

# MUSEUM AT ELDRIDGE STREET



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL & BONNIE

2023 was a year of tremendous excitement at the Museum at Eldridge Street. With the pulse of New York City in full swing, we relished the moments of community and celebration, whether gathering in our historic Main Sanctuary for a joyous concert, convening over Zoom for one of dozens of engaging online lectures, or dancing outside for our annual **Egg Rolls, Egg Creams, and Empanadas Street Festival**. We are so grateful for the continued engagement of our community, visitors, and supporters, as well as for the dedication of our talented colleagues.

In 2023, our staff prioritized increasing the Museum's visitorship and funneled unprecedented creativity into our social media efforts, which yielded tremendous growth. On TikTok, the Museum posted informative videos showcasing our Historic Landmark building, hidden histories of our neighborhood, and immersive stories related to our programs and exhibitions. One video exploring the intricate architectural details of the Eldridge Street Synagogue received over 72,000 views.

**This year, the Museum at Eldridge Street welcomed over 41,000 visitors of all ages from around the world, both virtually and in person.**

Over a third of these visitors discovered the Museum through our online outreach. Additionally, our extraordinary team of educators and docents led guided tours exploring the history of our historic synagogue and the Eastern European Jewish immigrants who worshiped in its pews. Visitors also enjoyed new walking tours of the neighborhood centered on the diverse stories and foodways of downtown Manhattan.

Intercultural events and exhibitions remained a cornerstone of our programmatic offerings in 2023. Our 22nd annual *Egg Rolls, Egg Creams, and Empanadas Street Festival* drew 12,000 visitors to Eldridge Street for an afternoon celebrating the folk traditions, foods, music, and arts of Chinatown and the Lower East Side. The Museum also highlighted under-told stories of the Lower East Side through our winter exhibition ***On the Lower East Side: 28 Remarkable Women... and One Scoundrel*** by artist **Adrienne Ottenberg**. It featured mixed-media portraits of women who lived and worked in the neighborhood, bringing the ghosts of the Lower East Side into conversation with the present.

We were delighted to gather at **Bryant Park Grill** for our annual gala in November, which honored renowned artist **Mark Podwal**. The evening event convened the Museum's extended family and friends to celebrate Podwal's life and work, including his unique interpretations of Jewish woodcuts, which were featured in our 2023 exhibition ***A Collage of Customs***.

The immense success of the Museum is a testament to the generosity of our donors. Your support is essential in allowing us to preserve the rich heritage of Eastern European Jewish immigrants and their impact on New York and beyond. We thank you for enabling us to share our immigrant story, simultaneously unique and universal, with the world.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Michael Weinstein, Chairman



Bonnie Dimun, Executive Director





## THE JOURNEY



# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

**2023 was the best year on record for regular admissions at the Museum at Eldridge Street. Out of 41,000+ visitors who came to experience the Museum, over 16,000 were visitors who joined a docent-led or self-guided tour to see the Museum's striking architecture and learn about the community that lived and worshiped on the Lower East Side.**

Visitors were enchanted not only by Kiki Smith and Deborah Gans's luminous East Window and the impeccably restored Main Sanctuary, but also by the temporary exhibitions we had on view. From intimate private tours to virtual visits, we were able to offer a tailored experience in which visitors could fully immerse themselves in the splendor of our Museum. Visitors can now access our guided digital tour through Bloomberg Connects, which allows visitors to access our content in 40 different languages.

It is vital that our Museum is accessible to all, and we're proud to offer low- or no-cost opportunities to visit the Museum. Over 1,550 visitors came to us by way of some of these programs, including:

- **IDNYC** (New York City's municipal ID program)
- **Culture Pass** (offered through New York City's public library systems), and
- **Museums for All** (an initiative to promote museum attendance for those with SNAP/EBT benefits).

Many of our visitors found us online, whether through news articles or social media. But we can't speak on the ways our new visitors found us without highlighting the steadfast importance of word of mouth! Countless guests found us through referrals by friends, parents, and siblings, while others came to revisit the sacred space where their forebears had once worshiped. For our part, we encouraged visitors to continue spreading the word about the Museum at Eldridge Street as one of New York City's hidden gems.

## We continued to welcome visitors from all 50 states and 90 nations and territories across the globe:

Afghanistan, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Cambodia, Cayman Islands, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, New Zealand, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, The Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turks and Caicos Islands, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Museum welcomed 16,420 walk-in visitors, an increase of 14.73% from 2022.**
- **The Museum held 818 docent tours.**





## DOCENTS

Our dedicated docents captivated visitors on their tours by telling the vibrant history of our building, its historic congregants, and the Lower East Side through stories and pictures. In 2023, we welcomed 13 additional volunteers, bringing our total number of docents to 59 individuals. In order to be eligible to give public tours, prospective docents complete a rigorous training program that teaches them the content of our tours as well as techniques necessary to lead a group through our space successfully. Our docents are a varied bunch, and their professional backgrounds as physicians, lawyers, teachers, professors, and librarians enhance and shape their performance at the Museum, and enable them to lead quality tours.



**“This is a true hidden gem. My best friend and I took a tour of the museum and it was wonderful. Susan, our tour guide, was very knowledgeable about the Jewish culture of NY. This was a real history lesson and a true cultural experience. The beauty of the synagogue was truly stunning. To see how it was left to deteriorate to be brought to its original splendor is amazing. I highly recommend a visit and tour.”**

—September 4, 2023 on Tripadvisor

**“The building is magnificent. From the outside you would not believe the beauty and history inside. The tour guide was informative and amusing. The hour went by really quickly. The museum lets you see the true history of the Lower East Side.”**

—December 3, 2023 on Tripadvisor



# EDUCATION AND ACCESS

Whether it's a group of third graders from Manhattan's Chinatown or a high school from Denmark, we love engaging with our students and experiencing their curiosity and eagerness to learn. Our educational tours focus on different facets of our Historic Landmark and the history of the Lower East Side to teach K-12 and college-age students about our building, the history of immigration, the growth of cities, and Jewish customs and traditions.

In 2023, we welcomed more than 5,000 students and teachers nationwide and overseas; as well as 52 private groups including families, congregations, and various other organizations. We were also delighted to participate in Teens Take The MET for the first time. This free three-hour annual event at The Metropolitan Museum of Art connects local teenagers with cultural institutions from all over New York City.

This year, our work became more critical than ever. The Museum is often the first experience our students have in a synagogue or learning about Jewish traditions. We aim to foster a safe environment for students to gain new perspectives and learn. We were honored to be credited by one teacher with "completely changing [my student's] narrative of the Jewish community and truly fostering an environment of acceptance and inclusivity in our classroom." In the years ahead, we plan to build on this success by increasing our outreach to include more schools with diverse populations whose students may not know much about Jewish culture and traditions.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- We welcomed 4,807 K-12 visitors to the Museum, an increase of 40.76% from the previous year.
- We welcomed 441 university visitors to the Museum, an increase of 97.67% from 2022.
- In addition to our local schools in New York, we welcomed students from Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington D.C., Canada, Denmark, and the United Kingdom.





## K-12 SCHOOLS

Adolph Schreiber Hebrew Academy of Rockland (ASHAR)  
Apex for Youth  
Beth Sholom Synagogue—Toronto  
Bank Street School for Children  
Beth Chaim Reform Congregation—Malvern, PA  
Blue School  
Breakwater School  
Brotherhood Synagogue  
Capitol Hill Day School  
Central Park East I Elementary School  
Chinatown Partnership  
City and Country School  
Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School  
Congregation B'nai Shalom—Westborough, MA  
Congregation B'nai Tzedek—Potomac, MD  
Congregation Beth-El Zedeck—Indianapolis, IN  
Denver Jewish Day School  
Emunas Bais Yaakov High School  
Ethical Culture Fieldston School  
Explorica by WorldStrides  
Fig Tree School  
Genesee Community Charter School  
Hannah Senesh Community Day School  
Himmelev Gymnasium  
Hi-New-York  
Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science  
JCDS Boston's Jewish Community Day School  
Jewish Community Project (JCP) Downtown  
Little Red School House (LREI) and Elisabeth Irwin High School  
Magen David Yeshiva  
Manhattan Country School  
Mirrer Yeshiva Central Institute  
New Utrecht High School  
New York City Campaign Finance Board  
NYC Lab Middle School for Collaborative Studies

**“[The students] loved their first visit to a ‘traditional’ synagogue. They were absolutely taking it all in and absorbing the learning like sponges!”**

—Temple Beth Tikvah

New York City Museum School  
Notre Dame Catholic Academy  
Oak Park Temple B'nai Abraham Zion  
P.S. 001 Alfred E. Smith Elementary School  
P.S. 002 Meyer London  
P.S. 020 Anna Silver  
P.S. 042 Benjamin Altman  
P.S. 043 Jonas Bronck  
P.S. 102 The Bay View School  
P.S. 124 Yung Wing  
P.S. 126 Jacob August Riis  
P.S. 130 Hernando De Soto  
Poly Prep Country Day School—Lower School  
Princeton Day School  
Ridgewood High School  
Riverdale Country School  
Saint Peter's Preparatory School  
Samsel Upper Elementary School  
Shulamith School for Girls of Brooklyn  
Stuyvesant High School  
Success Academy Charter School—Bed Stuy 1  
Success Academy Charter School—Harlem 1  
Success Academy Charter School—Harlem 6  
Talmud Torah of Minneapolis  
Temple Beth Ami—Rockville, MD  
Temple Beth Tikvah—Madison, CT  
Temple Shalom—Chevy Chase, MD  
Temple Shir Tikva—Wayland, MA  
Temple Sinai—Atlanta, GA  
Temple Sinai of Bergen County

Temple Sinai School of Jewish Life and Learning  
The Agnes Irwin School  
The Berkeley Carroll School  
The Brooklyn Latin School  
The Christa McAuliffe Intermediate School 187  
The Q StudioLab Upper School  
Torah Academy of Bergen County  
Urban Academy Laboratory High School  
Veritas Academy  
Vineyard Montessori School  
Yeshivat Noam

## COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Arizona State University  
Brookdale Community College  
CUNY Hunter College  
CUNY LaGuardia Community College  
Eastern Michigan University  
Fordham University  
Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS)  
Molloy University  
New York University (NYU)  
NYU Bronfman Center  
Pace University  
Rice University  
Skidmore College  
Stanford University

**“This tour exceeded our expectations. It was so wonderful. Both tour guides were exceptionally knowledgeable, interesting, charming, funny, and friendly.”**

—Ethical Culture Fieldston School

## ACCESS

Ensuring our building, tours, and programs are accessible to all visitors is an institutional priority of the Museum at Eldridge Street. In 2023, we continued this work through strengthening and growing cultural partnerships, broadening our audiences, and utilizing new technology to meet the needs of our visitors. We continued our partnerships with CaringKind and Senior Virtual Center, hosting six distinct programs for visitors with dementia and limited mobility. We also began working with volunteers from the Keswell School to provide students on the autism spectrum with a place to learn life skills in a professional environment.

This year, we received a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts to acquire new audio technology, making our walking tours even more accessible for visitors who are hard of hearing. This same grant provided funds to translate our self-guided tour into Arabic, Chinese, French, Hebrew, Portuguese, and Spanish. With our partners at the Jewish Braille Institute, we created braille and large-format versions of the self-guide. Taken together with Bloomberg Connects' auto-translation features, our self-guided tours are fully accessible to visitors around the world, regardless of language or ability. We look forward to new accessibility programs and projects on the horizon.”

**“It far exceeded my expectations! [The educator] was incredibly knowledgeable and interesting. We learned so many fascinating details about the immigrants that lived in this area and how they built a community through the construction of this synagogue.”**

—The Brooklyn Latin School



## ACCESS PROGRAMS

**Senior Virtual Center**  
Building Tour of the Museum at Eldridge Street; Virtual, January 18

**Jewish Union Foundation (JUF)**  
Building Tour; In-Person, January 23

**Jewish Union Foundation (JUF)**  
Building Tour; In-Person, January 26

**Atria Senior Living, Kew Gardens**  
Building Tour; In-Person, February 15

**Senior Virtual Center**  
Jewish Lower East Side Walking Tour; Virtual, March 5

**CaringKind**  
Women of the Lower East Side; Virtual June 27

**Senior Virtual Center**  
How the Streets Got Their Names; Virtual July 11

**Future Centered Care**  
Building Tour; In-Person, July 27

**Senior Virtual Center**  
“From Hairdryers to Microwaves,” A Special Look at Mark Podwal's *A Collage of Customs*; Virtual, October 31

**CaringKind**  
Classic (Jewish) Christmas Music; In-Person, December 5

**Educational Alliance's Project ORE**  
Building Tour; In-Person, December 14





# EXHIBITIONS

As 2023 began, a loan exhibition from the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education in Portland was on view. Curated by **Kenneth Helphand**, *Upon Thy Gates: The Elaine K. and Norman Winik Mezuzah Collection* presented 73 mezuzahs collected by the Winik family that together present a wide range of styles, materials and Jewish symbols. They were created in places all over the world, and date from the late 18th century through the 21st century. The exhibition provided a meaningful complement to the ongoing exhibition in the Museum's Main Sanctuary, *Lighting the World: Hanukkah Menorahs Around the Globe*, which presents 89 lamps from the Aharon Ben Zalman Collection. Both exhibitions showcase expressions of an important Jewish tradition, each with variations linked to its place and time of creation.

In May, we presented **Mark Podwal's A Collage of Customs: Iconic Jewish Woodcuts Revised for the Twenty-First Century**. In 26 works, Podwal combined lighthearted whimsy with insightful commentary on Jewish holidays and customs by inserting something modern—an electric light bulb, a hair dryer, a microwave oven—into woodcut illustrations from the 16th-century *Sefer Minhagim (Book of Customs)*. This exhibition was on loan from the Skirball Museum at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio,

**“The unintended consequences of this 19th-century neighborhood mix of cultures and languages and poverty and reinvention was a Lower East Side that let loose new American ideas about education, equality, and justice. It was a place women could step into a larger role for the people around them, and they did not ask permission to do it.”**

—Adrienne Ottenberg



and remained on view through November, when Mark Podwal was honored at the Museum's gala. The show was accompanied by a guide on Bloomberg Connects featuring images of the artworks and written commentary.

**Adrienne Ottenberg's On the Lower East Side: Twenty-Eight Remarkable Women...and One Scoundrel** opened in December. The exhibition featured portraits of 29 women who lived or worked on the Lower East Side at the turn of the 20th century and who had an impact on American culture, social justice, and more. Their mixed-media portraits, printed on silk or cotton banners, incorporated neighborhood maps, linking their subject to the place where she lived and worked. As visitors encountered the portraits in the Museum's gallery, stairwell and Women's Balcony, the banners fluttered slightly, creating an ethereal presence and an interaction between past and present that was enhanced by the Museum's historic space.

The show was accompanied by an illustrated catalog created by Adrienne Ottenberg, which includes biographical information about each woman portrayed. In an audio guide, 29 people—Eldridge docents, staffers, colleagues, the artist, and descendants of the historic women—speak the parts of those portrayed in the show.





# FAMILY PROGRAMS

In 2023, our family programs were more popular than ever. One of our most successful building tours for families was **Eldridge Arts & Learning: Stained Glass**. This hour-long program was created and implemented for the first time in 2022 and focused on children ages five and older. What we quickly realized was that even though the program was created with young children in mind, adults and seniors enjoyed it just as much. We also led family walking tours including our ever-popular **All-of-a-Kind Family Walking Tour**, inspired by **Sydney Taylor's** beloved classic children's series of the same name. It was endearing to see so many families from all over the world, spanning generations and coming together to share their thoughts and memories of the novels. These programs help build early connections to the Museum that will hopefully last through adulthood.

More highlights include participating in new outreach and collaborative programs with partner organizations, such as a Chanukah program with **PJ Library**. This program began with a tour of our historic synagogue, followed by a read-aloud of the PJ Library book **When Zaydeh Danced on Eldridge Street**, and finished with a fun arts and crafts project where the children made their own plush dreidels that they took home with them. The Museum also attended a holiday celebration at **Essex Market**, where we were invited to light a menorah and recite the blessings. These types of family programs are crucial to the growth of Eldridge Street because they enable us to reach audiences that we may not otherwise engage with. Next year, we will continue our goal of creating new family building and walking tours, activities, and programs that celebrate Jewish and Lower East Side history and culture.



### **Walking Tour: "All-of-a-Kind Family"**

Jaime Cohen, Scott Brevda;  
In-Person, January 15; May 28; July 16;  
August 20; October 29

### **Eldridge Arts & Learning: Stained Glass (Ages 5+)**

Jaime Cohen, Scott Brevda; In-Person  
January 16; February 12; March 19; May 7;  
October 8; November 12

### **Culture Pass: Shapes and Colors**

Scott Brevda; In-Person, April 26

### **Culture Pass: Stained Glass for Kids!**

Scott Brevda; In-Person, September 28,  
October 13

### **Eldridge Street x PJ Library: Page to Pavement**

Jaime Cohen, Scott Brevda;  
In-Person, December 10

### **Eldridge Street x Essex Market: Celebrate Chanukah!**

Jaime Cohen, Maya Locker;  
In-Person, December 10



# ADULT EDUCATION

The Museum at Eldridge Street's Adult Education classes have, over the years, created a strong community—tight-knit, yet beyond welcoming to newcomers. The virtual format has allowed these fast friends to remain in contact through cross-country moves and international travels, and we could not be more thankful that our Eldridge scholars continue to log on and learn with us.

This year, led by our Scholar-in-Residence **Dr. Regina Stein**, we continued our ongoing **Deuteronomy** series, including a spin-off series tying in the biblical figure of Ruth. We also began new topics on the evolution of Judaism in the modern era, and an exploration of **The Book of Job**. The one-off series **Who is a Jew?** was a fascinating study on identity, individuality, and belonging.

We were pleased to include a unique Adult Education series with retired internist-cardiologist **Dr. Michael Nevins**. Dr. Nevins has published 14 books, most related to medical history, including several books exploring Jewish medical history. **150 attendees** tuned in to Dr. Nevins's three-part series on Jewish medicine to explore what defines a Jewish, or "Jew-ish," approach to healthcare from earliest times to the present. Along the way we considered a spectrum of practitioners from humble shtetl healers to Nobel Prize laureates—even some fictional "medical menschen." Dr. Nevins also discussed how Jewish bioethics has sometimes differed from universal approaches, providing a new framework for our audience to think about Jewish and medical history. This unique series attracted our existing audience as well as newcomers, and we hope to continue offering a variety of Adult Education courses in years to come.

#### **Preludes to Modernity with Dr. Regina Stein**

8 Virtual Sessions: December 6–January 24

#### **Deuteronomy: One God, One People, One Sanctuary, One Land III with Dr. Regina Stein**

8 Virtual Sessions: January 5–26

#### **From Deuteronomy to Ruth and Back Again with Dr. Regina Stein**

8 Virtual Sessions: February 2–March 23

#### **Preludes to Modernity II with Dr. Regina Stein**

7 Virtual Sessions: February 7–March 21

#### **Jewish Medicine with Dr. Michael Nevins**

3 Virtual Sessions: April 19–May 3

#### **Moving Towards Modernity with Dr. Regina Stein**

7 Virtual Sessions: April 18–May 23

#### **From Deuteronomy to Ruth and Back Again II with Dr. Regina Stein**

5 Virtual Sessions: April 20–May 18

#### **Who is a Jew? A Historical Overview with Dr. Regina Stein**

7 Virtual Sessions: June 6–July 25

#### **The Jewish Encounter with Modernity with Dr. Regina Stein**

7 Virtual Sessions: October 2–November 14

#### **The Book of Job with Dr. Regina Stein**

7 Virtual Sessions: October 5–November 16



# PUBLIC PROGRAMS

This year, we produced a whopping 70 public programs and received almost 16,000 attendees—virtually and in person. Our diverse range of programming included seminars, panels, both new and tried-and-true walking tours, concerts, and more. We have honed our virtual programming skills—3,500 guests tuned in to our programming virtually, and we hope to continue to use this platform to elevate our scope, national and international visibility, and accessibility in years to come.

We have broadened our audience by reaching out and forging relationships with partners both old and new, such as **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews**, **Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA)**, **Dr. Michael Nevins**, **Rozanne Gold**, **Seward Park Library**, and **Music From China**. Our two virtual seminars with **Dr. Zachary Mazur** of POLIN Museum in Warsaw alone brought us **230 registrants** tuning in from all over the United States, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Poland, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom! In April, the Museum hosted a panel discussion about Jewish and Chinese traditions that represent safety and protection as part of our ongoing commitment to highlighting intercultural connections in our public programming.

Nostalgia always brings people together. We are lucky to work with four-time James Beard award-winning chef and author **Rozanne Gold**, who has brought us incredible powerhouses of the NYC food scene, **June Hersh**, **Niki Russ Federman**, **Leah Konig**, and **Arthur Schwartz**. These discussions brought **240 fascinated food enthusiasts**, ready to learn, reminisce, and nosh.

Our diverse range of exhibition programming garnered **370 attendees** in 2023, from exhibition openings, to in-person related programming, to virtual exhibition seminars that allowed folks nationally and internationally, including home-bound individuals, access to our exhibitions.

We continued to provide a comprehensive and fun walking tour selection that caters to native New Yorkers and tourists alike. We welcomed **250 walking tour guests** this year, and are excited to expand even further.

Musical events are a must in our stunning Sanctuary—we held **three concerts** and welcomed 870 concert guests in 2023! Our annual Winter Concert on December 25th is an Eldridge Street staple. This year, we brought two musical groups, **Margot Leverett's New Klezmer Trio** and a trio from **Music From China**, together in a debut collaboration that engaged all ages and backgrounds. Both trios performed their own sets, and then came together on clarinet, accordion, tuba, *erhu* (two-stringed fiddle), *pipa* (lute), and *zheng* (zither).

“...wonderful to experience the level of artistry in a venue that had so much character and beauty. Both sides of my family heritage, Chinese and Jewish, were equally engaged by this program...”

—Program Attendee

“...The guide was terrific, knows the area and its history inside and out, and presented the info in an engaging and easy-to-follow way ... I've been raving about this ever since. I even went back to the area the next day ... to revisit some of the stops.”

—Walking Tour Attendee







Lastly, we must mention our signature event—**Egg Rolls, Egg Creams, and Empanadas!** 2023 marked our 22nd annual folk festival, and it is enthralling to see this event's continued growth. In just four hours, we saw 12,000 people pass through our street to partake in this joyous day filled with Jewish, Chinese, and Puerto Rican tastes, sights, sounds, crafts, and a strong sense of community and learning. We formed new partnerships, provided a platform for artists, and embraced the spirit of our neighborhood and its immigrants' history with the Museum's magnificent synagogue home as the backdrop.

**“Terrific event for the community and visitors! Thank you so much for putting this together. Absolutely loved the experience and hope to be back next year!”**

—Festival Attendee



Walking Tour  
**Jewish Lower East Side**  
Scott Brevda; In-Person; January 29

Cinema Chats  
**“The Matchmaker”**  
Lucy Shahar, Stuart Weinstock; Virtual; January 30

Food Tour  
**Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side**  
Richard Soden; In-Person; February 5

Walking Tour  
**Love and Courtship on the Lower East Side**  
Jaime Cohen; In-Person; February 12

Walking Tour  
**Activism on the Lower East Side**  
Jason Bohner; In-Person; February 19

Cinema Chats  
**“The Automat”**  
Lisa Hurwitz, Lucy Shahar; Virtual; February 22

Book Talk  
**Irving Berlin: From Penniless Immigrant to America’s Unlikely Composer**  
Paul Kaplan; Virtual; February 28

Food Tour  
**Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side**  
Richard Soden; In-Person; March 5

Walking Tour  
**Mamas With Chutzpah**  
Jaime Cohen; In-Person; March 12

Concert  
**Celebrate Women’s History Month with the Music of Alhambra!**  
Adam Good, Jenny Luna, Marandi Hostetter, Philip Mayer; In-Person; March 12

Walking Tour  
**Jewish Lower East Side**  
Scott Brevda; In-Person; March 19

Curator Talk  
**Upon Thy Gates: The Winik Mezuzah Collection**  
Kenneth Helphand; Virtual; March 22

Cinema Chats  
**“Armageddon Time”**  
Lucy Shahar, Stephanie Zacharek; Virtual; March 27

Seminar  
**How Many Years Were We Slaves in Egypt?**  
Rabbi Aviad Bodner; Virtual; March 28

Panel Discussion  
**Poetry, Memoir, and the Art of Remembering**  
Amy Stein-Milford, Hanna Griff-Sleven, Rebecca Faulkner; In-Person; March 30

Walking Tour  
**Synagogues of the Lower East Side**  
Bradley Shaw; In-Person; April 2

Seminar  
**Jewish Life in Poland-Lithuania**  
Zachary Mazur; Virtual; April 30

Panel Discussion  
**Upon Thy Gates: Chinese and Jewish Traditions at Home**  
Ilana Harlow, Joanna Lee, Ken Smith, Regina Stein; In-Person; April 20

Walking Tour  
**Activism on the Lower East Side**  
Jason Bohner; In-Person; April 23

Off-Site Presentation  
**Culture Pass—Museum Tour**  
Scott Brevda; In-Person; April 24

Book Talk & Panel Discussion  
**“Iconic New York Jewish Food:” June Hersh, Niki Russ Federman, Rozanne Gold**  
Brooklyn Seltzer Boys, June Hersh, Niki Russ Federman, Rozanne Gold, Zaro’s Family Bakery; In-Person; May 3





Off-Site Presentation

**Culture Pass—Museum Tour**

Scott Brevda; In-Person; May 8

Seminar

**Art History Through a Jewish Lens:  
Nazi Looted Art**

Ellaine Rosen; Virtual; May 8

Seminar

**Open Spaces on the Lower East Side:  
With the Museum at Eldridge Street  
& Seward Park Library**

Andrew Fairweather, Scott Brevda;  
Virtual; May 10

Exhibition Opening

**A Collage of Customs**

Mark Podwal; In-Person; May 11

Walking Tour

**Mamas With Chutzpah**

Jaime Cohen; In-Person; May 14

Cinema Chats

**“The Fabelmans”**

Lucy Shahar, Michael Phillips; Virtual;  
May 17

Walking Tour

**Jewish Gangsters of Lower Manhattan**

Bradley Shaw; In-Person; May 21

Walking Tour

**Jewish Lower East Side**

Jaime Cohen; In-Person; June 4

Street Festival

**Egg Rolls, Egg Creams, and Empanadas**

In-Person; June 18

Cinema Chats

**“The Lives of Others”**

Lucy Shahar, Michael Sragow; Virtual;  
June 22

Seminar

**Tour of the Jewish Lower East Side**

Scott Brevda; Virtual; June 25

Food Tour

**Eldridge Eats: A History of the  
Lower East Side**

Richard Soden; In-Person; June 30



Walking Tour

**Early Sacred Sites of the  
Lower East Side**

Bradley Shaw; In-Person; July 9

Seminar

**Bagels To Bhajis: London’s  
Ever-Changing Jewish East End**

Rachel Kolsky; Virtual; July 12

Book Talk & Signing

**“How to Become an American”**

Daniel Wolff; In-Person; July 20

Walking Tour

**Synagogues of the Lower East Side**

Bradley Shaw; In-Person; July 23

Seminar

**The Art of the Jewish Marriage Contract**

Sharon Liberman Mintz; Virtual; August 2

Walking Tour

**Activism on the Lower East Side**

Jason Bohner; In-Person; August 13

Seminar

**Tour of the Jewish Lower East Side**

Scott Brevda; Virtual; August 14

Walking Tour

**Jewish Lower East Side**

Jaime Cohen; In-Person; August 31

Walking Tour

**Jewish Gangsters of Lower Manhattan**

Bradley Shaw; In-Person; September 8

Seminar

**Tour of the Jewish Lower East Side**

Scott Brevda; Virtual; September 10

Anniversary Building Tour

**Celebrate Eldridge at 136!**

Scott Brevda; In-Person; September 18

Seminar

**Discover Eldridge**

Scott Brevda; Virtual; September 27

Seminar

**Activism on the Lower East Side**

Jason Bohner; Virtual; October 2

Walking Tour

**Jewish Lower East Side**

Jaime Cohen; In-Person; October 6

Walking Tour

**Shuls of Grandeur**

Svetlana Kershstein with Lower East  
Side Jewish Conservancy; In-Person;  
October 9

Seminar

**Tour of the Jewish Lower East Side**

Scott Brevda; Virtual; October 10

Seminar

**Not Tevia’s Shtetl: The Real Story Behind  
these Ancestral Towns**

Dr. Zachary Mazur; Virtual; October 15

Book Talk & Panel Discussion

**“Portico:” Celebrate Rome’s  
Jewish Kitchen with Leah Koenig, Arthur  
Schwartz, and Rozanne Gold**

Arthur Schwartz, Leah Koenig, Rozanne  
Gold; In-Person; October 17

Concert

**Klezmer and Cantorial Connections**

Jake Sulman-Ment, Jeremiah  
Lockwood, Raffi Boden, Yoel Kohn;  
In-Person; October 22

Cinema Chats

**“The Quiet Girl”**

David Fear, Lucy Shahar; Virtual;  
October 25

Seminar

**How the Lower East Side Streets  
Got Their Names: From Colonial  
Executions to American Presidents**

Scott Brevda; Virtual; October 30

Walking Tour

**The Historic Bowery Thoroughfare**

Richard Soden; In-Person; November 3

Book Talk & Panel Discussion

**A World Of Jewish Humor with  
Steve Zeitlin & Peninnah Schram**

Peninnah Schram, Steve Zeitlin;  
In-Person; November 5

Walking Tour

**Jewish Lower East Side**

Scott Brevda; In-Person;  
November 12

Cinema Chats

**“Keep Quiet”**

Glenn Kenny, Lucy Shahar; Virtual;  
November 13

Seminar

**MOCA and Museum at Eldridge Street  
Present “Murder in Manchuria”**

Scott D. Seligman; Virtual;  
November 16

Food Tour

**Eldridge Eats: A History of the  
Lower East Side**

Richard Soden; In-Person;  
November 17

Panel Discussion

**Ageing Well: Finding Purpose  
and Confronting Ageism**

Rabbi Daniel Nevins, Dr. Loren  
Greene, Dr. Michael Nevins,  
Dr. Rosanne Leipzig; In-Person;  
November 19

Seminar

**Ageing Well: A Literary History  
on Ageing and Ageism**

Dr. Michael Nevins; Virtual;  
November 29

Book Talk & Seminar

**The Legacy of Sender Jarmulowsky**

David Winner; Virtual; December 5

Seminar

**Ageing Well: A Geriatrician Looks  
at Ageing**

Dr. Jeffrey Levine, Dr. Michael  
Nevins; Virtual; December 6

Holiday Building Tour

**Celebrate Chanukah at Eldridge!**

Scott Brevda; In-Person; December 11

Seminar

**Ageing Well: Legal and Ethical Issues  
at the End of Life**

Dr. Alan Lippman, Dr. Michael  
Nevins, Norman Cantor; Virtual;  
December 13

Cinema Chats

**“Golda”**

Eric Goldman, Lucy Shahar; Virtual;  
December 19

Seminar

**Ageing Well: Wise Ageing**

Dr. Michael Nevins, Rabbi Paula Drill;  
Virtual; December 20

Winter Concert

**Celebrate Jewish and Chinese Music  
on the Lower East Side!**

Margot Leverett, Peter Stan, Ron  
Caswell, Sun Li, Wang Guowei, Wang  
Junling; In-Person; December 25

# SPECIAL EVENTS

Renting out our space is an opportunity for the public to gather in one of the most beautiful interiors in NYC for lifecycle or professional development events. In 2023, we hosted eight space rentals, and attended three community outreach events.

Outreach events increase the Museum’s visibility as a city attraction and strengthen partnerships with neighboring organizations. Just as we invite our Lower East Side partners to work with us on and participate in **Egg Rolls, Egg Creams, and Empanadas**, they invite us to participate in their street festivals year-after-year. **Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum’s annual Greek Jewish Festival** celebrates the Romaniote and Sephardic heritage of the Jews of the Greek diaspora; and **The Loaisida Center**, a community organization focusing on Latinx/o/e empowerment hosts the annual **Loaisida Festival**, celebrating the heart, community, and culture of the neighborhood. Museum at Eldridge Street staff are proud and grateful to represent Eldridge Street at both festivals, offering family arts and crafts activities and information about everything the Museum has to offer.



# DEVELOPMENT

Because of you, we can achieve so much more ...

The generosity of our dedicated Board of Directors, individual, foundation, and government supporters ensures that the Museum at Eldridge Street can preserve our historic synagogue for generations to come. This generous network of support also ensures that we can nourish and develop our robust educational and cultural programming.



In 2023, we received contributions and grants totaling \$1,393,449 representing 83% of the institution's overall income. The remaining 17% came from earned income, including building tours and program admissions revenue, gift shop sales, and investment income.

## CELEBRATING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY...

The annual Fall Gala is a festive event that highlights the generosity and warmth of our extended Eldridge community. We were delighted to gather as a community at Bryant Park Grill on November 8th to honor the acclaimed artist, **Mark Podwal**. Initially known for his drawings for *The New York Times* Op-Ed page, most of Podwal's books—his own as well as those he illustrated for others including such luminaries as Elie Wiesel and Harold Bloom—focus on Jewish history, tradition, and legend. His art is represented in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Israel Museum, the Jewish Museums in Berlin, Vienna, Prague, Stockholm, and New York, among many other venues.

Guests also enjoyed entertainment by **Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars**, who brought their lively, jazz-infused klezmer sound to the celebratory evening.

**The event was a tremendous success, raising \$335,314 to support the Museum's programs and operations.**

## CREATING A LASTING LEGACY...

Members of the 1887 Society are generous supporters who demonstrate their commitment to preserving Jewish heritage and ensuring the Museum at Eldridge Street will continue to serve as a hub for Jewish history, culture, and education. We are profoundly grateful to those who have remembered the Museum in their wills. In 2023, we received bequests from the estates of **Roger Jacques Herz, Fred Rosner, and Judy Tenney**.

Special thanks to **Mark Wenger** and **DUGGAL Visual Solutions** for their donation of time and materials for our Tribute Wall, ensuring that all Tribute Wall contributions directly support the Museum's programs and general operations. We hope you will consider memorializing or celebrating loved ones, special family occasions, and other milestones by placing your dedication on the Museum's permanent Tribute Wall.

For more information about the Museum's Tribute Wall or joining the 1887 Society, please contact our Director of Development, Veronica Ball at [vball@eldridgestreet.org](mailto:vball@eldridgestreet.org) or 212.219.0888, x202.





# THANK YOU

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January 1–December 31, 2023

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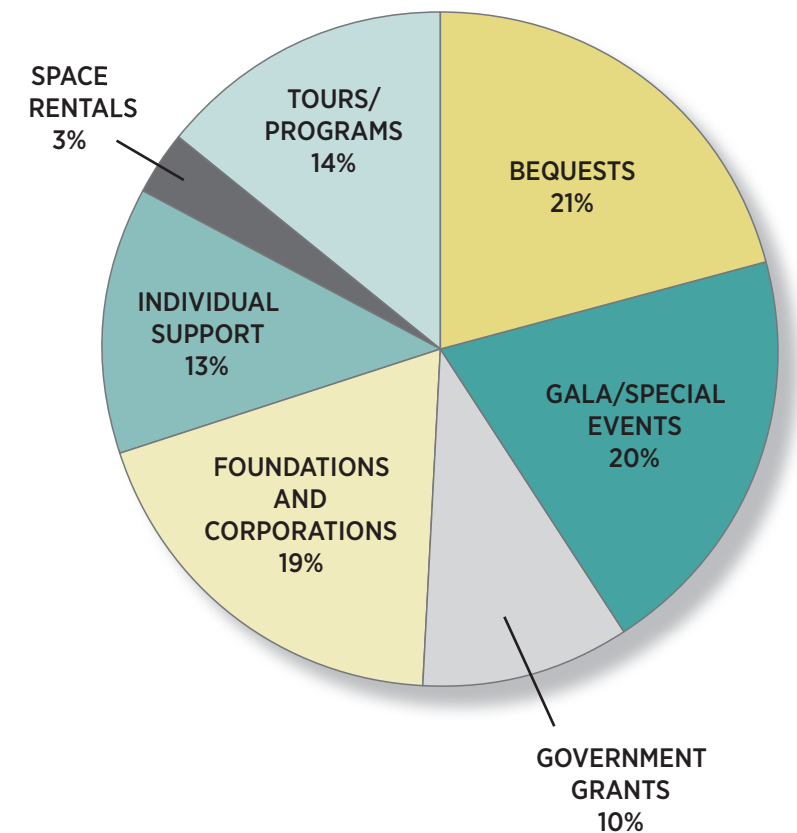
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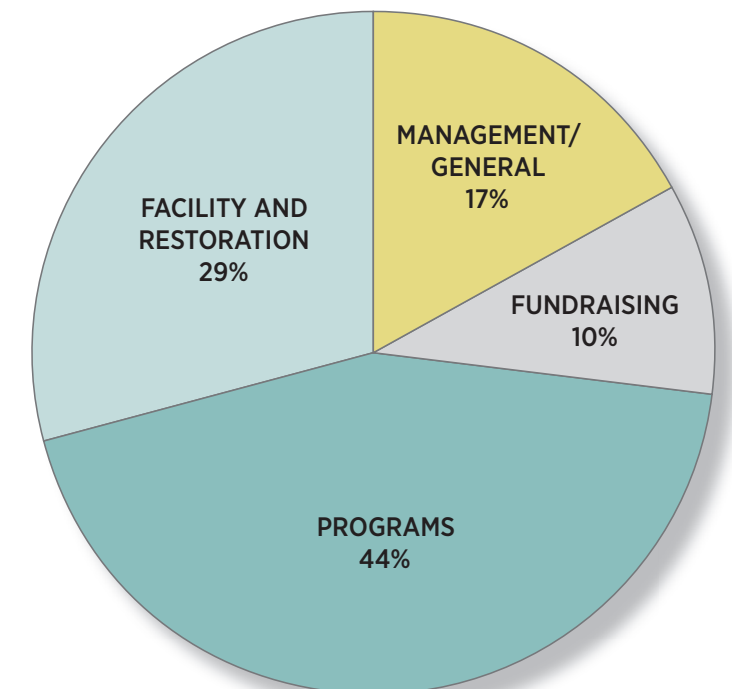
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The 20-year restoration of our landmark building was a team effort, uniting people with vision, people with drive, and artisans with the skills to make our dreams (and memories) come alive. Today, the continued success of the Museum is a team effort, too! The Museum truly would not function without our dedicated supporters. When you donate your time, your energy, or your hard-earned money, you keep the wheels turning at 12 Eldridge. Our valued supporters are involved in ways as diverse and exciting as the Lower East Side itself. But what they all have in common is their invaluable contribution to our Museum.

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All photos courtesy of the Museum at Eldridge Street unless otherwise noted.





The Museum at Eldridge Street, a non-sectarian cultural organization in Lower Manhattan, is preserving and interpreting the historic 1887 Eldridge Street Synagogue, a magnificent National Historic Landmark that re-opened in December 2007 after an extensive, \$20 million restoration. Since then, more than 500,000 people from around the world have participated in tours, cultural events, exhibits, and educational programs that present the history and heritage of this historic house of worship and the Jewish immigrant community of the Lower East Side.

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