



THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG HOUSE MUSEUM

Organizational Profile
2023



www.louisarmstronghouse.org

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Louis Armstrong House Museum is in the midst of a dramatic physical and programmatic transformation marked by the opening, in 2023, of the new Louis Armstrong Center, a 14,000 square-foot state-of-the-art building across the street from the Armstrongs' historic home.

The Center will house a 75-seat performance space, a multimedia exhibition, and the extensive Armstrong Archives.

With new space comes new vision. The Center will allow us to continue to preserve the legacy of Louis and Lucille Armstrong and to live the Armstrong values of Artistic Excellence, Education and Community

In addition, 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the historic house's opening to the public as a museum. Our anniversary and the new Center provide an impetus for the museum to foster new artistic and community partnerships that will demonstrate Armstrong's lasting legacy for today's musicians, neighbors, and global fans.

Regina Bain



ABOUT US

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Organization Legal Name

Louis Armstrong House Museum

Organization Budget:

\$1,978,470.00

Mission Statement

The Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM or The House) sustains and promotes the cultural, historical, and humanitarian legacy of Louis Armstrong by preserving and interpreting Armstrong's house and grounds, collecting and sharing archival materials that document Armstrong's life and legacy, developing programs for the public that educate and inspire and engaging with contemporary artists to create performances and new works.



BACKGROUND

Louis Armstrong is a founding father of jazz —a uniquely American art form – and one of the first great celebrities of the twentieth century.

Louis Armstrong entertained millions, from heads of state and royalty to the kids on his stoop in the multi-racial, working class neighborhood of Corona, Queens where he resided for three decades.

That home is now The Louis Armstrong House Museum, a New York City and State Historical Landmark.

Since 2003, Armstrong's rich legacy, as well as his wife Lucille's, has been preserved and shared through LAHM's 60,000-piece archives – the largest of any jazz musician -

and through a robust slate of programs that embody the Armstrong values of artistic excellence, education and community.

The House partners with innovative musicians, multidisciplinary artists, and contemporary thinkers in order to activate the Armstrong Archives in the creation of musical compositions, dance performances, film, and interdisciplinary collaborations.



PROGRAMMATIC VISION

Our New Center

With new space comes new vision. Opening across the street from the Historic House in 2023, the new Louis Armstrong Center will allow the Museum to continue to develop programs in four pillars:

- Preserving the Legacy
- Artistic Excellence
- Education
- Community





PRESERVING THE LEGACY

Guided Tours

Today, the Armstrong home in the multi-racial, working-class neighborhood of Corona, Queens is open to the public, offering guided tours in multiple languages.

Armstrong Archives

The Louis Armstrong Archives will be accessible in person at the new Armstrong Center. The digital collections are accessible 24/7 due to a generous grant from the Fund II Foundation.

Here to Stay

The new multimedia exhibit, Here to Stay, curated by jazz pianist and MacArthur Genius, Jason Moran will premiere in the new Center in 2023.



ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Armstrong Now!

Armstrong Now artists include Matthew Whitaker, Alain Lauture, Ulysses Owens and 2023 Grammy winner, Samara Joy.

The Armstrong Now Artist in Residence and Signature programs contextualize Armstrong's contributions within historical and 21st Century constellations of Black making, thinking, and vitality. The program provides emerging and established multidisciplinary artists with a platform to create and perform new work inspired by the vast Armstrong Archives collections.

The Jazz Room

Opening in 2023, this new indoor space will allow the Museum to host and stream performances year round. Indoor Jazz Room concerts will join our outdoor Garden Concert series to exponentially increase the Museum's live music offerings.

Louis Armstrong's music is timeless, as evidenced by his 2022 Holiday album reaching the Billboard Top 10. Armstrong Now and The Jazz Room will bring this urgent artistic expression to today's audiences.



EDUCATION

Pops is Tops

Students experience live jazz in the beautiful Japanese style garden of the Louis Armstrong House Museum at the annual Pops is Tops series of children's concerts, the Museum's longest-running program .

Trumpet Traditions

Students take up the trumpet in this program of free instrument education for public school students in Queens, many of whom do not have access to music education in school after 2nd grade .

Voices of Freedom

We invite students K-12 to learn about Armstrong, investigate the Armstrong Archives, strengthen their musicianship and create new works while learning about the process and techniques of world class artists.

Workshops and assemblies take place on site at the Museum, online, and in classrooms throughout New York and beyond.



COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

Our Neighborhood Calendar includes a variety of free workshops including dance, music , yoga, collage art and more that aims to continue building community around Pops and Lucille's Home.

Housing and Home Ownership

The Armstrongs were two Black artists who owned their own home in th 1940's. In that legacy, the museum will partner with Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens to support home ownership and wealth creation in Queens communities.

Creative Aging

Programming for our elders in care communities across Queens includes live performances and photography classes that asks participants to explore the Armstrong Archives and create new works that archive and celebrate their own lives.



GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Global Ambassadors

Louis Armstrong played in over 62 countries, both privately and as part of the U.S. State Department's Jazz Ambassadors Program. The Museum takes up that legacy by engaging with Armstrong's global fans virtually and in-person and bringing those global partnerships back to Queens. The Global Ambassadors Program has included:

- A 2023 partnership with the U.S. State Department's Art in Embassies Program and the Shaikh Ebrahim Center, which brought Director Regina Bain to the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Middle East to present on Louis Armstrong's global legacy.
- A 2021 partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and the Forum for Cultural Engagement to bring Dave Brubeck's Real Ambassadors Musical to students in Russia.
- A 2022 - 2023 partnership with Pina Bausch Dance Company in Germany and the Frank Sinatra High School in Queens.



JAZZ AND HIP HOP MAP OF QUEENS

Mapping Music in Queens

A special project of the Museum, Mapping Jazz and Hip-Hop in Queens will explore how a prolific jazz community in Queens had significant influence on the rise of hip-hop in the borough.

Many jazz legends lived in Queens during the 40's, 50's and 60's, including Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, and Dizzy Gillespie. Also, seminal hip-hop musicians including Nas, MC Shan, LL Cool J, Q-Tip and many more grew up in Queens during the 60's, '70's and 80's.

Building upon The Queens Jazz Trail map commissioned by Flushing Town Hall in 1998 and the 60,000-piece Louis Armstrong Archives, Mapping Jazz and Hip-Hop in Queens will conduct interviews and research to chart the homes of music artists of the era affiliated with Queens. We will also explore the genealogy of connection, including neighborhoods, familial and friendship ties, as well as listening and sampling patterns.

The project will document the oral history of these two major art forms in Queens and make this knowledge accessible to the public through an interactive digital map.

PRESS PAGE



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