

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

MUSEUM
AT ELDRIDGE STREET

WELCOME



In 2025, ***Time Out* magazine named the Museum at Eldridge Street one of the “24 most beautiful buildings in the world,”** a tremendous honor and an exclamation point on a remarkable year of public recognition and creative vitality for the Museum. Fueled by the launch of our new multiyear project, *Museum at Eldridge Street: Opening Doors to Intercultural Understanding*, **we developed new programs, partnerships, and exhibitions that plumb the depths of our Jewish story in connection with other cultures, communities, and traditions.**

Spurred by these new initiatives along with dedicated and dynamic outreach efforts, **the Museum welcomed 48,866 visitors—the highest number in the Museum’s history.**

That figure represents a 5% increase over 2024 and, crucially, it represents tens of thousands of individuals who experienced the awe-inspiring architecture and living history of our 1887 National Historic Landmark home.

This year, the Museum also showcased the rich history, diversity, and dynamic pulse of New York City, offering 57 walking tours from the Bowery to Harlem, and even over the Williamsburg Bridge! And, despite a rainy forecast, **our 24th Annual Egg Rolls, Egg Creams, and Empanadas Street Festival drew over 10,000 festival-goers** to celebrate the Chinese, Jewish, and Puerto Rican cultures that make our vibrant Lower East Side and Chinatown neighborhood so special.

We were thrilled to welcome hundreds of guests to our magnificently restored Main Sanctuary for concert performances celebrating unique communities and cultural connections, including a concert exploring the musical legacy of ancient Chinese and Jewish communities in dialogue with our present-day Chinatown neighborhood.

The Museum saw record-breaking engagement through digital platforms and outreach initiatives, including a new audio tour animated by the voices of our dedicated docents on our digital self-guide powered by Bloomberg Connects. The Museum also produced a social media video series highlighting the Museum’s zodiac mosaic floor designed by Mark Podwal, as well as posts uncovering hidden neighborhood histories, behind-the-scenes programmatic highlights, and exploring architectural features of our historic synagogue. This educational and visually engaging content spurred dramatic growth. **We now count over 30,000 followers across our social media platforms, where we reach audiences from around the world.**

None of this happens without you, our visitors, community partners, donors, and friends. Your essential support helps us further the Museum’s mission of preserving and sharing the legacy of the first great house of worship built in the United States by Eastern European Jewish immigrants. As we look ahead, we do so with tremendous optimism—grateful for our milestones and energized by everything still to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Michael Weinstein, Chairman



Bonnie Dimun, President & CEO



LILLY ENDOWMENT GRANT INITIATIVE





...We encouraged visitors from around the world to connect their own sacred experiences and traditions with our 1887 National Historic Landmark home and the Eastern European Jewish immigrants who worshiped within its doors and forged a resilient community in the surrounding neighborhood.

At the end of 2024, the Museum received a groundbreaking \$2.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. in support of a major new project, *Museum at Eldridge Street: Opening Doors to Intercultural Understanding*. Formally launching the multiyear project in 2025, **the Museum set about developing new exhibitions, programs, and initiatives that foster inquiry on interfaith and intercultural connections, as well as the ways in which American immigration history resonates today within the lens of our Jewish story.** Through this lens, we encouraged visitors from around the world to connect their own sacred experiences and traditions with our 1887 National Historic Landmark home and the Eastern European Jewish immigrants who worshiped within its doors and forged a resilient community in the surrounding neighborhood.

To encourage impactful public engagement with these principles, we developed a workshop series. Led by expert facilitators, these workshops offer participants hands-on experiences designed to illuminate specific material elements of Jewish ritual and community. Our first workshop, held in October, was led by Hebrew scribal artist Leana Tapnack. Tapnack introduced the tradition of the scribe in Jewish communities and guided participants in using a quill pen to create their own handwritten mementos on parchment. The workshop was set in the Women's Balcony of our Main

Sanctuary, activating the historic space and illuminating connections between contemporary Jewish material culture and Jewish tradition. We look forward to offering more hands-on workshops in 2026 and beyond.

In November, the Museum hosted the Eldridge Street Summit, an all-day gathering that brought together 60 museum leaders, scholars, and philanthropists in the Museum's 1887 Main Sanctuary to explore the future of faith-based literacy in America. The unprecedented convening included keynote sessions and panels inspiring new connections, reflections, and questions about religious literacy and inter-communal, interfaith storytelling across the United States. Speakers and attendees included art historian and Christianity scholar Gretchen Buggeln, Jewish cultural historian and curator Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Islamic Studies scholar Fatimah Fanusie, and Harry H. Singleton III, who serves as Lilly Director of Faith-Based Education & Engagement at the International African American Museum. We were also honored to host **Jessica Duckworth and Christopher Coble of Lilly Endowment at the event**, in addition to several of our fellow Lilly Endowment Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative grantees.

Looking ahead in the grant project, the Museum is excited to develop and unveil an exciting, reimagined core exhibition space accompanied by a slate of new programs.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE



**In 2025, the Museum welcomed
48,866 visitors—the highest
number in the Museum's history.**

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, the Museum welcomed over 20,000 general admission visitors for the first time ever; it was our best year on record for general admission, continuing a remarkable streak in recent years of record-highs for visitorship.

Visitors came from all over the world to experience the Museum; this year, we welcomed visitors from the following countries for the first time: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Latvia, Moldova, Paraguay, Tanzania, and Tajikistan.

Countless people came to the Museum after years of knowing about us; others chose to revisit to bring friends and family, recall fond memories of growing up in the neighborhood, or connect with a part of their heritage. As with previous years, online search and word of mouth were instrumental in bringing people through our doors, with over 90% of visitors experiencing the Museum for the first time.

Close to 30% of visitors opted for the docent-led tour as part of their experience, while many more explored the Museum through the virtual guide on Bloomberg Connects. We also welcomed over 1,500 visitors for customized private tours of the space. Additionally, in April, **we began offering monthly tours in Spanish. These tours welcome both local and international visitors, increasing visibility and accessibility as we continue to explore avenues to broaden our audience.**

The trend for the year was a busy spring and summer, with exceptionally stellar numbers in May—2,079 visitors—and August—2,128 visitors. As in previous years, we participated in Sacred Sites (an initiative led by the New York Landmarks Conservancy in May) and Open House New York (sponsored by NYC Tourism in October); we offered free admission on these dates, which contributed to upticks on their respective dates.

“An incredible story about ruin, rediscovery, and restoration. From the rose window by the balcony to the original north-facing glass windows preserved downstairs, layers of history can be unravelled in this museum. Props to the extremely knowledgeable and charming tour guide.”

—August 20, 2025 on Tripadvisor

GLOBAL VISITORS GREW TO 105 NATIONS AND TERRITORIES:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, 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, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panamá, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, the Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turks and Caicos, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen.



***“Stunning! I visit NYC all the time
and can’t believe I didn’t learn of this
museum sooner. It’s absolutely beautiful.
Highly recommend a visit here.”***

–February 18, 2025 on Tripadvisor



DOCENTS

Over the course of the year, our knowledgeable and dedicated docents gave almost 1,000 building tours to visitors from around the world. The building tours are an integral part of the visitor experience; through these tours, visitors have the opportunity to engage directly with the history by way of anecdotes and our docents' extensive knowledge of the neighborhood at large.

In the spring, we welcomed five new docents to our growing community! We continued to foster an engaging environment for our docents to connect not only with visitors, but with each other as well. As part of our enrichment strategy, docents were invited to take field trips with staff to visit neighboring institutions such as the China Institute and the Seaport Museum. These field trips, often reciprocal in nature, also serve to strengthen our partnerships with local organizations.

EDUCATION



“This tour surpassed our expectations...The teachers and the students came back with thoughtful and meaningful reflections and a deeper understanding about Judaism.”

—KIPP Beyond Middle School

The Museum's education programs continue to connect the present to the past, inviting students of all backgrounds from across the nation and around the world to learn about our historic synagogue, Jewish customs and traditions, and New York's immigrant history at the turn of the 20th century.

In 2025, **we welcomed 6,708 K-12 students and teachers** for tours ranging from our classic museum tour, *New Lives in a New Land*, which explores immigration a century ago, to our vibrant *Shapes and Colors*, which uses our historic Synagogue's stained glass to reinforce math, science, and art curriculum. When combined with private groups, including Jewish community centers, government departments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), **the education team welcomed 8,123 visitors to the Museum, the highest number since 2016**. In addition to returning school groups, we were delighted to welcome school groups from **Himmelev Gymnasium in Denmark, Andrei Şaguna National College in Romania, the New York County Supreme Court, and the United Nations**.

We were also selected to present at the Museum Association of New York's 2025 conference. Our presentation focused on the education team's success in introducing our diverse student audience to New York's Jewish immigrant community from a century ago in ways that are relevant and engaging. We were honored to be selected and to share our experiences with Museum professionals across New York State.



K-12 GROUPS

Abraham Joshua Heschel School
 Adolph Schreiber Hebrew Academy
 of Rockland (ASHAR)
 American History High School
 Anshe Chesed—Erie, PA
 Associated Beth Rivkah Schools
 B'nai Israel Congregation—Rockville, MD
 Bais Yaakov of Clifton
 Bank Street School for Children
 Bard High School Early College
 Barringer High School
 Beth El Synagogue—East Windsor, NJ
 Beth Emet The Free Synagogue
 —Evanston, IL
 Beth Shalom—Overland Park, KS
 Brooklyn Collaborative Studies
 Brooklyn Heights Synagogue
 Camp Twelve Trails
 Capitol Hill Day School
 Central High School
 Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
 City and Country School
 Colegiul Național “Andrei Șaguna”
 Congregation Adat Reyim—Springfield, VA
 Congregation B'nai Shalom—
 Westborough, MA
 Congregation Beth El—Sudbury, MA
 Congregation Beth El of
 Montgomery County
 Congregation Beth Torah—Richardson, TX
 Congregation Micah—Brentwood, TN
 Congregation Mishkan Or—Beachwood, OH
 Congregation Ner Tamid—Henderson, NV
 Dorot
 East Side High School
 Epstein Hillel School
 Ethical Culture Fieldston School
 Fayerweather Street School
 Fig Tree School
 Food and Finance High School
 Genesee Community Charter School
 Gillen Brewer School
 Greene Hill School
 Hebrew Tabernacle—New York, NY
 Hillcrest Jewish Center—Queens, NY
 Himmelev Gymnasium
 Hostos-Lincoln Academy
 I.S. 219 New Venture School
 International Community High School



Joseph A. Foran High School
 Kehillat Israel—Pacific Palisades, CA
 Keshet
 KIPP: Beyond Middle School
 Liberty Central High School
 Little Red School House (LREI) and
 Elisabeth Irwin High School
 Malcolm X Shabazz High School
 Manhattan Country School
 Marlboro Jewish Center—Marlboro, NJ
 McLean School
 Museum of Jewish Heritage
 Nations Classroom
 New York City Campaign Finance Board
 New York City Museum Educator Roundtable
 New York City Museum School
 New York School for Urban Ministry
 Newark School of Data Science
 & Information Technology
 Newark School of Fashion & Design
 Newark School of Global Studies
 Newark Vocational
 NYU Bronfman Center
 P.S. 001 Alfred E. Smith Elementary School
 P.S. 002 Meyer London
 P.S. 042 Benjamin Altman
 P.S. 10 Magnet School of Math, Science,
 and Design Technology
 P.S. 124 Yung Wing
 P.S. 130 Hernando De Soto
 P.S. 134 Henrietta Szold
 P.S. M079—Horan School
 P17X School
 Poly Prep Country Day School—
 Lower School
 Princeton Day School
 River East Elementary
 Riverdale Country School
 Saint Stephen's & St. Agnes School

Shalom House—Brighton, MA
 Solomon Schechter Day School of
 Greater Hartford
 Stuyvesant High School
 Temple Beth Ami—Miami, FL
 Temple Beth El—Tacoma, WA
 Temple Emanuel—Chevy Chase View, MD
 Temple Emanuel—North York, ON
 Temple Isaiah—Lafayette, CA
 Temple Shalom—Chevy Chase, MD
 Temple Shir Tikva—Wayland, MA
 Temple Sinai—Atlanta, GA
 The Academy of Classical Christian Studies
 The Agnes Irwin School
 The Brooklyn Latin School
 The Peck School
 The Q StudioLab
 The Shefa School
 Timothy Youth Group
 Torah Academy of Bergen County
 University High School
 Weequahic High School
 West End Secondary School
 Westchester Reform Temple—Scarsdale, NY
 Woodstock Union High School
 and Middle School
 Yeshivat Noam

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Brookdale Community College
 Concordia University, St. Paul
 CUNY, Brooklyn College
 CUNY, Hunter College
 Eastern Michigan University
 Fordham University
 New York University (NYU)
 NYU Bronfman Center
 Pace University
 The New School
 Trinity College
 University of Connecticut
 The King's College
 The Ruderman Program for American
 Jewish Studies (University of Haifa)
 University of Connecticut (UConn) Hillel
 University of Delaware
 Yeshiva University

“[Our interns] were struck by the grandiosity and beauty of the space...many reflected that it is so meaningful to get to know about all the history in the neighborhood and landmarks they are walking past without ever knowing there is a Jewish story there.”

—NYU Bronfman Center

ACCESS

Through its robust access initiatives, the Museum ensures that its programming is fully accessible and inclusive for all visitors, regardless of disability. With support from the Laura B. Vogler Foundation and our other institutional partners, **we offered 21 tours and programs that welcomed 306 visitors living with disabilities, a 42% increase from 2024.** These programs adapted the Museum’s core content, such as the Museum’s historic stained glass and exhibitions, including *Lower East Side 1975: Portrait of a Changing Jewish Neighborhood*, and our public program on the etymology of street names, to create accessible educational experiences for attendees from around the nation.

We also introduced new tools to enhance the visitor experience. This includes our new website widget, UserWay, which ensures compliance with the latest accessibility standards and allows visitors to make customized adjustments site-wide. We are proud to have worked with our partners, the Helen Keller National Center and CaringKind, to hold training sessions for staff and docents on best practices for welcoming visitors who are blind, have low vision, or live with dementia. Additionally, we expanded our available Museum accommodations to include sensory kits, sensory guides, and social narratives, and updated the Museum’s Braille and large-format guides.

ACCESS PUBLIC PROGRAMS

History and Menorahs:

Virtual Tour of the Eldridge Street Synagogue

Scott Brevda; Virtual | January 9

Step Back in Time:

The Lower East Side A Century Ago With CaringKind

Scott Brevda; Virtual | March 26 | July 24

Virtual Verbal Description Tour—“Lower East Side, 1975”

Scott Brevda; Virtual | October 26

OUTREACH

Community partnerships remain central to the Museum at Eldridge Street’s mission, connecting us with organizations across New York City and beyond. Our outreach efforts flourished at neighborhood festivals and local events where we engaged directly with diverse audiences. We participated in a range of community celebrations in 2025, including **Brooklyn Seltzer Museum’s Brooklyn SeltzerFest, Kehila Kedosha Janina’s Greek Jewish Festival, the Loisaïda Festival, Teens Take the Met, Friends of Corlear’s Hook Park: Halloween Trick or Treat, and Borscht Belt Museum’s Borscht Belt Fest.** Across these events, we connected with 2,358 people, sparking curiosity in the Museum and its mission through meaningful conversations.



EXHIBITIONS



In 2025, the Museum offered photography lectures and walking tours in celebration of ***Lower East Side, 1975: Portrait of a Changing Jewish Neighborhood***, an exhibition that featured never-before-seen photographs of the Lower East Side in the 1970s, a pivotal moment of transformation in the neighborhood and across New York City. Photographer **Richard Marc Sakols**, who captured these unique snapshots as a young student, returned to Eldridge to offer a personal walkthrough of the exhibition and share his insights about photographing the neighborhood in 1975 with his Pentax SLR camera. An accompanying digital guide on Bloomberg Connects featuring video, audio, and additional photographs brought this exhibition to life, weaving nostalgic personal histories with the present.

In December, we opened ***First Light: Birth in the Jewish Tradition***, which offered a journey through Jewish birth rituals. The exhibition featured several items from our collection, including a 19th-century wimpel, a cloth commonly used in Ashkenazi Jewish tradition as a binder for the Torah. It is also present across Jewish life cycle events, from the brit milah (the Jewish circumcision ceremony) to Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies, which mark one's entrance into Jewish adulthood. This hand-painted historic textile, never before on display at the Museum, is a shining example of the folk practices and material culture that defined Jewish birthing for centuries. **The exhibition also featured contemporary sculptural work and paintings by renowned Jewish artists Tobi Kahn and Mark Podwal**, as well as sacred ritual objects on loan from partner institutions. Showcasing Jewish rites and customs from ancient times to the present, this exhibition invited visitors to explore the particularities of Jewish birth practices while also reflecting upon the universal wonder of welcoming new life.



FAMILY PROGRAMS



The Museum continued to offer a diverse selection of family programs, including our ***All-of-a-Kind Family Walking Tour***, which invites families to explore the day to day life of children in the Jewish Lower East Side through the sites from the generationally beloved book *All-of-a-Kind Family* by **Sidney Taylor**, and **Eldridge Arts & Learning: Stained Glass**, which engages families in the geometric and scientific concepts behind the vibrant windows, bringing our historic synagogue to life. Our partnership with **Culture Pass** enabled us to expand our reach and bring our stained glass programs to libraries and audiences across the five boroughs who may not otherwise visit the Museum.

This year, we expanded our family programs to include an **Eldridge Arts & Learning Tu B'Shevat!** featuring a Memory Tree craft that combined a beautiful art project with memories of nature. We also combined Passover, crafts, and music in **The Rock 'N' Roll Haggadah: Learn, Sing & Craft at Eldridge Street!** to mark Passover and the release of *The Rock 'N' Roll Haggadah: Your Guide to a Seder That Rocks!* by Meredith Ochs and Kay Miller.

Walking Tour

All-of-a-Kind Family

Scott Brevda; In-Person | January 12

Culture Pass: Stained Glass for Kids! at Ottendorfer Library

Scott Brevda; In-Person | January 18

Eldridge Arts & Learning: Tu B'Shevat!

Jaime Cohen; In-Person | February 2

Walking Tour

All-of-a-Kind Family

Frimmy Schwartz; In-Person | February 9

Walking Tour

All-of-a-Kind Family

Frimmy Schwartz; In-Person | February 23

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

Jaime Cohen; In-Person | March 30

The Rock 'N' Roll Haggadah: Learn, Sing & Craft at Eldridge Street!

Meredith Ochs, Kay Miller, Dave Schramm, Ron Metz;
In-Person | April 6

Walking Tour

All-of-a-Kind Family

Jaime Cohen; In-Person | April 18

Walking Tour

All-of-a-Kind Family

Frimmy Schwartz; In-Person | May 4

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

Scott Brevda; In-Person | June 6

Walking Tour

All-of-a-Kind Family

Frimmy Schwartz; In-Person | June 13

Culture Pass: Stained Glass for Kids! at Macon Library

Scott Brevda; In-Person | August 23

Culture Pass: Stained Glass for Kids!

Fort Washington Library

Scott Brevda; In-Person | September 5

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

Scott Brevda; In-Person | September 14

Walking Tour

All-of-a-Kind Family

Frimmy Schwartz; In-Person | September 14

Culture Pass: From Tenements to Stained Glass

Hunts Point Library

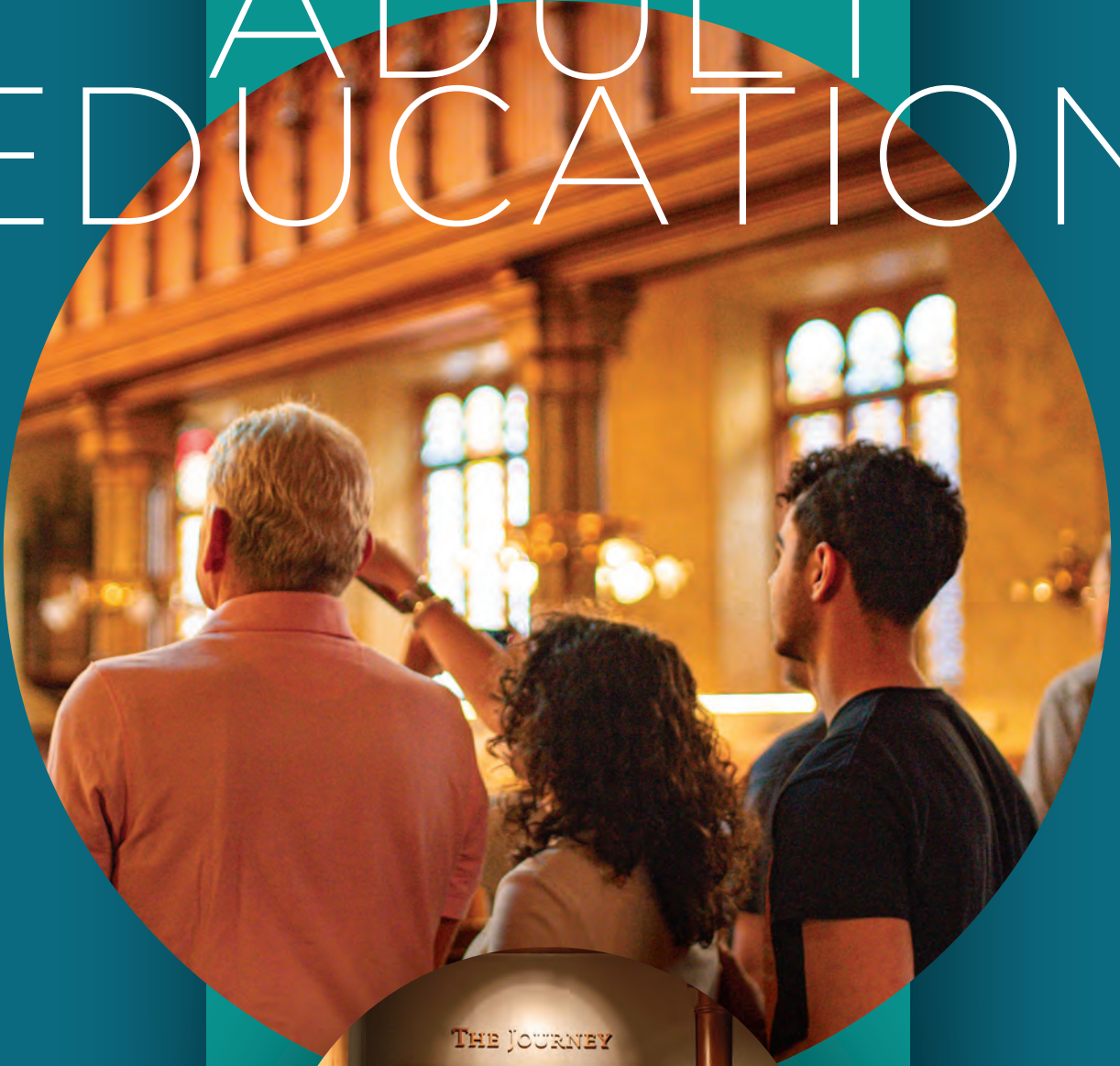
Scott Brevda; In-Person | October 8

Eldridge Arts & Learning: Chanukah! (Ages 5+)

Scott Brevda; In-Person | December 21



ADULT EDUCATION





Rethinking Deuteronomy

Scholar-In-Residence: Dr. Regina Stein
Virtual | January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Modern Eastern European Jewish History

Scholar-In-Residence: Dr. Regina Stein
Virtual | January 7, 14, 21, 28

Cinema Chats: *Oliver Sacks: His Own Life*

Host: Lucy Shahar; Guest Speaker: Nell Minow
Virtual | January 16

Modern Eastern European Jewish History II

Scholar-In-Residence: Dr. Regina Stein
Virtual | February 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25

Rethinking Deuteronomy II

Scholar-In-Residence: Dr. Regina Stein
Virtual | February 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27

Jonah: Up, Down, and Inside Out

Scholar-In-Residence: Dr. Regina Stein
Virtual | June 5, 12, 19, 26; July 10, 17, 24, 31

Elijah—From Religious Zealot to Harbinger of Peace

Scholar-In-Residence: Dr. Regina Stein
Virtual | October 16, 23, 30; November 6, 20; December 4, 11, 18

PUBLIC PROGRAMS



“Beautiful and very interesting music and blending of historical cultures through music...The meeting point of different cultures yet so much shared as expressed through art.” -Concertgoer

This year, the Museum produced **111 public programs**, welcoming **over 16,000 attendees**, both virtually and in person, from across the United States and around the world. Our programs ranged from **virtual and in-person lectures, seminars, and film discussions to signature walking tours, concerts, book talks, and panels.**

Standout events include a concert celebrating the historic Jewish “Borscht Belt,” once a hub for American Jewish culture and leisure featuring **clarinetist Sam Sadigursky and accordionist Nathan Koci**. The concert was followed by a moderated panel featuring the two musicians and photographer Marisa Scheinfeld, whose work captures the remnants of the famed Catskills vacationland. Our beloved annual winter concert featured **renowned klezmer artist Yale Strom and his band, Hot Pstromi**, whose stirring mix of classic Yiddish songs, traditional melodies, and original compositions drew over 550 attendees who filled the pews and danced in the aisles.

In December, we hosted **“Sacred Food: The Chanukah Table & Beyond,”** a panel exploring Jewish food traditions from around the Jewish diaspora. The panel was **moderated by James Beard Award-winning chef and author Rozanne Gold**, who was **in conversation with chefs and writers Beejy Barhany, Leah Koenig, and Jeffrey Yoskowitz**, who spoke to Chanukah traditions practiced within Ethiopian Jewish, Roman Jewish, and Ashkenazi Jewish cultures, respectively. During the event, Gold prompted the audience and panelists to reflect on the sights, smells, tastes, and sounds that they associated with holiday celebrations.

Partnerships with institutions, including **American Jewish Historical Society, Henry Street Settlement, International Center of Photography, Seward Park Library, Museum of Chinese in America**, and **NYC Tourism**, continue to strengthen and expand our reach.

The Museum at Eldridge Street welcomed new guides to its growing walking tour programs— dedicated storytellers eager to connect New Yorkers and visitors with the city’s rich history.

We are proud to have welcomed 532 walking tour guests in 2025, a 77% increase from 2024.





EGG ROLLS, EGG CREAMS, AND EMPANADAS STREET FESTIVAL

Now in its 24th year, the Annual Egg Rolls, Egg Creams, and Empanadas Street Festival remains one of the Museum at Eldridge Street's most powerful expressions of its core mission: to honor the stories of past and present communities, and to celebrate the living cultures that have shaped the Lower East Side and Chinatown. On June 15th, 2025, more than 10,000 guests filled the streets in front of the Museum—braving a rainy New York City day—to experience the folk traditions, foodways, and artistic expressions of the neighborhood's Chinese, Ashkenazi Jewish, and Puerto Rican communities.

This year, folklore was placed at the very center of our programming. From the **New York Chinese Cultural Center's** Lion Dance procession, to the Bomba rhythms of **Bombazo Dance Co.**, to the klezmer and Yiddish harmonies of **Michael Winograd's Heimishe Klezmer Band** and **The Memales**, our stage showcased living traditions passed down through generations. Between performances, artisans, including a Chinese sugar painter, a Hebrew scribe, and a Puerto Rican vejigante mask maker, drew crowds into hands-on demonstrations of centuries-old traditions.

What made this year's festival especially meaningful was the depth of our community partnerships. The **Loisaida Center**, **Henry Street Settlement**, **PJ Library**, and **Think!Chinatown** brought vital resources and engaged younger generations in the living histories of the Lower East Side and Chinatown. Visitors joined us from across New York City and as far as India, Italy, Turkey, Japan, the Ivory Coast, and Canada. We were also proud to make this our most accessible festival yet, with ASL interpretation, a dedicated Mandarin stage emcee, and our **Bloomberg Connects** app offering multilingual interpretation in any language. As these neighborhoods continue to evolve, the festival remains a vital reminder of why preserving and sharing these stories is integral to our mission at Eldridge Street.



Food Tour
Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side
Lois Freedman; In-Person
January 5

Seminar
“Living Jewish Art”—The Life & Work of Itshak Holtz
Dr. Aliza Holtz, Sylvia Herskowitz; Virtual | January 9

Cinema Chats
Oliver Sacks: His Own Life
Lucy Shahar; Virtual | January 16

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Frimmy Schwartz; In-Person
January 19

Book Talk
The Chief Rabbi’s Funeral: The Untold Story of America’s Largest Antisemitic Riot
Scott D. Seligman; Virtual
January 23

Food Tour
Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side
Lois Freedman; In-Person
January 31

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Susan Slater; In-Person
February 19

Virtual Tour
Historic Jewish Williamsburg
Bradley Shaw; Virtual
February 19

Lecture
Art History Through a Jewish Lens: Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec
Ellaine Rosen; Virtual
February 27

Seminar with the POLIN Museum in Warsaw
In Conversation with the Museum at Eldridge Street & POLIN Museum in Warsaw
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Joanna Fikus, Scott Brevda; Virtual | March 2

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Frimmy Schwartz; In-Person
March 5

Lecture
Mordechai: Hero or Hothead?
Rabbi Raymond Jasen; Virtual
March 6

Photo Walking Tour
Portrait of a Changing Jewish Neighborhood
Scott Brevda; In-Person
March 9

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Svetlana Kershtein; In-Person
March 9

Holiday Lecture
The Purim Story: Esther Then & Now
Dr. Regina Stein; Virtual
March 12

Walking Tour
The Jewish Gangsters of Lower Manhattan
Bradley Shaw; In-Person
March 16

Lecture
The Art of the Synagogue Mosaic: The Jewish Zodiac
Dr. Regina Stein; Virtual
March 19

Concert & Panel Discussion
The Borscht Belt—Remains of America’s Jewish Vacationland
Nathan Koci, Sam Sadigursky, Marisa Scheinfeld; In-Person
March 23

Book Talk with AJHS
The Civil War Diary of Emma Mordecai
Zev Eleff, Melissa R. Klapper; Virtual | March 25

Lecture
Women’s Voices: Yiddish Women Writers in Translation
Ellen Cassedy, Faith Jones, Lisa Newman, Anita Norich; In-Person | March 27

Walking Tour
Mamas with Chutzpah
Jaime Cohen; In-Person
March 28

Virtual Tour
Historic Jewish Harlem
Bradley Shaw | March 31

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Susan Slater; In-Person | April 6

Walking Tour
Sites, Sounds, and Synagogues of Greenwich Village
Bradley Shaw; In-Person | April 6

Book Talk
Nice Jewish Girl: The Story of the Yemenite Jews
Dana Schneider; In-Person
April 7

Holiday Lecture
Passover: Creating the Israelite People
Dr. Regina Stein; Virtual | April 9

Walking Tour
Activism on the Lower East Side
Jason Bohner; In-Person
April 18

Walking Tour
Jewish New Amsterdam
Svetlana Kershtein; In-Person
April 25

Walking Tour:
Jewish Lower East Side
Scott Brevda; In-Person
April 27

Photo Walking Tour
Portrait of a Changing Jewish Neighborhood
Scott Brevda; In-Person | May 2

Concert
“A Kaifeng Siddur”—Honoring the Kaifeng Jewish Community
Music From China; In-Person
May 4

Walking Tour
Mamas with Chutzpah
Jaime Cohen; In-Person | May 11



Book Talk
Seltzertopia!
Barry Joseph; Virtual | May 15

Food Tour
Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side
Lois Freedman; In-Person
May 16

Seminar
The Shem Tov Bible: A Masterpiece From the Golden Age of Spain
Sharon Liberman Mintz; Virtual
May 19

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Jeff Kramer; In-Person
May 26

Book Talk
An American Girl Anthology: The Lower East Side
KC Hysmith, Mackenzie Kwok, Justine Orlovsky-Schnitzler; Virtual | May 27

Holiday Lecture
Shavuot: Blintzes, Bleary Eyes & The Book of Ruth
Rabbi Raymond Jasen; Virtual
May 29

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Jeff Kramer; In-Person | May 30

Walking Tour
The Jewish Gangsters of Lower Manhattan
Bradley Shaw; In-Person
June 1

Food Tour
Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side
Lois Freedman; In-Person
June 6

Street Festival
24th Annual Egg Rolls, Egg Creams, and Empanadas Street Festival
In-Person | June 15

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Susan Slater; In-Person
June 20

Food Tour
Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side
Lois Freedman; In-Person
June 22



Building & Walking Tour
A Century on the Lower East Side
Jason Bohner, Scott Brevda, Jaime Cohen; In-Person | July 6

Walking Tour
The Bowery—400 Years on NYC's Oldest Street
David Mulkins; In-Person
July 13

Exhibition Tour
Lower East Side, 1975
Richard Marc Sakols; In-Person
July 14

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Lori Weissman; In-Person
July 18

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Jeff Kramer; In-Person
July 20

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Jeff Kramer; In-Person
July 27

Walking Tour
Historic Jewish Harlem
Bradley Shaw; In-Person
August 9

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Susan Slater; In-Person
August 10

Walking Tour
The Jewish Gangsters of Lower Manhattan
Bradley Shaw; In-Person
August 17

Seminar
Shifting Focus on Photography
Sarah Barsness; Virtual
August 18

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Paul Weissman; In-Person
August 24

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Paul Weissman; In-Person
August 29

Walking Tour
Historic Jewish Harlem
Bradley Shaw; In-Person
August 31



Walking Tour
Sites, Sounds, and Synagogues of Greenwich Village
Bradley Shaw; In-Person
September 6

Walking Tour
Jewish Lower East Side
Susan Slater; In-Person
September 7

Food Tour
Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side
Lois Freedman; In-Person
September 19

Anniversary Building Tour
Eldridge at 138!
Scott Brevda; In-Person
September 21

Food Tour
Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side
Lois Freedman; In-Person
September 26

Holiday Lecture
Yom Kippur: A Day of Atonement, Repentance & Love
Rabbi Raymond Jasen; Virtual
September 29

Walking Tour
The Gilded Age Upper East Side
Bradley Shaw; In-Person
October 5

Walking Tour
The Gilded Age Upper East Side
Bradley Shaw; In-Person
October 10

Food Tour

Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side

Lois Freedman; In-Person
October 10

Walking Tour

Jewish Lower East Side

Lori Weissman; In-Person
October 22

Concert

Eyal Vilner Big Band Concert: The New Roaring Twenties!

Eyal Vilner Big Band;
In-Person
October 26

Workshop & Short Film
Screening

Dip Your Quill into Hebrew Scribal Arts!

Leana Tapnack, Lauren
Greenhall; In-Person
October 29

Walking Tour

Activism on the Lower East Side

Jason Bohner; In-Person
November 2

Walking Tour

Jewish Lower East Side

Svetlana Kershtein; In-Person
November 5

Walking Tour

Shuls of Grandeur: Bialystoker & Eldridge Street

Svetlana Kershtein; In-Person
November 9

Walking Tour

Jewish Lower East Side

Susan Slater; In-Person
November 9

Convening

The Eldridge Street Summit: Sacred Ground

In-Person | November 13

Walking Tour with The
Neighborhood: An Urban
Center for Jewish Life

The Jewish Highway

Scott Brevda, Bradley Shaw;
In-Person | November 16

Exhibition Seminar

The Life of Arthur Rothstein: Documentary Photography, Memory & the Immigrant Experience

Ann Rothstein-Segan, Brodie
Hefner; Virtual | November 19



Walking Tour Sites, Sounds, and Synagogues of Greenwich Village

Bradley Shaw; In-Person
November 21

Walking Tour

Synagogues of the Lower East Side

Bradley Shaw; In-Person
November 23

Walking Tour

The Jewish Gangsters of Lower Manhattan

Bradley Shaw; In-Person
November 29

Exhibition Opening

First Light: Birth in the Jewish Tradition

Warren Klein, Aaron
Kreiswirth; In-Person
December 4

Food Tour

Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side

Lois Freedman; In-Person
December 5

Walking Tour

Jewish Lower East Side

Paul Weissman; In-Person
December 10

Exhibition Tour

Lighting the World—Menorahs Around the Globe

Dr. Aaron Feingold; Virtual
December 10

Holiday Panel

Sacred Food: The Chanukah Table & Beyond

Beejhy Barhany, Rozanne
Gold, Leah Koenig, Jeffrey
Yoskowitz; In-Person
December 11

Seminar

Chanukah in Chelm: Stories from Izzy Abrahamson's "Village Life"

Mark Binder; Virtual
December 16

Food Tour

Eldridge Eats: A History of the Lower East Side

Lois Freedman; In-Person
December 17

Walking Tour

Historic Jewish Harlem

Bradley Shaw; In-Person
December 20

Winter Concert

Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi—Music, Memories, Celebration!

Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi;
In-Person | December 25

Walking Tour

The Jewish Gangsters of Lower Manhattan

Bradley Shaw; In-Person
December 26

Walking Tour

Historic Jewish Harlem

Bradley Shaw; In-Person
December 28



DEVELOPMENT



This year, we extend our deepest gratitude to the generous supporters who chose to give through donor-advised funds. Their commitment not only fuels our mission but also demonstrates how flexible, strategic philanthropy can create lasting impact. We encourage others to consider making a gift through a donor-advised fund as well. This approach allows you to support the causes you care about with ease, confidence, and tax-efficient planning. Together, we can continue building momentum and expanding the reach of our work. For more information, or to make a gift through your donor-advised fund, please contact Rise Roth, Chief Advancement Officer, at rroth@eldridgestreet.org.

CREATING A LASTING IMPACT

What an extraordinary year, and what an extraordinary community. Your generosity not only supports our mission; it fuels a celebration of heritage, creativity, and connection. Thanks to the remarkable dedication of our Board of Directors and the enthusiastic partnership of government agencies, foundations, and individual supporters, the Museum at Eldridge Street continues to shine as a vibrant cultural treasure. Together, we're filling its sanctuary with learning, laughter, music, and meaning through the Museum's dynamic programs.

In 2025, contributions and grants totaling \$1,940,367 made up 71% of our annual revenue, a powerful testament to the belief you place in our work. The remaining 29% came from earned income, including space rentals, building tours, program admissions, gift shop purchases, and investment returns. Every contribution, every visit, every shared moment helps this historic landmark thrive.

HONORING OUR SHARED JOURNEYS

On November 12, the Museum hosted its annual Gala at Bryant Park Grill, presenting *Sacred Journeys: Celebrating Stories of Migration, Transformation, and Hope*. This annual fall event is not only a highlight of the year but also a vital source of support for the Museum's operating budget. We were honored to welcome our board members, docents, donors, and cherished friends. Together, we reaffirmed our shared commitment to the Museum's mission: preserving Jewish heritage, fostering dialogue across diverse communities, and illuminating the migration stories that continue to shape our collective identity.

Opera-singing waiters surprised and delighted guests throughout the evening. **The Three Waiters** delivered a lively blend of comedy, playful banter, and extraordinary vocal talent. Their surprise performance, beginning with the singers posing as waitstaff before revealing their operatic ability, captivated the room and created an unforgettable moment of joy.

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our attendees and donors, the event raised just over \$428,000 for unrestricted operating needs. These funds ensure that the Museum remains a beacon for future generations, a place where visitors can encounter the courage of those who came before and leave inspired to build a more compassionate world.



SECURING OUR LEGACY

The 1887 Society represents a community of visionary supporters dedicated to preserving Jewish heritage and securing the Museum's future as a vibrant center for history, culture, and education. We are deeply grateful to those who have chosen to honor the Museum in their wills. In 2025, we received a generous bequest from the estate of Sylvia Antonier-Scher, who has been proudly added to our 1887 Society roster.

These legacy gifts play a critical role in the preservation of our sacred space. They are earmarked to ensure we continue to honor and ensure our mission of restoring and preserving this National Landmark.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of the 1887 Society and naming the Museum at Eldridge Street in your will, please contact Veronica Ball at vball@eldridgestreet.org or call 212.219.0888 x202.

OUR SUPPORTERS



The Museum at Eldridge Street's success depends on the annual support of our individual, government, and foundation donors. The Museum gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following contributors in 2025.

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January 1–December 31, 2025

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THANK YOU!

TRIBUTE WALL

We invite you to honor a loved one, commemorate a family milestone, or celebrate a special occasion by adding your dedication to the Museum's permanent Tribute Wall.

Special thanks to Mark Wenger and DUGGAL Visual Solutions for their generous donation of time and materials for the Tribute Wall. Their support ensures that all Tribute Wall proceeds directly benefit the Museum's programs and operations.

For more information about the Tribute Wall or joining the 1887 Society, please contact our Director of Development, Veronica D. Ball, at vball@eldridgestreet.org or 212.219.0888, x202.

On behalf of everyone at the Museum at Eldridge Street, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our supporters for their unwavering generosity and for the confidence you place in the Museum's work.

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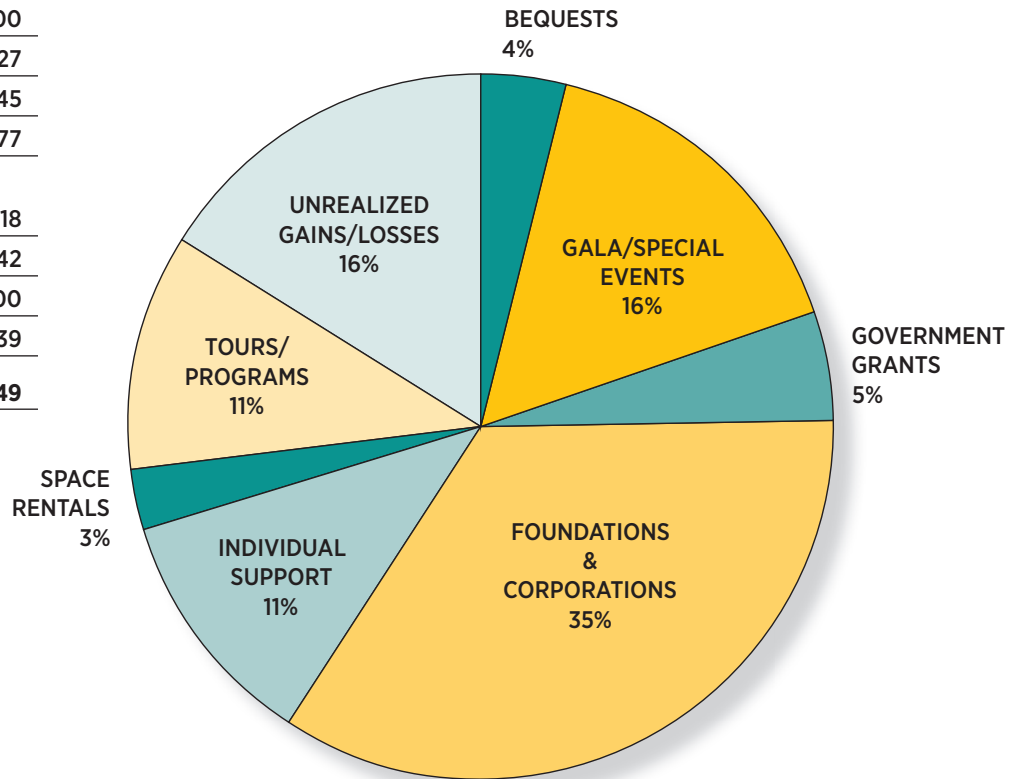
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2025 INCOME BY SOURCE

PERCENT OF TOTAL

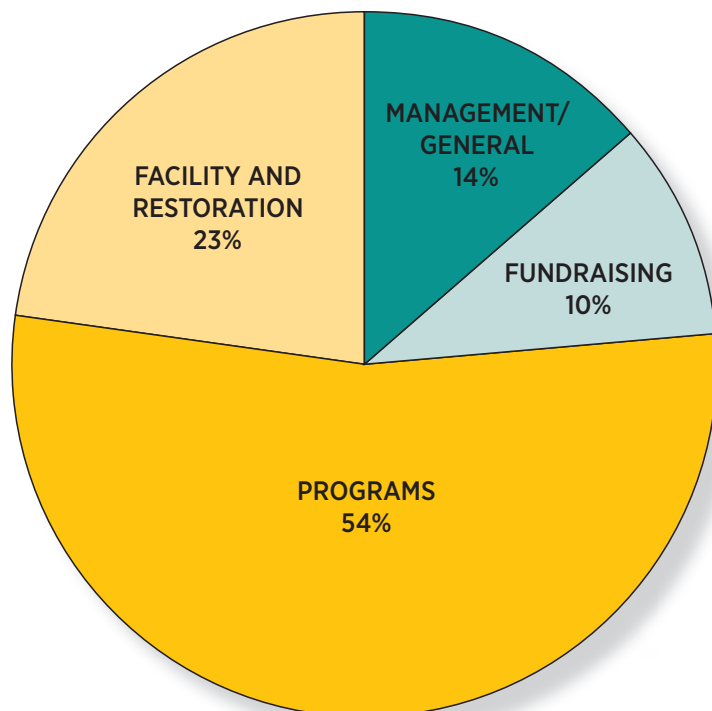
BEQUESTS	\$100,000
GALA/ SPECIAL EVENTS	428,727
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	148,945
FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS	962,877
INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS & DM SUPPORT	299,818
SPACE RENTALS	75,342
TOURS/ PROGRAMS	316,200
UNREALIZED GAINS/LOSSES	428,139
	\$2,760,049



2025 EXPENSES BY SOURCE

PERCENT OF TOTAL

MANAGEMENT GENERAL	\$290,284
FUNDRAISING	209,434
PROGRAMS	1,158,295
FACILITY AND RESTORATION	488,120
	\$2,146,133



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2025 INTERNS

Emma Fontanez | Maya Mukherjee

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.

DONATE Your tax-deductible contribution to the Museum at Eldridge Street supports all the exciting things happening at our landmark cultural site. Special opportunities include a fund dedicated to architectural restoration, gifts to honor or memorialize loved ones, a Tribute Wall dedication, permanent naming opportunities, and the 1887 Society planned giving program. To learn more and to donate, please contact vball@eldridgestreet.org or 212.219.0888 x202, or visit eldridgestreet.org/donate.

VOLUNTEER AND INTERN Becoming a docent means becoming part of the legacy of Eldridge Street. Our docents share the story of our Museum and Lower East Side culture with visitors from around the world. Our student internship program brings new life to the Museum while teaching invaluable on-site lessons about museum management. To learn more, email contact@eldridgestreet.org or call 212.219.0302.

CELEBRATE AT ELDRIDGE You can host your life cycle event, family reunion, wedding, or other important occasion in one of the most stunning interiors in New York City! To learn more, visit eldridgestreet.org/rent.

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The Museum at Eldridge Street, a non-sectarian cultural organization in Lower Manhattan, is dedicated to 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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