



**Department of
Education**

Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

November 19, 2019

The Lower East Side Young Historians
P.S. 126
80 Catherine Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear P.S. 126 School Community:

On behalf of the New York City Department of Education (DOE), I am writing in support of the Lower East Side Young Historians (LESYH) program at P.S. 126 in Manhattan.

For nearly five years, eighth grade students at P.S. 126M have had the distinct opportunity to learn social studies through the lens of the Lower East Side. Not only does this program help students understand local history so that they can preserve and protect it, but it allows them to research topics across multiple academic content areas such as science, art, and music. These research projects have even prompted the Young Historians to make remarkable discoveries about their neighborhood, which led to the creation of permanent historical markers written by the students and maintained by the NYC Parks Department.

As the son of immigrants and a first generation Mexican-American, I began my career as a bilingual social studies teacher, because I understood the value of building ties between your past and present in order to understand who you are and where you are going. I believe that by learning about the history and immigrant roots of their own neighborhood, the Young Historians are able to build vital connections to the past, while exploring their own backgrounds and developing their sense of self.

The LESYH is a wonderful example of our educators' commitment to providing students with innovative, rigorous academic instruction. The program drives school improvement and has the power to make a transformative impact on our students. I look forward to hearing more about their progress in the future.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard A. Carranza'.

Richard A. Carranza
Chancellor