

**Get Centered  
Join us!**

# **Downtown Community Center**

**Program Catalog  
July and August 2008**



**MANHATTAN YOUTH**  
**DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER**

# Welcome!

## **What is the Downtown Community Center?**

The Downtown Community Center is a new branch of Manhattan Youth, an organization founded over twenty years ago to provide childcare, academic, recreational and cultural activities to Lower Manhattan community members. Until now, we have provided services to thousands of children and adults every year in space rented and borrowed from schools and parks. Now, for the first time, our neighborhood has a dedicated community center of its own.

The Downtown Community Center is envisioned to be a place where our community's parents can confidently bring their children, knowing that we are all part of an extended family that cares as much as they do; a place where our community's seniors can meet to share stories, see friends, and take classes with their children and grandchildren; where adults can come to learn and be inspired; a place where we can all come together as a community.

## **Just a Start**

The programs outlined in this, our first catalog, are only the beginning of what we are planning to offer at the Downtown Community Center. Beginning in September 2008 we will add new activities to each major program, and we will add adult programs. Please note that if you join now, you will receive 30 % off of tuition fees through August 2008. Plus, many of our programs are free! Join now and help the Downtown Community Center grow.

## **Our Vision and Values**

The Downtown Community Center will grow organically, guided by neighborhood needs and our vision, values and goals:

- To be the focal point of services for those who live or work in Lower Manhattan.
- To help adults and children participate in the life of our community, feel they belong, have voices that are heard, and opportunities to help fulfill their potential.
- To lead our community by example, working to meet ever-increasing needs for services.
- To maintain our core values of inclusiveness, excellence and integrity in all our programs.
- To be innovative in all that we do.
- To ensure access to our programs regardless of financial circumstances or other barriers.

## **Café Society**

Café Society is a cornerstone program centered around the NYMEX Café, tucked into the corner of our Great Hall, where neighbors of all ages can feel comfortable, relaxed, and welcome, seniors can sit and socialize; parents and caregivers can interact while watching their children at play, families and teens can spend time together; and teens who volunteer to work can learn how to run a business. There will be board games, acoustic musical entertainment, open-mike events and other activities that will evolve through community participation. Throughout this brochure, there are times listed when Café Society is open to those enrolled in concurrent programs at the Center.

## **How to Register for Programs**

Sign up in advance using the registration form at the end of this catalog, which you can drop off in person at the Downtown Community Center on Warren Street between Greenwich and West Streets or mail it to Manhattan Youth, 120 Warren Street, New York, NY 10007. Parents of middle and high school students must register their children in person at the Downtown Community Center.

# Young Families

The young families program is for parents or caregivers with children in their pre-school age years, from infancy up to kindergarten. As children and families grow, so will the offerings of this program.

## Young Family Swim

Join this program to help adjust your child to water—your 6-month-old is not too young, with your doctor's permission. Parent and child swim is unstructured time without swim lessons. You are completely responsible for your child in the water and pool area.

### Young Families—June

Café Society	Mon.—Fri.	10 am—2 pm	Great Hall
Young family swim	Mon., Tues., Fri.	10:30 am—noon	Pool
Young family swim	Wed., Thurs.	Noon—1:30 pm	Pool
Young family swim	Saturday	9 am—10:30 am	Pool

### Young Families—July, August

Young family swim	Mon.—Fri.	5:30 pm—6:30 pm	Pool (with seniors)
Young family swim	Saturday	9 am—10:30 am	Pool
Young family swim	Saturday	10:30 am—1 pm	Pool (with elementary age)
Young family play	Saturday	9:00 am—1 pm	Activity room (with parent)

# Kids—K to 5th Grade

## Play Dates for Kindergarten through Third Grade

Children and parents participate together at the Center in some activities (such as swimming). During other activities (such as art or game room), parents can leave their children in the class to participate in adult programming at the center. At the end of the class period, parents must pick up their children to accompany them to another activity in the Center, or out of the building. (Individual activity schedules will expand and are subject to change.)

### K to 3rd Grade Play Dates: Fridays, July—August

6:30 pm—9:30 pm

Swim	Friday	6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Pool (with parents)
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### K to 3rd Grade Play Dates: Saturdays, July—August

9 am—1 pm

Swim	Saturday	10:30 am—1 pm	Pool (with parents)
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## Play Dates for Fourth and Fifth Grades

Go out to dinner or a show and leave the kids with us! We offer fourth and fifth graders a fun place to play, full of engaging activities and social interaction on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. Children can participate in a variety of activities of their choice, including open swim, creative art studio, game room and other engaging activities. The evening Play Dates are from 6 pm to 10 pm—we encourage parents to pick up their children earlier rather than later, especially the first time. On Friday nights, we suggest that you feed your child dinner prior to arriving. Otherwise, you can send food along with him or her and we will provide a time and place for eating. You may cancel at any time. (Individual activity schedules will expand and are subject to change.)

### 4th and 5th Grade Play Dates: Fridays, July—August

6:30 pm—9:30 pm

Art and Games	Friday	6:30—9:30	Various
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Swim *	Friday	6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Pool
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### 4th and 5th Grade Play Dates: Saturdays, June—Aug.

10:30 am—1 pm

Swim	Saturday	10:30 am—1 pm	Pool
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- children who are sent with dinner exit the pool early to have dinner in upstairs classroom.

# Middle and High Schoolers

On Friday nights, middle and high school students are invited to spend the evening, beginning with a family-style dinner prepared (or donated) by parents and served with the help of high school students. After dinner, teens can choose from a variety of activities or classes.

A featured activity for both groups is socializing and playing games in the Teen Lounge, a safe and supervised environment loaded with games, music and fun. (Individual activity schedules may change.) We will be adding more activities to the weekend teen program in September, 2008.)

Please note that parents must register their teenage children in person. Parents are requested and encouraged to come to the Center during the program to help prepare or donate dinner, be part of our Café Society, and to participate in adult activities themselves.

## Middle School Program: Fridays, June—August

6:30 pm—10 pm

Social Hour	Friday	6:30 pm—7 pm	Teen Lounge
Dinner	Friday	7 pm—7:45 pm	Kitchen, Art Studio1
Swim	Friday	7:45 pm—8:30 pm	Pool
Socialize	Friday	7:45 pm—8:30 pm	Teen Lounge
Art	Friday	8:30 pm—9:30 pm	Art 1

## High School Program: Fridays, June—August

6:30 pm—10 pm

Dinner Prep	Friday	6:30 pm—7 pm	Kitchen
Dinner	Friday	7 pm—7:45 pm	Kitchen, Art Studio 1
Swim	Friday	7:45 pm—8:30 pm	Pool
Socialize	Friday	8:30 pm—9:30 pm	Teen Lounge
Ceramics and Art	Friday	8:30 pm—9:30 pm	Art Studio 2

# Seniors

Our Senior Programs focus on integrating our neighborhood's seniors into the larger community, as well as providing them with fun, socializing, health and fitness activities. Central to the senior program is our senior swim program, which features lap swimming, open (recreational) swimming, and water aerobics.

## Senior Program: June

10 am—2 pm

Open Swim & Steam	Mon., Tues., Fri.	Noon—1:30 pm	Pool
Open Swim & Steam	Wed., Thur.	10:30 am—noon	Pool
Swim Aerobics	Tues., Fri.	12:45 pm—1:30 pm	Pool
Café Society	Mon.—Fri.	10 am—2 pm	Great Hall

## Senior Program: July—August

Senior Swim	Mon.—Thurs.	5:30 pm—6:30 pm	Pool (with young families)
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# Pool Parties

Pool parties are a fun, healthy way to celebrate many special occasions. The Downtown Community Center features a gorgeous, state-of-the-art swimming pool and spacious, colorful refreshment areas (and even a steam room for adult parties). Pool parties are easy to organize and may be reserved in advance on Saturdays after 1 pm.

A pool party typically has two major components: swimming and refreshments. Guests gather for swimming, pool games and lots of fun. Parties for children over ten years old can include water polo, swim races and other special games and activities. After swimming, guests proceed to a separate room for refreshments, provided by party hosts. We'll do the cleanup! Non-swimmers must be accompanied into the water by their parents.. We keep the pool warm and provide plenty of pool toys. To organize your pool party, please contact Sarah Atkinson, Aquatics Director, at 646-695-4760 x 240 or [sarah@downtowncommunitycenter.org](mailto:sarah@downtowncommunitycenter.org).

# Coming Attractions

This fall we'll be adding programs—a bigger variety and more of them!

**Adult programs** swimming, cooking, fitness, lectures, game nights, film screenings, pot luck dinners, dances, digital media, open mike.

**Young family programs** more daytime activities, music, sing-alongs, movement classes.

**Elementary school programs** early drop-off for students attending P.S. 234, P.S. 150, P.S. 89.

**Senior programs** social rooms, cooking and nutrition, fitness, games, dance lessons, dances.

**Middle and high school programs** music, digital media, Youth Council, overnight country trips, theater, ceramics, sound and video recording.

**Birthday parties** special theme parties.

# Join us!

**Our Mission** is to provide the highest quality childcare, as well as academic, recreational and cultural activities to individuals and families who live or work in Lower Manhattan, regardless of their income.

**Our Dream** for Manhattan Youth's Downtown Community Center is being realized with the passion and support of our community. For 21 years, Manhattan Youth has worked side by side with community leaders and residents to build schools, ball fields, teen programs, recreational and green space. A vital and cohesive community has emerged—one unlike any other in our city.

## Our Goals

Utilize our 28,000-square-foot state-of-the-art Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center at 120 Warren Street to provide services in a convenient, central location.

Expand After-School Programs to meet growing out-of-school time care needs, including school vacation days.

Expand programs for teenagers—a critically underserved population in our community.

Continue to offer financial aid to those in need through our Lower Manhattan Family Fund.

Increase our partnerships with local community groups and businesses through innovative space use in our new Downtown Community Center.

Initiate creative programs and providing resources for adults.

## We need your help!

Help us build Manhattan Youth's Downtown Community Center!

Help introduce us to prospective individuals, foundations, and corporate donors.

Most importantly, please help reach our goals with your personal gifts.

Place your name on our Founders Wall.

Contact Jim Hopkins at 212-766-1104 x232 or [jim@manhattanyouth.org](mailto:jim@manhattanyouth.org).

"We now have a beautiful building, but it's just a blank canvas. Please join us to complete the Downtown Community Center."

Bob Townley  
Founder and Executive Director