

SPACEWORKS

Spaceworks
@ Williamsburgh
Library
Year One

Bklyn
Public Library

June 2016



Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library is a partnership between Brooklyn Public Library and Spaceworks, a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding the supply of long-term, affordable workspace for artists in New York City. The partnership celebrates its one-year anniversary on June 29, 2016.

In the past year, thousands of library patrons, artists, performers and community members have visited the beautifully renovated second floor of historic Williamsburgh Library to attend programs or hold rehearsals. This report to the community commemorates the first year of Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library and highlights a few of the people and programs that have made the partnership a success.

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Linda E. Johnson, president and CEO, Brooklyn Public Library
Paul Parkhill, executive director, Spaceworks

Public Programs

The opening of Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library has made it possible for BPL to offer a wider range of programming at the branch. For example, over the course of a single month in 2016, Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library hosted a Middle Eastern dance workshop, Pilates mat classes, acrobatics and tumbling training for beginners, an acting class, a Cyr Wheel workshop and a daylong music festival.

Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library's programming partners include:



EL PUENTE
LEADERS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE



MAKEMUSICNEWYORK



Spotlight Free Art Fridays with L'Ecole Des Beaux Arts

L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, a Williamsburg-based arts education provider, hosts Free Art Fridays for young artists.

Having this resource in the neighborhood is a big help to the community of Los Sures and has already benefitted our young people tremendously.

TINA ORLANDINI / ARTS & DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR, EL PUENTE

Attendee **Miguel Calderon, 9**, says that his favorite Free Art Friday activity is drawing. His school art class is only an hour long, which Miguel says simply isn't enough time to work on his projects. Free Art Friday has "made my drawing better," Miguel says, and his mother, Lizette Gonzalez, agrees. "Free Art Friday makes Miguel happy," she says, adding that his skills as an artist are even more apparent since he started participating in the program.



Affordable Rehearsal Space

Dancers, theater troupes, musicians and more make use of Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library's two affordable, reservable rehearsal spaces.

The first, a 1,200-square-foot multi-purpose room, is ideal for dance and theater rehearsals. The second, a soundproofed space for musical performance, is outfitted with a piano, drum kit, microphones, guitar/keyboard amps and digital mixing console.



The Williamsburgh Spaceworks location is one of my favorite rehearsal spaces. In addition to being very close to my Brooklyn home, it is full of light, and I find myself taking a deep breath of gratitude at the beginning of each rehearsal. It is a blessing to have access to this space at an affordable rate.

OCÉANE HOOKS-CAMILLERI / DANCER



Artists' Studios

In addition to renovating the second floor of the branch, Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library created three affordable workspaces for local artists to develop new works and host open studios, exhibitions and demonstrations.

Artists Alison Hall, Vincent Romaniello and Esther Ruiz were selected by lottery from a pool of over 200 qualified applicants. Eligibility requirements included New York City residency, active artistic practice and commitment to the goals of the partnership.



I'm super excited to be part of a publicly-funded space that has something to do with the community. I think that only good can come from it. It's good that New York City is supporting this and supporting us. Artists and musicians and designers—all the creative people in New York—are affecting the New York City lifestyle and how it's perceived by other countries and cities. It's important that the city is doing this and I think it's only going to enrich New York.

ESTHER RUIZ / SCULPTURE

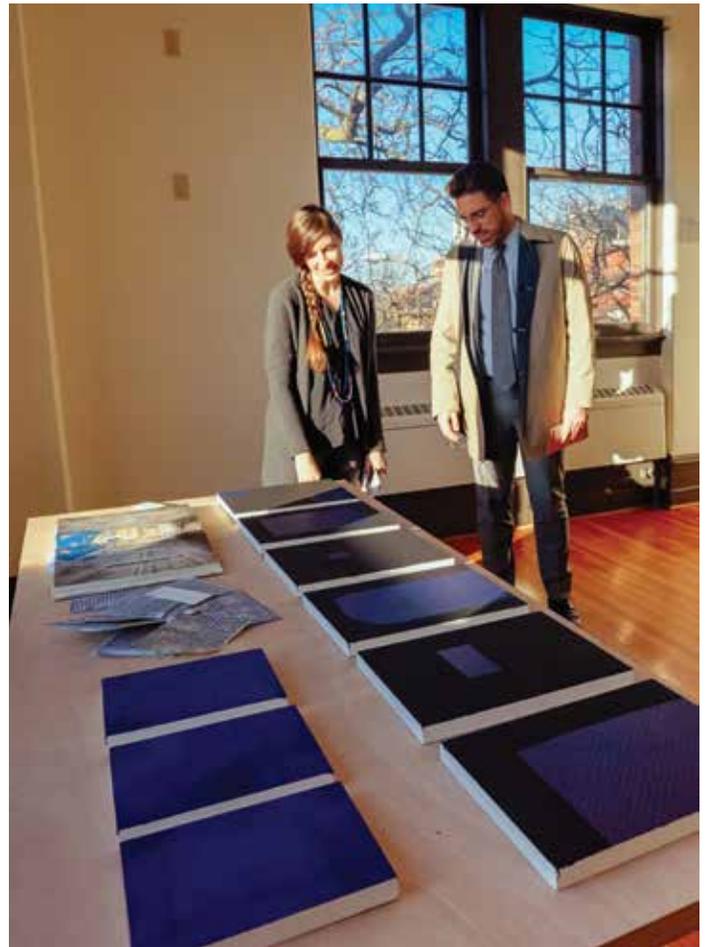


I feel like artists are in the business of dreaming. But I would have never dreamt to have a studio above a library, especially one this beautiful.

I'll be out with friends and we'll say, "Man, I wish we had a place like the Cedar Bar where all the artists—designers, dancers, poets—could get together and hang out, talk about things, and maybe projects would come out of that." All of these people are in New York City, but I don't personally have that much interaction with them or a way to meet them in my normal life. Spaceworks at Williamsburgh Library is actually addressing that. We have musicians here, theater people, dancers, community groups. There's an opportunity to meet these people. That's a very exciting thing.

It's nice to see the community in the library—little kids being read to, computers, people reading magazines, books—it's just a great atmosphere. That right there is inspiring.

VINCENT ROMANIELLO / PAINTING AND INSTALLATION



My Spaceworks studio is divinely placed in Williamsburgh Library. It is one of the biggest improvements in my studio practice in ages. I can access books on poetry, painting and new fiction, research obscure articles, make photocopies and ask the librarians countless questions, which they find the answers for! Spaceworks offers me a safe, clean, comfortable place to work; this is a game changer! The amenities of heat and air, the clean kitchen, the light coming through the windows—it's all contributing to my paintings. I believe I am making the best paintings that I've ever made because of this space.

ALISON HALL / DRAWING AND PAINTING

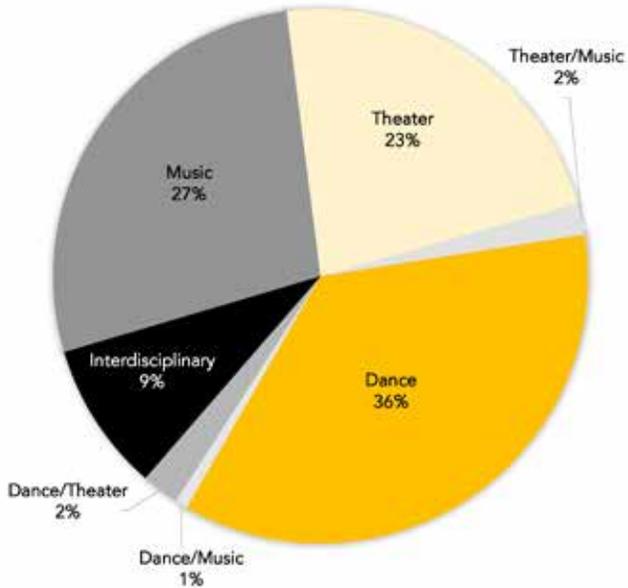
Photos by Deneka Peniston

By the Numbers

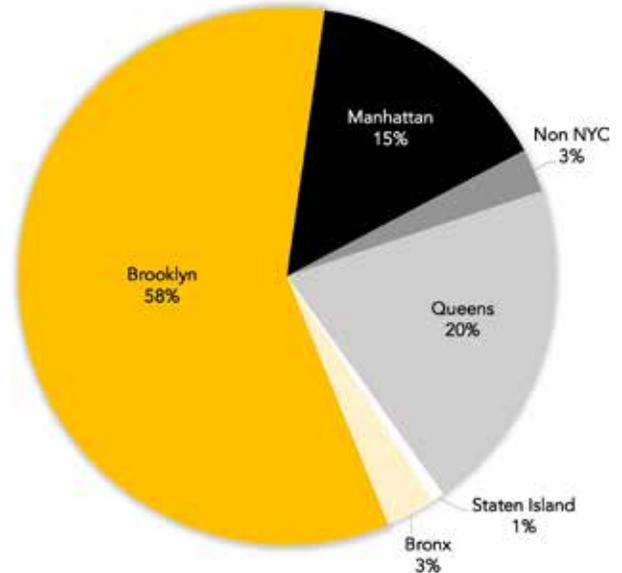
Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library has been utilized by artists and performers from many disciplines, and from every borough.

Rehearsal Spaces / Performing Artists

DISCIPLINE



BOROUGH OF RESIDENCE



The space has been lively from the start—and as word has spread, its usage has increased.

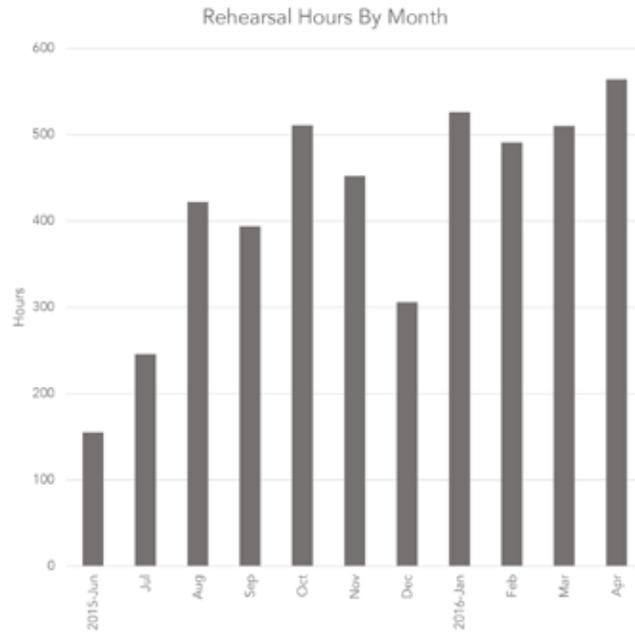
Rehearsal Spaces / Performing Artists

RESERVATION
HOLDERS **265**

ESTIMATED ARTIST
FOOT TRAFFIC **1300+**

REHEARSAL
RESERVATIONS **1,583**

REHEARSAL
HOURS **4,666**



*As of 5/1/16

With Williamsburgh Library now open on Saturdays, and with Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library attracting more people and more activity to the branch, its programming and attendance have increased. Through April 2016, nine months after the opening of Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library

The number of programs held at the branch was up **17%**

Program attendance increased **23%**

Visits to the branch, as measured by door count, jumped **49%**



CATHERINE SKRZYPEK

Looking Ahead

As you've seen in this report, it's been a great first year for Spaceworks @ Williamsburgh Library. Our patrons have enjoyed new, free programs and events, and visitors from throughout New York have been introduced to a wonderful library. BPL's partnership with Spaceworks has opened an exciting new chapter in the life of this historic Carnegie branch. In the year ahead, the community can look forward to:

- Open studios with our visual artists.
- An NEA-supported residency program for dancemakers who will work with the community to explore connections between dance and literature.
- More free programming! To learn more, visit spaceworksnyc.org/programs.

Thank you for a great year, and please visit us soon.

Sincerely,

Catherine Skrzypek
Neighborhood Library Supervisor
Williamsburgh Library

Bklyn
Williamsburgh Library