



Apollo Theater: Education and Community Outreach Programs

The Apollo Theater is one of Harlem's most distinguished and enduring cultural resources. Through a variety of programs designed to engage children, adults, schools, families, artists, and community-based organizations, the Apollo's education and community outreach activities build on the Theater's rich legacy as a cultural and economic anchor for greater Harlem.

Career Development

The **Apollo Theater Academy** advances career and leadership skill development through free in-school seminars, internships, and other programs tailored for New York City and tri-state region high school and college students. A multifaceted program that exposes young people to various non-performing career options in the arts and entertainment, the Academy provides tangible opportunities for technicians, designers, and other industry professionals.

Apollo Academy programs include:

The Saturday Workshop Series provides students with the opportunity to learn basic elements of technical stage production through 12-week apprenticeships with Apollo production staff. Using performances at the Apollo as a main point of reference, students learn the key components and considerations involved in producing live shows.

Internships provide rising juniors and seniors from New York area high schools with on-the-job training and mentoring in administrative, managerial, and technical careers in the performing arts and entertainment industries. The program also provides youth with leadership skill development and opportunities to connect with professionals from the arts and business world.

The Apollo Theater Academy also offers opportunities for early career professionals in the performing arts and entertainment industries, as well as the general public—including the **Apollo Live Wire** series, which features discussions that focus on topics pertinent to the history of the Apollo Theater and the Theater's role in shaping American entertainment, **Career Panels**, and the **Master Class Talent Development Seminar**, which provides one-day intensives for artists led by industry professionals.

School Programs

The Apollo's school programs include **in-school career seminars**, **in-school workshops**, and **School Day Live performances** providing engagement with contemporary music, dance, and theater, while highlighting the rich history of the Apollo and its connection to Harlem within the context of American history, arts, and culture. Apollo School Programs are inquiry-based, interactive, interdisciplinary, and connect to both the Common Core State Standards in ELA/Social Studies and the New York City Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts.

The Apollo's **School Partnerships** program establishes relationships with New York City public schools through a variety of on-site and classroom education programs. The **Apollo Theater Oral History Project**, OHP, grew out of a larger initiative undertaken in 2006 to capture the oral histories of Apollo "history-makers" and others pertinent to the development of the Theater. During that same time, the Apollo's Education Program launched a project at C.S. 154, The Harriet Tubman Learning Center, to teach fourth and fifth graders how to conduct oral history interviews of elders from the Harlem community. In 2010, the OHP expanded to Wadleigh Secondary School for Performing & Visual Arts. At Wadleigh, 11th graders learn to document oral history interviews using video. A cornerstone of the OHP is the connection between oral history, the humanities, and the arts, all of which are addressed in the curriculum.

School Tour Programs offer school groups private tours that illuminate the history of Harlem through the lens of the Apollo, the Theater's legendary accomplishments, and its role in the community and American history—particularly as it relates to 20th- and 21st-century music. A companion **Study Guide** is available for use as a pre- or post-tour resource.

Educational Resources

The Apollo has engaged educators, music scholars, and historians to develop a series of collateral and curriculum materials that tell the iconic Theater's story and position its unique role in the development of American music and culture. The materials feature a timeline which places the Apollo, Harlem, and African-American history within wider historical and social contexts.

Community Outreach

The Apollo's **Family Series** combines fun and educational events with live performances at the Theater. Events include **Apollo Uptown Hall**, **Holiday Celebrations** of Kwanzaa and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; an annual **Open House** (free weekend that gives visitors an understanding of Apollo's rich legacy and a preview of future activities); as well as **Family Showtime**, which provides families with young children and teens the opportunity to experience live, cultural events in the Harlem community; and **Family Workshops**, which are designed to provide families with young children and teens opportunities to learn more about the music, movements, and moments that continue to define the Apollo's contributions to American culture, while engaging them in hands-on activities.

Each year, the Apollo participates in a variety of community efforts such as the **New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Literacy Initiative**; the **MLK, Jr. Canned Food Drive**; and the **Harlem African American Day Parade**.

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