



AHL FOUNDATION, INC.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AHL Foundation Presents SPACE UPTOWN: COMMUNITY (FOR) FAIR 2026
A Collective Exhibition Featuring Harlem- and Bronx-Based Arts & Cultural Nonprofits

**Space
Uptown
Community**

Feb 13, 2026 - Mar 14, 2026

Artistic Noise

Garifuna Heritage Center for the Arts and Culture, Inc.

Children's Art Center

(for)

AHL FOUNDATION

Opening Reception
Feb 13, 2026, 6PM - 8PM

AHL Foundation Gallery
2605 Frederick
Douglass Blvd., #C1,
New York, NY 10030

Sisters in Sharqui/Harlem/Hella

While We Are Still Here

**Fair
2026**

NEW YORK, NY — AHL Foundation announces *Space Uptown: Community (for) Fair 2026*, on view from **February 13 to March 14, 2026**, at its gallery in Harlem. Curated by Jiyoung Lee, Director of Programs and Development at AHL Foundation, the exhibition brings together Harlem- and Bronx-based arts and cultural nonprofit organizations in a collective presentation. The exhibition highlights each organization's mission, work, and contribution to the local cultural ecosystem through objects and materials selected by each participating organization.



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Since relocating to Harlem in 2022, AHL Foundation has developed the exhibition project 'Space Uptown' as an ongoing initiative responding to the cultural, historical, and artistic landscapes of Harlem, Upper Manhattan, and the Bronx. Previous editions connected artists and organizations across these neighborhoods with Korean artists working in New York, fostering cross-cultural dialogue around community, identity, and place.

The 2026 edition, ***Community (for) Fair***, builds on these relationships by centering arts and cultural nonprofit organizations that sustain community-based cultural work across Harlem and the Bronx. Participating organizations represent a wide range of practices, including youth advocacy, diasporic performance, historical preservation, arts education, and experimental support for emerging artists.

Participating organizations include **Artistic Noise, Children's Art Carnival, Garifuna Heritage Center for the Arts and Culture, Inc., Sisters in Sharqi / Harlem Hafla, While We Are Still Here, and AHL Foundation, Inc.**

Each participating organization contributes objects and materials representing its mission and cultural practice. These include archive materials, artworks by resident or affiliated artists, performance costumes worn on stage, musical instruments, performance videos, and historical objects that reflect Harlem's cultural legacy. Together, these materials expand the definition of exhibition objects beyond traditional artworks, foregrounding the practices, labor, and relationships that sustain community-based cultural work.

The term "Fair" is used intentionally, not only as a conceptual framework but also as an exhibition format. *Community (for) Fair* brings together organizations in a shared exhibition that emphasizes gathering, exchange, and visibility, foregrounding how equity and community are practiced through proximity and ongoing relationships.

"AHL Foundation is pleased to present an exhibition that brings together such a diverse group of arts and cultural organizations. We are honored to share space with our partners and to celebrate the collective work that sustains our communities."

— Sook Nyu Lee Kim, Founder & President, AHL Foundation

The opening reception for ***Space Uptown: Community (for) Fair*** will be held on **Friday, February 13, from 6–8 PM**, at the AHL Foundation gallery (2605 Frederick Douglass Blvd., #C1, New York, NY 10030). **Free admission.**

Press Contact

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This exhibition is supported in part by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council, and made possible by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the Asian American Arts Alliance (A4) Arts Fund.



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Participating Organizations (Listed in alphabetical order)

AHL Foundation, Inc.

Founded in 2003, AHL Foundation is a New York City-based nonprofit organization committed to supporting artists of Korean heritage through exhibitions, public programs, archives, and educational initiatives. Their mission is threefold: 1) to seek, identify, and promote talents Korean and Korean-American artists active in the United States; 2) to provide the artists with a platform and resources to further develop their talents; and 3) to host educational, cultural, and artistic events with the goal of building wider public awareness of contemporary artists of Korean heritage.

Over the past 20 years, they have hosted more than 140 exhibitions and supported over 400 artists nationwide—including Korean American adoptees, LGBTQ+ artists, recent immigrants, and emerging creators navigating language and cultural barriers. Since their inception, they have also awarded an average of \$50,000 annually in grants to more than 150 artists, curators, and researchers. In addition, they offer over 40 art history lectures each year, enriching the public's understanding of contemporary art and operate the Archive of Korean Artists in America (AKAA), a public digital archive documenting Korean and Korean American artists in the United States. www.ahlfoundation.org

Artistic Noise

For 25 years, Artistic Noise has built community with system-impacted young people to enhance lives through the empowering and therapeutic potential of art making. Located on Adam Clayton Powell and 129th street, our organization has created art in collaboration with thousands of young people who are incarcerated, on probation, in foster care, or otherwise impacted by the juvenile court system. Through visual arts, therapeutic, and entrepreneurship-based programs, participants give voice to their experiences, build community through collaborative projects and explore a variety of valuable life skills in the process. <https://www.artisticnoise.org/>

Children's Art Carnival

Originally founded in 1969 by renowned artist, the late Betty Blayton Taylor, as a community outreach program of the Museum of Modern Art, the Carnival has served Harlem and the New York community as an autonomous center for the education of young people in the arts since 1972. CAC has been a safe space for young people, community members and artists to gather to actively explore the arts and hone their creative voices. Today, CAC continues to build on that history by supporting artists in the development of new work and in direct engagement with community through visual arts activities, arts workshops, for young people and area residents of all ages, exhibitions and professional development opportunities for emerging artists. CAC is committed to the idea that the arts are a bridge to understanding, and critical to healthy communities. Its work extends the vision of its founder and her legacy of cultural advancement. <https://childrensartcarnival.org/>

Garifuna Heritage Center for the Arts and Culture, Inc.



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Garifuna Heritage Center for the Arts and Culture, Inc. (GHC) is a Bronx-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and advancing Garifuna culture (an Indigenous people of West African and Arawak descent) through the performing arts. Founded in 1992 by Executive Director Luz F. Soliz-Ramos, GHC uses dance, music, song, theater, and language as living tools for cultural transmission, education, and community empowerment. GHC creates accessible, intergenerational programming including classes, workshops, performances, festivals, and public cultural events that strengthen identity, historical awareness, and creative expression. Cross-cultural connection is important in our work, participants always relate to some part of the culture. Through partnerships with schools, cultural institutions, parks, and community organizations across New York City, GHC ensures that Garifuna traditions remain visible, relevant, and alive for future generations. The arts are a pathway to cultural pride, wellness, historical awareness, and long-term cultural preservation.

<https://garifunaheritagecenter.com>

Sisters in Sharqi / Harlem Hafla

Sisters in Sharqi, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that focuses on sharing the diversity of North African Dance, commonly known as Bellydance. We recognize these dances as part of the African Diaspora so we share workshops and shows in underserved communities like Harlem and The Bronx. Harlem Hafla's Executive Director, Brandy Heyward, uses her backgrounds in Art, Education, Dance and Writing to pour into the organization. We share the dances nationally and internationally in Illinois, Missouri, California and in Bermuda to name a few locations. Our most recognized contribution is with our annual show, Harlem Hafla---Bellydance with SOUL. Since 2017, Harlem Hafla has staged Harlem shows with people of color but predominantly Black dancers who may otherwise not get chosen nor paid for our work. Harlem Hafla, 2026 will take place at Harlem School of the Arts on June 27, 2026. We offer open level classes by day and a gala show at night that reflects the Harlem community. We hope you'll join us at the presentation. To learn more, please go to www.sistersinsharqi.com and for show tickets, please visit www.harlemhafla.com.

While We Are Still Here

While We Are Still Here (WWSH) will educate, enshrine and preserve the extraordinary legacy of Harlem as an influential incubator that was vital to the intellectual, cultural, social, and political advancements of the Harlem community as well as the African Diaspora. While We Are Still Here ensures that the "post-gentrification" community of Harlem and beyond will honor and find a meaningful connection to the legacy of African American achievement, and its paramount importance to world culture.

<https://whilewearestillhere.org/>