



Hudson Guild: Head Start

July 2023 - June 2024



www.hudsonguild.org



Hudson Guild



Hudson Guild Official



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About Us

We are a multi-service community agency serving those who live, work, or go to school in Chelsea, with a focus on those in need.

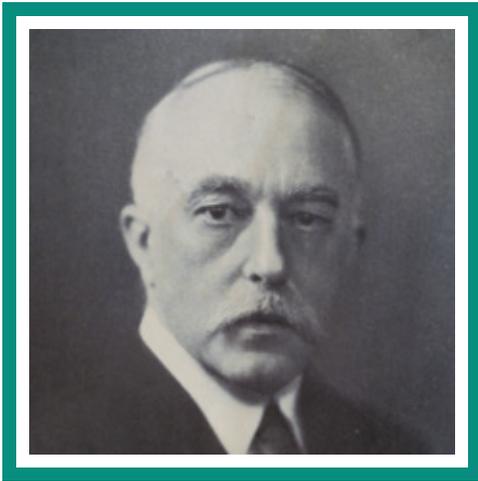
Our Mission

To create and sustain a strong, effective community that acknowledges and responds to the potential, achievements and interdependence of its diverse members.

Rooted in and primarily focused on the Chelsea neighborhood, we seek to empower all individuals and families to achieve their highest potential, while maintaining a priority focus on those in economic need.



Our Story



In 1895, Dr. John Lovejoy Elliott, a young man inspired by the growing settlement house movement, moved to the tough, working-class neighborhood of Chelsea.



There, he met and encouraged a group of young, rowdy boys to take their fighting off the streets and organize into a boxing club called the “Hurly Burlies.”



These groups merged in 1897 to become the Hudson Guild, which provided a platform for neighbors to organize and improve living conditions.



Over the next few years, Dr. Elliott established numerous programs for boys and girls, working women, and families.

Supporting Immigrant Families

The 2023-2024 school year brought many new immigrant children to New York City and Hudson Guild met these children and families with open arms. Our Early Childhood Education team pivoted to learn how to create a safe and nurturing classroom for these children while also providing an inclusive and welcoming setting for their families.

To support staff in their efforts to best serve these families and provide children with the tools they need to thrive in school, Hudson Guild partnered with Connecting the Dots, an organization that provides early childhood professional development, resource, and coaching, to provide training in reflective supervision to our site supervisors, as they endeavored to support teachers throughout the year.

Hudson Guild also offered coaching on trauma informed instruction, social and emotional learning, and focused on working closely with dual language learners. Our Mental Health Specialist provided support on self care for teachers who were dealing with trauma informed behaviors. Our Education Specialist provided coaching and resources on language modeling, culturally responsive practice, current best practices on working with young dual language learners.

One of the biggest challenges of serving asylum seekers has been student turnover. This year, 73% of our student population were living in shelters, most of whom were asylum seekers. Student turnover was high as 60 day stay limits in New York City shelters meant that families moved frequently which created a new challenge for teachers and site directors. Rather than welcoming new students at the beginning of the year, teachers had the added workload of welcoming new students every month. This led to an even greater challenge for children and their families as it may lead to longer commutes, moving schools, or leading to unenrolling from preschool and staying home.

Income & Expenses

Hudson Guild's Head Start program is supported by **\$1,915,656** in Federal Head Start funding and **\$478,915** in private grants and contributions, for a total of **\$2,394,571**.

The budget covers expenses for nearly **42** full time employees for a full 12-month program year. Total personnel costs, including fringe, are projected to total **\$1,709,044**.

Additional budget items include:

- **\$19,019** in Training and Technical Assistance
- **\$2,550** in travel for employees to attend regional and national Head Start and early childhood education conferences and training programs
- **\$45,332** for maintenance, classroom and office supplies
- **\$156,217** for contractual services expenses including accounting, IT, and payroll services as well as nutrition consultants and equipment rental
- **\$349,309** for administrative cost which includes time spent on administrative activities and expenses such as Fiscal & Audit fees and insurance costs
- **\$481,428** in other costs such as rent, repairs and maintenance, and utilities

Financial Audit:
During our most recent independent financial audit, no material findings were noted.



Participant Numbers

- **181** children and their families served in our programs
- **116** children enrolled (monthly average)
- **93%** of enrolled children received medical exams & **47%** received dental exams
- Percentages of our students that are moving on to kindergarten and performing at or above expectations in each of the central domains of the **Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF)**:
 - 100%** Physical
 - 96%** Social-emotional
 - 93%** Cognitive
 - 89%** Literacy
 - 78%** Math
 - 74%** Language
- **73%** of enrolled children were unhoused upon enrollment
- **65%** of enrolled children were Dual-Language Learners
- **100%** of enrolled children were Head Start eligible



Family Engagement

Family engagement activities that occurred from July 2023-June 2024:

Families Involved in Programming

Health Services Advisory Committee
Policy Council
Self-Assessment Team

Home-to-School Connection

Classroom Meetings
Family Orientation
Home Visits
Kindergarten Transition
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Ready Rosie Parenting Curriculum
Transition Workshops
Warmth Drive (coat giveaway)



Family Education Workshops

Child Development
Nutrition Series (e.g., Easy Healthy Recipes)
Pedestrian Safety
Positive Parenting Strategies
Self-Care for Caregivers



Community Events

Adopt-A-Family
Back to School Bash (backpack & school supplies giveaways)
Chelsea/Fulton Street Fair
Christmas Day Family Meal
Community Haunted House
Community Thanksgiving
Fall Harvest Celebration
Holiday Pop-Up-Shop
Hudson Guild Fest
Turkey & Pie Giveaways
Week of the Young Child



Preparing Children for Kindergarten and Beyond

Perhaps the most important outcome of Hudson Guild's holistic approach is our preparation of children and families for the transition to Kindergarten. Our **School Readiness Plan** is reflective of the needs and expectations of local families, who provide key input into setting learning goals for children in a variety of ways. The program exposes children to social, emotional, cultural, and academic experiences that will enhance their ability to function as active members of multiple communities. The resources, tools and structures employed to meet this goal are developed by listening to families and adapting programming to meet their needs. Our programming blends culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate theory evidence-based practices to engage and better prepare our families and children for kindergarten.

For families of rising Kindergarten students, the program year focuses on developing school readiness skills and achieving developmental milestones. Parents and caregivers receive assistance in applying to kindergarten.

Families with children who have special needs receive additional transition support. Our **Health and Disabilities Coordinator** and other program staff participate in meetings and follow-up assessments with the **Committee on Preschool Special Education** to discuss appropriate program placements for kindergarten students with special needs, including specialized settings or mainstream placement.

The children's progress is due in large part to the partnership between the Service Providers (Social Workers, Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapists) and Hudson Guild ECE staff working together, following IEP directives, and progressing on goals leading to an improvement in the child's developmental results. Our staff works with all of our families to ensure continuity of services in the new neighborhoods and help make sure that those going to specialized centers receive all the necessary support and services to achieve IEP goals.

Preparing Children for Kindergarten and Beyond

Specific school readiness goals for school year 2024/25 include the following:

- 1. Approaches to Learning:** Children will manage their emotions and actions with increasing independence. **95% met or exceeded this readiness goal**
- 2. Social-Emotional Development:** Children engage in cooperative behavior and maintain positive relationships and interactions with adults. **81% met or exceeded this readiness goal**
- 3. Language:** Children will improve their abilities to comprehend language and communicate their ideas through both written and oral language. **82% met or exceeded this readiness goal**
- 4. Literacy:** Children will demonstrate early reading comprehension skills, demonstrating their ability to recall/retell a story, and answer questions about a text of increasing complexity. **76% met or exceeded this readiness goal**
- 5. Cognitive:** Children will show foundational math skills by learning to rote count, count or make a group of objects, compare quantities, and connect numerals to quantities. **82% met or exceeded this readiness goal**
- 6. Perceptual, Motor, Physical Development:** Children will show coordination of large muscles to move about, interact with others and manipulate objects, increasing in control and strength over time. **95% met or exceeded this readiness goal**

ECE Student Recruitment Strategy

The arrival of asylum seekers has served as both an opportunity and challenge for our student enrollment efforts. The demographic shifts in the community is another factor that impacts this work. We are implementing a comprehensive recruitment strategy that encompasses the following components:

- 1. Launching a new ECE-specific social media presence**
- 2. A plan to effectively engage with past and present families and their networks**
- 3. Utilizing data-driven strategies to reach our target audiences across specific sites**
- 4. Partnering with teams and departments across the agency to build stronger pipelines for recruitment and enrollment (Community Building, Mental Health, Youth Services)**