

Comments from Petition Signers

See www.oc2sas.wordpress.com/sign-the-petition for the most recent list of signers/comments

Joe Altman

The neighborhood and community don't really need a gym, nor a catering service; but we do need an art school.

Barbara M. Anderson

It is a sad day indeed with your plan for the Educational Alliance. First & foremost it is an ART SCHOOL. An art school needs to have space & more importantly NATURAL LIGHT. Reconsider your plans. A student & artist.

Geri Armine-Klein

I "discovered" art classes at the EA last summer and have been continuously enrolled ever since. The affordability and accessibility of the school and the quality of the teaching make this a special and wonderful institution. What a tragedy if it were to close. Please keep the art school open.

Adam Aronson

Amazing school. Amazing teacher.

Jonathan Bauch

I agree, a renovation is a positive step. But downsizing the school, moving it to the basement, and reducing its scope by cutting steel sculpture (welding) and photography is a way of making it irrelevant. At a time when it is a unique institution, and New York City is a growing city. Why not expand the mission of the art instead of cutting it back?

Violet Baxter

I have participated in past group shows at The Educational Alliance. I gave a slide talk (1990's, invited by Joe Marino). If the new space is not adequate or attractive who will exhibit? Who will come?

Steve Birnak

It is unfortunate that the administration has decided photography no longer deserves a place at the institution.

Juliette Blige

I am a good friend of a student there. I've attended some programs and it would be a shame to lose any space what so ever.

Beth Bogla

The signing of this petition represents overwhelming support of the Art Department remaining in its current location.

Phyllis Brown

My grandfather, Harry Levine, was a student and teacher at the Art School in the early part of the 20th century, until his untimely death in 1943. I knew he had studied at the Art School, but while doing research on his life at the Center for Jewish History, I discovered, to my delight, that he must have also taught at the Art School. What I found were minutes from a

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faculty meeting regarding a grievance. My grandfather was listed with the faculty present, and was quoted in these minutes, as were Louise Nevelson and others. His work was included in an exhibit at the art school sometime in the late 1930's or early 1940's, and I believe his 2 carved busts in the permanent collection of the Brooklyn Museum (currently on display in the Visible Storage of the Luce Center) were gifts of the Alliance. I strongly support renovating the facilities in a way that will maintain the amount of space and the availability of natural light, as well as the opportunities for continuing darkroom and welding experiences. Thank you for the opportunity to include my voice.

Lenore Browne

I am glad to see the effort to preserve the Art School consistent with its historical significance. I oppose any plan to move the art school studios to any inappropriate space and the elimination of any of its current artistic offerings (welding/darkroom photography).

Diana M. Carulli

New York City is in danger of losing its status as an art capital of the world because of the disrespect it has for the living and working requirements of its artists. Increasingly artists are leaving New York to seek better conditions in other states. Ultimately, it will devalue your real estate to participate in this trend.

Lynda Caspe

As an artist and teacher of art I stand with the community that wants to preserve the school the way it is.

Alan Chin

It's been 35 years since I was in a class at the Educational Alliance (as a pre-schooler!) but I have continued to live in the neighborhood ever since, enjoyed many EA programs, and have seen changes to the community in ways that I could not have imagined. One way that it certainly should not change is by curtailing art school programs. Art and arts education should not be reserved only for the wealthy. The EA has a critical mission in continuing to provide arts education.

Dennis Creegan

The Art School is New York at its finest, do not short change such a Cultural Institution.

Jesse E. Deal

It is indeed abhorrent that, in these times - while difficult, the art alliance school is in such jeopardy. the renovations absolutely need to include this school ... it is exactly this sort of environment (that of learning, culture, art, etc.) that truly separates from the animals. and, dear animals, i would urge you to consider this: there is the very distinct possibility that other charities, funds, organizations, etc., with whom you are aligned, will not be receiving donations as a direct result of your short-sightedness in this endeavor. word will spread ... and they'll tell two friends, and they'll tell two friends, and so on. please reconsider.

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Dominic J. DeJoseph

I'm a working professional in my 40s and I recently took two classes at the Educational Alliance Art School. The classes were great. Closing such a resource for the sake of making more money would be a shame. I'm hoping the Art School might be able to remain in place on the 5th floor where the facilities are currently in place. The classrooms need the light they get from the large windows.

Victoria DiBiasi

My brother-in-law has spent many hours sharing his skill, his heart, and his soul with his students in this building. Losing this space would be a great loss to many.

Anatole Dolgoff

Do not be a philistine and destroy the Art School. It has a long tradition and is part of the fabric of the lower east side.

Nancy Dorn

Educational alliance is part of New York City's great gifts to artists - and to the community - please locate temporary studios for the many artists being displaced during the renovation as studio space is desperately needed. the renovation ignores the rich history of the educational alliance and the requirements of artists which involves natural light - how was it possible to ignore the needs of painters - and ignore darkroom photography and welding.

Otis Dupont

You can't shut this down. These arts are important, and I've seen even young kids in there learning things like photography and such there. To shut the school down would be a shame and disservice to PEOPLE, real, live PEOPLE, who don't sit in front of TV playing video games, and aren't watching reality TV all day. This is for the motivated and creative person, not the countless drones out there. The school is good for helping people become creative, or helping people hone their crafts, and by taking that away, you are hurting the creativity, imagination and education of all NYC residents.

Edward Eichel

Enrich the art students' life!!!

Rita Ekhaus

I was a current student in the ceramics class (for Seniors) and found it very helpful. I am 84 yrs old and spent much time as a youth AT " The Edgies". That's where I learned to sew, do leather crafts ,jewelry making. That was back in the forties. I'm back in the neighborhood since 1998 and zeroed in back to the EDGIES when I got here. No doubt things must progress but the history of the Art school is so historic and GREAT that it should be Preserved and Continued for more than its' historic value.

Ciara Elend

I am one of the many art students who have taken classes and plan to continue taking classes at the art school. Discontinuing the art program would be a disservice to the NYC community. PLEASE KEEP IT OPEN!

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Jill Enfield

The list of people I know that have benefited from this facility is endless. Who else is better equipped to give feedback as to how a space should be utilized but the students and teachers? Please listen and save this facility for future artists!

Dominica Eriksen

The art school has provided me with a supportive, community-oriented, affordable outlet for practicing black and white photography. It's such a shame to see it go.

Robert Feinland

My experience at the Art School of the Educational Alliance was an important part of my development as an artist. I was fortunate to benefit from contact with such people as Abe Eisenfeld, Chaim Gross, and Harvey Citron and many others. The opportunity to work in a space with natural light for painting, simultaneously to the activity of those carving in stone and using the welding studio was crucial to that experience. I am one of the few artists I know that has skills in all of these areas and I can thank the Educational Art School for this. Please continue to offer this experience to other artists.

Selma Fink

Thanks for helping to define the seriousness of these changes to the ART SCHOOL which is a life line for many of its students.

Adrienne FitzGerald

Please preserve the Educational Alliance Art School which is a critical resource for people all around the city. At a difficult economic time, when people most need affordable ways to develop new skills and modes of expression, Educational Alliance art classes are needed more than ever. The course I took on the graphic novel helped me to embark on new creative projects that might help me switch careers and taught me new ways of reading media. The teaching was excellent and I am grateful that the Art school was available for me. I hope you will seriously consider the important role this art school plays.

Amy Fong

I loved the teacher and the classes in the Educational Alliance. I think it is an excellent place to learn art.

Jilli Getz

Please don't shut down the 5th floor. The art school is the last remaining gems in NYC. It's the last untainted art school. A place to work and be inspired and a family...

Claire Giblin

I hope that the rarified atmosphere of the Fifth Floor is able to continue.

Maggie Glass

I was amazed by the experience I had at the art school - it was affordable, high-quality, and the class itself was diverse and committed. Please make sure to keep the art school in its

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current state. NYC will lose a tremendously important resource if the art school is minimized or cut.

Richard Glassman

Art Heals.....an adequate space that enhances the artist, enhances the art and enhances the world!

Laraine Goodman

I wholeheartedly support saving the invaluable Educational Alliance's Art School.

Katharine Grantz

The photography darkroom and welding studio make the Art School unique among New York art institutions. Fostering the continuation of these resources should be of utmost concern to the EA Board and community.

Damon Hamm

Losing the metal shop will mean losing of the most unique resources available for artists in the city. Metal work is an art that requires specialized equipment and most importantly, a space to use that equipment. As far as I'm concerned, almost any space would do. Some of the current metal shop equipment is built into the infrastructure, so it is understandable that those components may not be able to exist in a new location. I would gladly bring my own equipment to share informally or through a coop system if need be. Just having a place to share inspiration and technique with other artists is key.

Evelyn Harris

The art school at the educational alliance is an authentic monument, a tribute an honor and a remembrance of enormous artistic contributions made by Lower East Side artist to the culture of New York, to the United States and to Western culture in general. World renowned artists like Louise Nevelson, Chaim Gross, the Soyer brothers, Zero Mostel, Ben Shawn and other honed their crafts at the Educational Alliance. Many of these artists were of immigrant origins as are many of today's artists. Major artists are being developed today in the Educational Alliance. Some are of new immigrant groups such as Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian and many other parts of Eastern Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. Second and third generation immigrants produce their art at the Alliance. Many will go on to become the new artistic names in American culture, in photography, sculpture, painting, metal work, collage, portraiture and metal work and more. All of this can happen only if the art school is not reduced, diminished and/or eliminated. It cannot become a second or third or passing thought, something of minor importance. It must be a major consideration in any new plan for the Alliance. That means it must be designed to accommodate ARTISTS not relegated to a couple of rooms with small windows, little light, poor ventilation and little room for easels, lockers and other necessary accouterments. The photography studio requires a dark room; for the photographers, like craftspeople of old, keep alive an extraordinary American tradition, a form of Black and White photography that is now being given high priority by the Modern Art Museum and the Metropolitan Museum.

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Svetlana Hodos

Love this school.

Don Hogg

To end welding classes for artists would be disgraceful. It is one of the last affordable such art facilities currently in our city. Do what you've always done. Lead forward and don't alter your course now.

Kurt Hoss

The Art School is critical to the community.

Victor Kerlow

Art education is something important that benefits kids for their entire life after school. Please don't take that away from them.

Mohammad Khan

The art school was an excellent resource!

Perry Klepner

The art school provides a vital service to the community. Its quality in terms of lighting, space and availability to its users is critical. It also makes an important and unique contribution to the quality of life of its students, community and New York City as a place that values human experience, esthetics and community.

Margia Kramer

I am an artist and member of the community. Over the years, many of my friends and colleagues have taught and taken classes at the school. Due to its natural light and spaciousness it is by far the best place for art courses in all of NYC. The studio arts are important to the culture of the city. Please continue to make these classrooms available for classes - as is, or upgraded - and please leave them substantially unchanged in any significant way.

Nancy Kramer

It is an outrage to decimate a renowned art school by locating its studios in the basement, doing away with a one-of-a-kind metal welding studio and darkroom photography facilities in addition to reducing the size of this world class department by more than 50% of what it once was. Why can't temporary space be found for at least the drawing, painting and other classes that do not require heavy equipment for the 2 years of the renovation so that the whole amazing art staff will not be destroyed and put out of work?

Olena Kushch

Dear Board of Directors, The Educational Alliance's Art School is a special and rare place in the city, where people of any age, training or background could take affordable art classes taught by true professionals in the communal atmosphere. The building itself is an inspiring place, with its large windows and incredible evening lighting, the spirit of tradition and many possibilities floating around its corridors. It is a part of the historic New York that is so

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rare to find these days and that makes this city so special. New Yorkers, more than any other city dwellers, need spacious and bright places for their creative expression. It seems like our sentiment would be shared on the city government level, as the city's mayor has been working on making this city a more attractive place in the past few years, by adding more parks and community spaces throughout the city. This city initiative should not be limited to the outside communal places, it would be logical to apply it to libraries, art schools, etc. - especially if these places, like our Art School, have a rich history of serving this community for generations. As an alumna and prospect student, I ask that we keep the art school at its location and that we keep the current amenities.

Ellen Lauter

The art school serves more than just the Lower East Side population. It has one of the only welding studios in NYC and has nurtured artists since the early 20th century. Why destroy the beauty of the light offered to the art students who return semester after semester to take the wonderful and affordable classes at the EA and relegate what classes to the ground floor? Why do you insist upon changing what has worked for almost 100 years?

Norma Lauring

I have painted at the alliance for over 15 years and want the alliance to continue and be a robust institution with heart, not what the renovations plans suggest.

Rebecca Lepkoff

I believe that the art school should not be diminished and the photography department should not be eliminated. I taught at the photo school at the Educational Alliance in the 1960's and some of the students did some very important work. The camera is a wonderful way of seeing the world and please think about this.

Marion Lerner-Levine

Having taught for a number of years in the wonderful corner studio on the 5th Floor, I appreciate how important such a wonderful space is for the nurturance of art creativity, especially in a society such as ours, so focused on material goods, used for the instruction and practice of young student artists from the community as well as older retirees and working people who were able to attend after the working day in the evening classes. The school has been a beacon, an important cultural force, and not only in the present, but going back to the immigrant era giving to the world some of our most famous artists, such as Chaim Gross and Raphael Soyer. I strongly urge you architect and designers to consider a better solution for the building's space needs. If you are creative, I'm sure you will be able to do it. Most respectfully, Marion Lerner-Levine. (Former instructor in watercolor painting, painter/printmaker, National Endowment for the Arts grantee, and other honors. Exhibitor in a number of exhibitions at the Alliance Gallery, Member of the Alliance of Figurative Artists, which used to meet there and of the Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors, which also has ties to the Alliance)

Jill Lessing

As an artist, and close friend of one of your art students, I am signing this petition, in hopes

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that your wonderful services can be continued in any way possible. This would be an incredible enrichment for so many. Thank you.

Paul Lipson

Please re-think your plans!

Susan Lowenbraun

Please support your students, especially those who are trying to keep the wonderful artistry of black and white film photography alive.

Jimmy Lyons

Please find a good location to continue with this glorious school. As a visiting scholar, I can tell you that this is the root of creation.

Mary Marder

I would like to add my name in request that the art school stay at its current locale and maintain its current facilities.

Elizabeth Marra

I write to you in the hopes that all of the space and teachers at the art school will be preserved as Mr. Bayer and Mr. Soyer's classes have been an influential and nourishing environment for my artistic development. Before them, sans a couple of electives in college, I've had little training in art and felt it would be hard to pursue taking it up seriously as a young person just starting out on the work force and within this economy. Thanks to its affordability, inspiring teachers, and a freeing space to create, and be empowered by its end of school student's gallery and reception, I have been given the skills and strength needed to be a practicing artist. I'm starting to display my work in other art spaces and cafes. I hope that in the future the spirit and space of the art school will remain for it would be a shame if artists and new students couldn't benefit from all that it provides for the new york artist.

Patricia Melvin

As a plein air painter of New York City, I have been supporting myself by the sale of my paintings for the past 30 years. I mention this only to point out that painting by daylight is not obsolete but in fact it is still commercially viable. It is valued by those who appreciate fine art painting. In my studio I use full spectrum lighting in the winter afternoons and at night, but I cannot see the true color of any painting unless I hold it in front of my window in the daylight. The colors look substantially different. I do not think that anything can take the place of daylight when it comes to perception of color and tone. To learn to paint in artificial light handicaps the students who are truly dedicated and is like teaching musicians to play on instruments which cannot be correctly tuned. There are many other reasons to allow students the sensation of light and air in the classroom. For example, how air looks in different kinds of daylight is also crucial to the art of painting. Another reason is that the subtleties of daylight, one of the most beautiful aspects of nature whether the light falls on a still life, human flesh, or a corner of the studio, provides inspiration to many students with artistic sensibilities. It certainly did to me when I first started painting. Please also consider

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the damage that would be done to the quality and standing of the art school if painting students are forced to learn in artificial light which is by any standards inferior.

Raoul Middleman

In the 60's The Figurative Alliance was important to me as an emerging artist.

Jernee Montoya

The Art School at the Ed Alliance has been responsible for my reconnection with making art. I've been a student there for 3 years, and I've taken all sorts of classes, always looking forward to the next one I can take. It makes me really sad to know that the art school will be lost. I hope you will reconsider this decision, b/c making art accessible to the "average joe" is such a gift, and I know that I'm extremely appreciative.

Tobias Mostel

In the article about the proposed renovation it said: "The 1889 Mazer Theater, where Mark Twain, Sholom Aleichem, and Zero Mostel once performed, will be replaced with a much more versatile community room seating up to 300 people. The space will be used for conventional theatrical performances, but it will also act as a movie theater and a meeting room with dividing walls." As far as I know, and I might be wrong, my father Zero Mostel (who would have been known then as Samuel Joel) never performed at the Mazer Theater in a formal sense. Maybe he was in school productions. He did tell me, however, that the rooms at the Educational Alliance were the first big rooms he saw, coming as he did, from cramped slums in the lower East Side. The rooms in the lower East Side are still cramped and I hope that the building's big spaces will be retained and not modernized away in the name of efficiency or pus-modern aesthetics. Save the Art School!

Brooke Nessel

Please do not decimate the art school!!

Maria Nevelson

My grandmother, Louise Nevelson, studied at the Educational Alliance and her teacher Chaim Gross shifted her from painting to sculpture. I'm positive the natural light contributed to understanding the principals of art and the shaping from light and shadow. Hard to do in artificial light. Both of these artists are very important figures in America's Art History.

Elizabeth K. Peck

I write in support of the art school as a dear friend of mine has been studying there for five years. Her artistic training has given her a new path as she enters the autumn of her life. Please continue to support this important community resource.

Kathy Pun

The suggested renovations to the Art School do not sound progressive by any means, so I must wonder what the reasoning is behind it. I have taken art classes at EA in the past and can not express how important this space is to the community. It provides creative outlets, social interactions, skill development and exploration of artistic ability in a welcoming

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environment. Please do not minimize the importance of these opportunities especially in this big city in this day and age.

Harriet Putterman

With enforced budget cuts throughout the country, arts are sinking lower and lower as a federally supported priority. In that context, the Educational Alliance is not only a valued resource in its own right, but becomes a hedge against a trend that is stripping us of creativity, and beauty, and expressiveness and the joy of imagining.

Jacqueline Sferra Rada

As a member of the NY art community I strongly urge the Board of Directors to do everything in its power to preserve the full integrity of the EA Art school premises. This has been an integral source of nurturing artists of our city for generations and now more than in any period its presence and availability is essential.

Jessica Reiner

The meeting of 8/31/11 revealed how far from the original values of the Educational Alliance the current administration has traveled. They would cheerfully destroy a venerable 114 year old art school, replacing it with a wedding hall. They pander to the modern worship of the body beautiful in the form of zumba classes while they deprive underprivileged children of the photography classes that give their lives such beauty. They claim the Alliance is a not for profit institution and money is the furthest thing from their minds. Call me a cynic, but I doubt their words. I think their plans need major renovations before work begins on their building. Their priorities are seriously misguided.

Denise Reilly

As a retired Art Teacher and currently a docent at the Mint Museum, I believe arts education is vital to students, their community and the greater visual arts community at large. Being able to view and show a substantial collection of Ansel Adams work when I give tours, the wonder and awe of Black & White photography by the public will never cease. It's beauty and the "magic" that occurs when a hand manipulates paper and chemical can never be duplicated. It is in everyone's interest to continue teaching skills that create beauty today and for future audiences.

Rachel Rippy

What a shame that this dynamic vital ART resource could be lost to our community and city. Another victim to the coarsening and disregard for culture afflicting our deteriorating society. I hope better sense will prevail and this fine arts program will be saved.

Martha Roslet

Having benefited myself from free public art education (and I have been a professional artist now for about 40 years), I feel that nothing is more important for young talents than the opportunity to learn what is within them. The Educational Alliance offers this possibility to people without the means to pay dearly for training and first-rate workshop space. Especially as the New Year approaches, you need to remember your mission.

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Lucille A. Roussin

Art gives meaning to our lives! Please listen to the community!

Bernice Rubin

Are we once again losing something of cultural and functional value to developers and businessmen? This historically rich institution provides inspiration to so many people. It offers the chance to create in a relaxed, affordable and approachable way. It is not easy to find such a place anymore. Why would you destroy the things that makes the Educational Alliance's Art School such a rare gem? Please re-consider this plan.

Linda Schwartz

I was a student of the Art Student's League for years but when I discovered the Educational Alliance Art School in my own backyard I was an instant convert. It wasn't the location alone that won me over but the inspirational studio space along with the fine teaching staff. Additionally, as a lifelong lower east side resident, The Educational Alliance had been a neighborhood resource for me as I attended several Ed. Alliance camps and after school programs. Due to personal reasons I wasn't able to attend art classes for a while but I was looking forward to returning in the near future. Please consider retaining the fifth floor for as the art school! Although classes cost more than the ASL, I never considered the extra cost an issue. However, if art classes at Ed. Alliance were moved to the basement, I would consider resuming studies elsewhere. It just wouldn't be the same.

Nola Sessions

When the Education Alliance offers so many wonderful programs for their community, art being a major one, I'm wondering what the thinking is behind these remodel changes? If the directors really want to support their community by continuing to offer the art programs they currently do, providing environments that are optimal for learning would be the ideal. I hope that they will change their minds and find ways to provide more natural lighting, higher ceilings, and keep some of the programs that are currently in place so all students can follow their passions.

Daniella Shachter

I love EA!

Janet Sibarium

The Educational Alliance Art School is a vital part of lower Manhattan arts education. The Art School must remain on the 5th floor with large windows, natural light and high ceilings. The natural light is absolutely necessary, especially for middle aged and senior students, who need the contrast and natural light to see their 3 dimensional work. When I've taken the evening classes, it's much more difficult to see and eyestraining. Daytime classes in abundant natural light are an essential part of stone carving and sculpture.

John L. Silver

The Educational Alliance has always been a heaven for representational artists whose organizations could not find other places to hold their Exhibitions. This is an historic school

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and its location should not be changed for any reason. I have participated in community outreach in the form of drawing instruction in the park across the street.

Mark Solomon

I have known about the EA Art School practically since I was born in 1941! Dozens of artists in my life in many different media have been through programs and classes at the EA either as kids, young adults, or seniors including potters, painters, sculptors, print-makers and collage-artists whose work I have seen and respected and collected for decades. It is wonderful that the EA has funds to renovate and upgrade the facilities - but the art school programs will die if the faculty and students and facilities are expected to go into suspended animation for two years and then to come out of the coma unscathed. Students will go elsewhere (if there can be an elsewhere) or more likely just give up. Faculty will have to go elsewhere (if there can be an elsewhere) and the community awareness of this resource will lose continuity and referrals of students to their friends will dry up and disappear. DON'T THROW OUT THE BABY WITH THE BATH WATER - nurture the continuity while developing the context. Please.

Lesley Slepian

I have studied in the art program for 3 years and sent my teen age son this year. The art school is an amazing contribution for the community and all those who are interested in pursuing fine arts vocationally and for pleasure. Please don't take it away.

Chase Smith

As a student who has thoroughly enjoyed two fun, affordable, engaging, and enriching art classes at the Alliance this past year (Cartooning classes with the outstanding instructor Josh Bayer), I fully support the call of this petition: "to keep the Art School in its current fifth floor home or move it to a comparable space appropriate for preserving ALL of the art school's offerings as well as honoring its essential and historic spirit.

Priscilla Stadler

*The six or so years I spent studying stonecarving with Alfredo Cardenas and Francisco Rivera at the Alliance have been invaluable for my practice as an interdisciplinary artist. Natural light is an essential ingredient in the process of stonecarving and all 3-dimensional work. I can speak from experience as I subsequently carved in a studio without natural light. In **that** studio we would wheel our pieces out onto the street in order to truly "see" them! Please do not let this happen to the carvers of the Alliance. The other wonderful ingredient in the mix is the students, especially in the day classes. Sometimes I learned as much or more from my fellow students - about carving, history, and life - as we shared the dusty, noisy, and miraculous energy of creative production. While I did not personally study welding or photography at the EA, I knew some of the students and faculty and know how essential these two areas are among the school's offerings. Please do not eliminate these programs - they make a difference in people's lives.*

Anne Stanner

As a former student and monitor in the welding class, the opportunity to learn, improve and then build metal sculpture over many years was invaluable to my art career. The welding

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space and Art School as a whole is a unique atelier format where beginning students and accomplished artists come together to practice their art and learn from teachers and from each other in a non-competitive atmosphere. The welding studio in particular is one of the very few in NYC open to all. The Art School is both a neighborhood gem and an artists' haven for the entire metropolitan area.

Kitty Joe Ste-Marie

I came to the Educational Alliance in 2005 when the New School University replaced its historic (built during Bernice Abbott's reign as instructor) darkroom with a wide hallway. The betrayal I felt by the mindless demolition of the very reason I enrolled at the New School has not faded in the passing years. I was lucky at that time, however, to be welcomed by The Educational Alliance to finish my current semester at their lovely darkroom. I had such a great experience that I continued for several semesters at the Educational Alliance, despite continuing my full course-load at the New School. Michael Macioce was one of the finest and most inspiring instructors I have had the honor to learn from. It makes me very sad to contemplate the thought of the endangering of another historic and important art program due to thoughtless plans for renovation.

Ellen Stern

Keep this school open and keep the dark room and welding departments.

Leona Strassberg Steiner

Save the Art School!

Ilene Sunshine

I feel fortunate to have both exhibited my work at EA and been part of a discussion about my work process in the gallery and during a Collage Workshop at the School. EA is a unique environment with a remarkable history--any renovations need to respect the soul of the place!

Magdalena Sztompka

SAVE THIS SCHOOL, IT IS WONDERFUL PLACE AND NEW YORK NEEDS PLACES LIKE THAT, TO SAVE CHILDREN, TEENAGERS AND ADULTS by TEACHING ARTS.

Lora Tenenbaum

My parents, Phil and Lee Schultz, took art classes at the Education Alliance for more than 30 years...she - painting and he - sculpture. It was the highlight of their days. Eventually, Lea had to drop out due to arthritis and Phil was able to continue until he was 91. He would still be there, but moved uptown and the travel is too hard for him. The art classes must continue. So many benefit.

Dylan Tucker

The need for affordable art classes in New York City is great. The Educational Alliance has become known as a beacon of arts learning in a city that can too often put artistic endeavors on the back burner in search of more profitable ventures. But where would this city be without art? We are famous for our museums and architecture the world over. New York is

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known as a city where art and functionality work hand in hand. Without havens like the Educational Alliance art school, which nurture developing artists, this great New York legacy is being put in jeopardy. please preserve the great tradition that the Education Alliance has been a critical part of so that future generations may reap the benefits of exploring the arts. Not just for myself and my friends, but for the community and city as a whole.

Brenda Tully

The Art School is an incredible resource for the community of NYC. It is one of few schools that provide art classes to adults in an open friendly environment. The drawing class I took there was great fun and allowed me to reconnect with my own creativity. How life giving is that? Commit to maintaining this resource and continue to be a leader for the arts in NYC.

Erica Uhlenbeck

There are many Gyms in Lower Manhattan but only one Art School with the history, facilities and wonderful creative atmosphere that the Art School at the Educational Alliance has provided for many people for many generations. Please reconsider a move to the ground floor! The Art School – including photography and welding – is hugely popular in its current location (5th floor) but would lose much of its support if moved to dark and cramped new quarters

Michele Vallon

I have known The Educational Alliance since the early 60's when I was a teacher on The Lower East Side. It has always been an incredible resource for the Community. Yes, the neighboring population has changed considerably in the last decades but it is important to keep these renovations suited to their purpose. The Art School has been one of the most popular programs, affordable and accessible to all economic levels. Please keep it in its current location which is best suited for the creative arts.

Edwin Vazquez

Please keep this part of the institution available.

Angela Vitale

It's very important that you save this School. Please do. Thank you.

Marie Warmbold

We need schools like this with small, affordable classes!

Tamara Wasserman

I am very concerned about the future of the art school, and of the photography darkroom in particular.

Zell Watson

I learned so much at the Educational Alliance art school! It's a fantastic resource for the Lower East Side--and for all of NYC. How unwise to close it!

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K. Webster

Right across the street is a Parks building in Seward Park that sits without a community purpose. Why not ask the Board to look into Parks allowing the space to be used for arts programming while the renovation takes place? The Board could offer to pay some minimal "rent" (it's a public building) and offer some programming to the public for the duration of the renovation.

Lee Whiting

I've been a teacher, student, and volunteer at the art school during the past 10 or 12 years, working on painting, collage, and especially welding. I feel it is wrong for the current administration to disregard the tradition that has been established here over more than one hundred years, and to ignore the benefit to the community of children and adults of all ages who participate in the art school's programs. I respect and support the many crucial programs that the Educational Alliance provides, and I want to assert that art programs are also necessary in people's lives. Bread and roses! Thank you.

Gemma Yamamoto

Art, though essential to us, both developmentally for children and as a means of expression for all of us, it receives so little support in the United States. The Art School at the Educational Alliance is an exception to the trends and provided a place to "do" art. The ceramic classes gave me, a mother of a disabled child transitioning to New York, a sense of purpose, worth and community. I ask that the Alliance please find ways to continue classes while it closes for renovations, and that it open back up with the same quality program.

Catherine Yelverton

It's sad that something like this could happen. I have friends who grew up in the area and Educational Alliance they called it "edgies" (not sure of spelling) when they were kids. I'm passing this on to them so that they can sign the petition.

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