



## Literacy Without Walls: Supporting Family Involvement Through the Arts

For each school that enrolls in  
*Literacy Without Walls*:

### **An Early Childhood professional receives**

- 5 early childhood professional development workshops held at cultural institutions throughout NYC, breakfast or lunch included
- Handouts and lesson plans that can be used for parent workshops
- Invitation to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cool Culture Fair for Cultural Liaisons
- Personalized Cool Culture Family Pass which entitles your family to, **FREE** and unlimited admission for 5 people to 90 cultural institutions

### **All UPK & K families receive**

- Personalized Cool Culture Family Passes which entitles them to **FREE and unlimited admission for 5 people to 90 cultural institutions**
- Subscription to print *Family Time* and *E-Family Time* detailing current, fun museum offerings for families
- Access to *Cool Culture Connect*, a cultural hotline, and to Cool Culture's revamped website with many educational resources for the family

### **PROGRAM COST**

- \$2,500 per school
- Cool Culture has a contract with the NYC Department of Education.
- Space is limited, to register contact:

**Barbara Palley**  
Education Manager  
bpalley@coolculture.org  
718.230.4186 x304



*Parent Coordinators and Early Childhood staff at a Cool Culture professional development session.*

### **Literacy Without Walls For Schools: Professional Development**

Cool Culture partners with New York City's Title I public schools and 90 cultural institutions to actively involve low-income parents in supporting their child's education through the arts and cultural institutions. Participating schools designate a staff person to serve as the "Cultural Liaison" for the school community. The program provides early childhood staff: Family Assistants, Parent Coordinators, Social Workers and Teachers with a series of workshops that introduces them to the rich family offerings in cultural institutions across the city and offers strategies they can use to engage parents. Cultural Liaisons learn how to promote family visits to cultural institutions and to offer parents tips and resources for making visits fun and educational.

Cool Culture's 4.5-hour workshops and the Culture Fair train early childhood staff as Cultural Liaisons for your school community:

- ♦ **each workshop takes place at a different cultural institution**
- ♦ **uses a hands-on, interactive format to introduce methods of creating teachable moments for children that support language and cognitive development during cultural visits**
- ♦ **provides school staff with techniques to turnkey what they've learned to parents in their everyday routines**

### **Literacy Without Walls for Families: Free Museum, Garden and Zoo Entry & Resources**

Families of children enrolled in Title I Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms will be eligible to participate in our family involvement program. Each family receives:

- ♦ **Cool Culture Family Pass**, a personalized membership card that entitles up to 5 family members to free, unlimited entry to Cool Culture's 90 cultural institution partners
- ♦ **Family Time**, a quarterly publication and calendar of family friendly events and exhibits that includes feature articles on museums and the Cool Culture family community
- ♦ **e-Family Time** monthly email blasts which keep families abreast of cultural programs
- ♦ **Cool Culture Connect**, a cultural hotline, which allows parents to access real-time information about cultural events and to hear about them directly from museum educators and other participating families courtesy of our dial-in number



*Through the Literacy Without Walls program, families enjoy free admission to 90 cultural institutions. Father and son enjoy using Cool Culture family resources at El Museo del Barrio.*

**About Cool Culture**  
**Over 300 Public Schools have participated in**  
**Literacy Without Walls!**

Founded in 1999, Cool Culture helps low-income parents to enjoy museums, botanical gardens and zoos with their children to support their child's learning - and prepare their child to succeed in school. Prevented by cost, lack of information, or the perception that cultural institutions are "not for us," far too many children miss out on New York City's rich cultural life.

Cool Culture partners with the City's Universal Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Child Care and Head Start programs to give families free, unlimited admission to our 90 partner cultural institutions. Cool Culture's programs currently serve 50,000 low-income families. Last year, Cool Culture families made 120,000 visits to our cultural institution partners.

**NYC Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts**

Cool Culture's *Literacy Without Walls* is aligned with standards for early childhood arts instruction; Cool Culture's workshops focus on concepts that can be brought back to families, including:



**Educator from the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum leads a group of Parent Coordinators and Early Childhood staff during a professional development session.**

- Making connections through visual arts
- Accessing community and cultural resources
- Making social, cultural, & historical connections
- Engaging in learning beyond the classroom
- Becoming lifelong learners and advocates for the arts
- Developing strategies for parent involvement



**Cultural Institution Partners**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Alice Austen House                          | Museum at the FIT  |
| American Folk Art Museum                    | Museum of American Finance                                   |
| American Museum of Natural History          | Museum of Arts and Design                                    |
| Anne Frank Center                           | Museum of Biblical Art                                       |
| Asia Society                                | Museum of Chinese in the Americas                            |
| Asian American Arts Centre                  | Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts                |
| Bronx Museum of the Arts                    | Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust |
| Brooklyn Botanic Garden                     | The Museum of the Moving Image                               |
| Brooklyn Children's Museum                  | The Museum of Modern Art                                     |
| Brooklyn Historical Society                 | Museum of the City of New York                               |
| Brooklyn Museum                             | Museum of the Moving Image                                   |
| Cathedral of Saint John the Divine          | The National Academy Museum of Fine Arts                     |
| Center for Architecture                     | The National Jazz Museum in Harlem                           |
| Center for Jewish History                   | National Museum of the American Indian                       |
| Central Park Zoo                            | The New York Botanical Garden                                |
| Chelsea Art Museum                          | New York City Fire Museum                                    |
| Children's Museum of Manhattan              | The New York City Police Museum                              |
| Children's Museum of the Arts               | New York Hall of Science                                     |
| The Cloisters                               | New York Transit Museum                                      |
| Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum       | New-York Historical Society                                  |
| Drawing Center                              | The Noguchi Museum   |
| Dyckman Farmhouse Museum                    | P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center                               |
| El Museo del Barrio                         | Paley Center for Media                                       |
| FDNY Fire Zone                              | Prospect Park Audubon Center                                 |
| Flushing Council on Culture and Arts        | Prospect Park Zoo  |
| Gracie Mansion                              | Queens Museum of Art   |
| Hispanic Society Museum and Library         | Queens Zoo   |
| Historic Richmond Town                      | Rubin Museum of Art  |
| Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum            | Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture               |
| Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art      | Skyscraper Museum  |
| Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning          | Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden               |
| Japan Society                               | Socrates Sculpture Park                                      |
| The Jewish Museum                           | Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum                                 |
| King Manor Museum                           | Sony Wonder Technology Lab                                   |
| Kingsland Homestead                         | South Street Seaport Museum                                  |
| Lefferts Historic House Museum              | Staten Island Children's Museum                              |
| Louis Armstrong House Museum                | Staten Island Museum   |
| Merchant's House Museum                     | Staten Island Zoo  |
| The Metropolitan Museum of Art              | The Studio Museum in Harlem                                  |
| The Morgan Library and Museum               | Van Cortlandt House  |
| Morris-Jumel Mansion                        | Wave Hill  |
| Museum Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden | Weeksville Heritage Center                                   |
| Museum at Eldridge Street                   | Whitney Museum of American Art                               |
|   | Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum                                     |
|   | Yeshiva University Museum                                    |

*"The Cool Culture Pass is one of the greatest things New York City has to offer families."*

- Cool Culture father



*Literacy Without Walls*

**Increasing Family Involvement Through the Arts**

**Serving NYC's Early Childhood Community for Over a Decade**

**FREE Museum, Garden & Zoo Admission for Families**

**Professional Development for Early Childhood Staff**

*"It helped me to create a better relationship with the parents in my school."*

-Parent Coordinator