

January Spotlight On...

Lower Manhattan Community Middle School



Principal Kelly McGuire and Wingspan have worked in partnership through 5 years, a variety of artistic residencies and one ribbon cutting ceremony in September that celebrated a new chapter for the school. Lower Manhattan Community Middle School – formerly Greenwich Village Middle School – moved downtown to 26 Broadway, a new space complete with a state of the art dance studio.

The potential in space was clear for both Wingspan and Mr. McGuire: We needed to establish a true Dance Studio with a rigorous 3-year dance curriculum. Adding Teaching Artist Riley Ayndow into the mix, we spent the summer envisioning a 6th, 7th and 8th grade dance program.

“My goals are to inspire and develop my students’ creativity, to encourage them to own their ideas, to help them commit to their physical space – their very existence,” Ms. Ayndow said. This multi-grade dance program runs 30 periods a week during the academic school day and is intended to focus on technique, creative expression and performance.

When asked about his goals for the dance program, Mr. McGuire replied, “I truly feel like we developed a vision for the school together in regards to arts. I am not an artist, a teaching artist or the director of an arts organization, but I know middle school kids. Where we are now is that both organization and school understands our student’s needs and how we can be successful as we go through the first year of this dance program. Riley is the implementer of this fantastic Wingspan design and I feel confident that as we move forward we will continue to make decisions informed by our experiences and move the program even further forward.”

“It’s been a long partnership with Wingspan. I’m very thankful and feel very good about where we are now.” – Kelly McGuire, Principal, LMCMS



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