



October 15, 2015

Jesse Graytock
Grants Manager
The NEA Foundation
1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Graytock,

We write in support of the Lower East Side Young Historians program, developed by Chris Piccigallo and Alfonso Guerriero, for eighth grade students at P.S. 126.

Over the last two years, the program has emphasized the origins of current social and political events through the lens of the local Lower East Side community. For example, students have explored immigration in the country by studying the Lower East Side's history as a community of immigrants, including through walking tours and interviews with community members.

Through their research, Lower East Side Young Historians have theorized important historical milestones on Catherine Street, including its important role in dance and other cultural developments. This has led to their efforts to begin a process for historical recognition for Catherine Street.

Students at P.S. 126 have also seen an increase in their English Language Arts State Standards scores in recent years. As shared with us, there was a 5.8% increase in 2014 test scores as compared to the school's 2013 test scores. This also represented a gain in comparison to state-wide averages, and a 2% increase compared to city-wide averages.

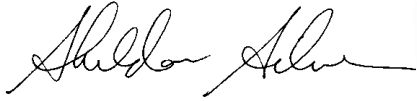
Through the Lower East Side Young Historians program, faculty at P.S. 126 have made a real effort to engage students in their local history and community. Please feel free to contact our offices with any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron
State Senator

Nydia Velazquez
Congresswoman

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Sheldon Silver
Assembly Member



Margaret Chin
Council Member