings Graham, Walt Whitman, Emma Goldman, JP Morgan, Fiorello La Guardia, Jane Jacobs, and Jay Z. Through almost 450 historic objects and images, many from the Museum's rich collection, as well as contemporary video, photography, and interactive digital experiences, we welcome you to dive deep into the city's past and create your own visions for its future.

Activist New York

Ongoing

In a town renowned for its in-your-face persona, New Yorkers have banded together on issues as diverse as civil rights, wages, sexual orientation, and religious freedom. Explore the drama of social activism in New York City from the 17th century right up to the present.

Raise Your Voice: An Art Installation by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya

Ongoing

Raise Your Voice is an immersive installation by Brooklyn-based artist **Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya**. The project mixes selections from the public art campaign "We Are More," which depicted the resiliency of New York's Asian American and Pacific Islander community, with original artwork of activists and allies Yuri Kochiyama and Malcolm X. Installed adjacent to the ongoing exhibition, **Activist New York**, *Raise Your Voice* poses a

series of questions and invites audiences to engage their own powers of advocacy and activism.

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About the Museum of the City of New York

The Museum of the City of New York celebrates and interprets the city's history, art, popular culture, and civic life, highlighting New York's influence worldwide. Founded in 1923 as a private, nonprofit corporation, the Museum serves hundreds of thousands of visitors annually from around the world through exhibitions, school and public programs, publications, and collections.

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