



# LOUIS ARMSTRONG HOUSE MUSEUM

## 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

2024 IN REVIEW

[WWW.LOUISARMSTRONGHOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.LOUISARMSTRONGHOUSE.ORG)



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## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REGINA BAIN

It took over 25 years of community planning, and persistence, and in July 2023, we opened the new Armstrong Center – a \$26M facility in the heart of the block.

We are deeply grateful to all of our supporters, including long term partners, Queens College, the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, the city and the state of New York for helping to make this dream a reality.

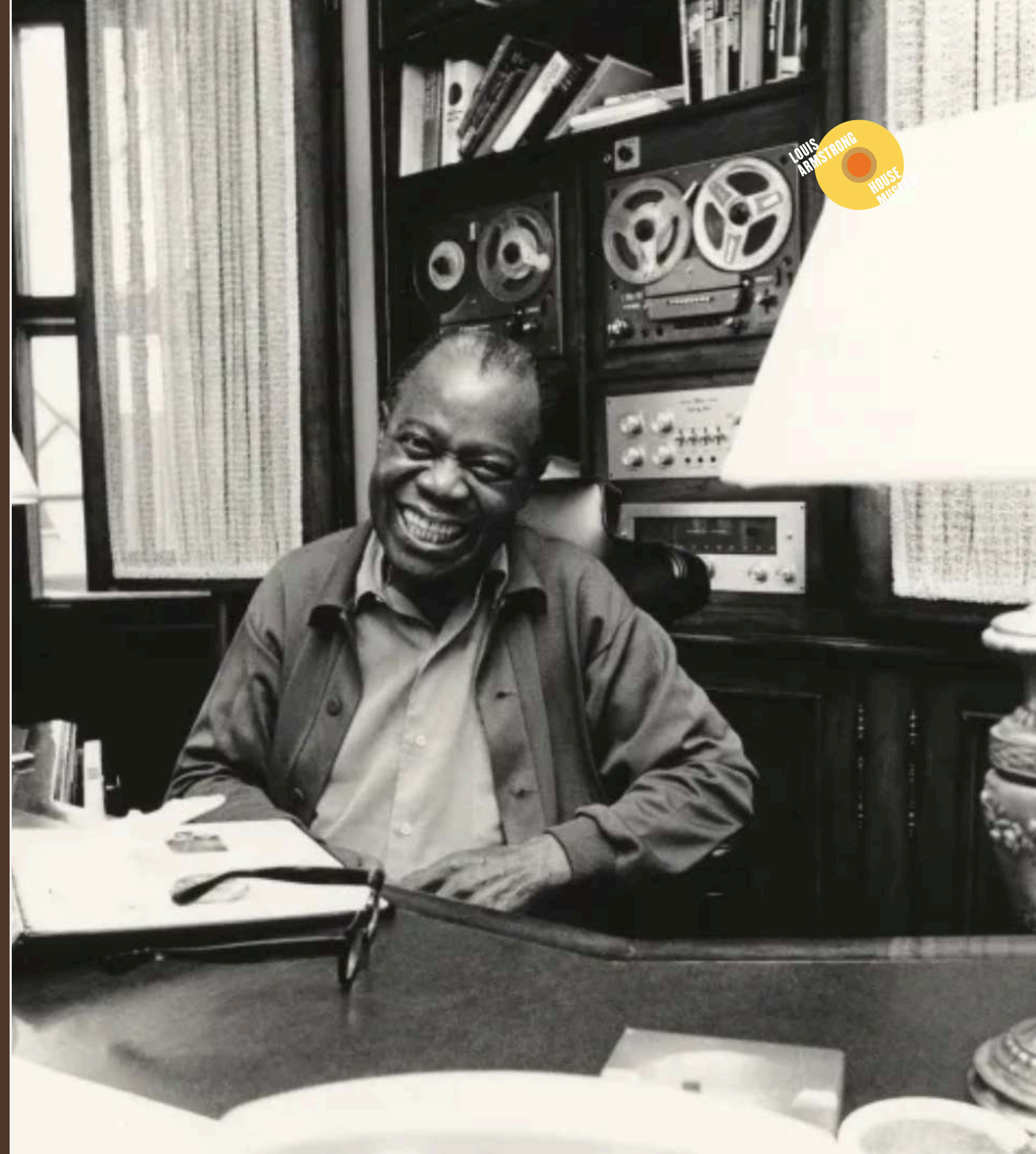
### **With new space comes new vision.**

Programs we began in the last five years, have become signature: Armstrong Now Artists in Residence, Trumpet Classes, Justice Arts, and Virtual Exhibits. Special projects such as the Corona Collection of Oral Histories, Armstrong in Ghana, and The Bridge, are on the horizon. Guided tours of the historic home continue to be our crown jewel.

Because of these initiatives, The Louis Armstrong House Museum received the 2024 National Medal from the esteemed Institute for Museums and Library Service, an honor which makes us extremely proud. As we see the erosion of arts and humanities organizations across the nation, and the ideals they rest upon, it becomes exceedingly important that we continue our mission within the context of a multi-faceted American and global story.

We invite you to join us now as we support the Armstrong legacy into the future.

*Regina Bain*





## ABOUT US

The Louis Armstrong House Museum is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the legacy of one of jazz's greatest icons. Louis Armstrong is a founding figure of jazz and one of the first great celebrities of the twentieth century.

**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 with his wife Lucille Wilson Armstrong. That National and New York landmarked home is now part of the 3-building campus of the museum. The campus also houses the Armstrong Archives, the largest of any jazz musician.

Drawing visitors from throughout New York and from 65 countries, reflecting Armstrong's global influence, the museum has been recognized as one of 8 Places Across the U.S. that Illuminate Black History. It has also been featured in The New York Times, CBS Sunday Morning, and WNYC Radio, showcasing its cultural significance.

Signature and expanded programs live the Armstrong values of legacy, artistic excellence, education and community. We partner 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.









# 2024 NATIONAL MEDALISTS

## NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE

The Louis Armstrong House Museum was honored with the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the highest distinction awarded to museums and libraries in the United States.



To accept the award, **Denise Pease, community representative, and Regina Bain, Executive Director, traveled to Washington, D.C. for a special ceremony.** The event brought together institutions from across the country that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to public service and cultural preservation. Reflecting on this achievement, Bain shared:

"We are filled with immense pride and joy to receive the prestigious 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Services.

Our dedicated team, and the generations of volunteers, staff members, and neighbors who have come before us, have worked diligently to advance this mission. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for this esteemed acknowledgment. This award serves as a testament to the transformative power of museums and libraries in fostering positive change and enriching the lives of individuals and communities."

## ABOUT IMLS

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums through grantmaking, research, and policy.

IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage.

**We encourage all to support IMLS and its sister agencies in Art and Culture.**





ITE of  
and Library  
SERVICES







# PROGRAMMATIC VISION

PRESERVING THE LEGACY  
ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE  
EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY

LOUIS ARMSTRONG CENTER



Baby Corn: "What's the matter with you?"  
Mama Corn: "Hush, darling."

JUST BEFORE coming to the Islands he made some new recordings with Ella Fitzgerald and Gene Dean Jenkins including "Joanne I Dream of Lilac Time" and "Lullaby Love Call." He also finished a picture with Leslie Caron, a recent Island visitor, called "Glory Alley."

Although most of Armstrong's work is in public appearances, he does spend considerable time on radio and does a TV show now and then as a guest artist.

live Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong trumpet players, and his all star collection of warmest alohas ever extended a visiting celebrity.



Civic Auditorium  
Phone 55002  
Bergstrom's Music  
Phone 51713  
Hawaii Music Store  
Phone 55276  
The Brown Derby  
Phone 59335

RUSS PHILLIPS—Trumpet  
DALE JONES—Bass  
MARTY NAPOLEON—Piano  
VELMA MIDDLETON—Vocalist  
—plus—  
DUSTY BROOKS and his Tones  
RAY WHEATON  
JUANITA BROWN

Louis Armstrong trumpeted in a solid spot among Honolulu's musical "greats" last night with a graciousness that left much of the spotlight for his fellow veterans in jazz. But when he sang, several thousand people knew he stood alone—Satchmo with his sassy grin and that infectious sandpaper voice that is a joy to hear against serious

They played jazz that was born in New Orleans and never went to a symphony.  
**RECENT HITS**  
Satchmo played and sang his recent hits—"A Kiss to Build a Dream On," "Cool It Bein'," "My Desire." But it was the older like "Twelfth Street Rag," "St. Louis Blues" and "C-Jam Blues" that gave the bandmen a vehicle for their virtuosity—and their clowning.

Honolulu Hepcats  
Enthralled by  
Jazz King, Court

# PRESERVING THE LEGACY

IN PERSON — "Ol Satchmo" himself!



A very little boy came home dejected from his first day at school.  
"Ain't goin' tomorrow," he said.  
"Why not, dear?"  
"Well, I can't read 'n' I can't write 'n' they won't let me talk—so what the use?"

LOUISE  
ARMSTRONG  
and his  
★ ALL-STAR BAND ★  
with LUCKY LUCK, MC

Mrs. Armstrong, was formerly Lucille Wilson, a prominent dancer at the old Cotton Club in N. Y. city. She was called and billed as "Brown Sugar" by the audiences she charmed for eleven years in that spot. She gave up a most prominent career to marry Louis, and she says that she has never regretted it. Mrs. Armstrong, who has lost none of her charm, feels that there is room for only one career in a family. However, her responsibilities are many.

A furlough paratrooper when asked how many



# PRESERVING THE LEGACY

## Guided Tours

The landmarked, Armstrong home in the multi-racial, working-class neighborhood of Corona, Queens, is open to the public for **ticketed, guided tours**.

## Armstrong Archives & Archival Tours

The Louis Armstrong Archives are accessible in person at the new Armstrong Center. We offer in-person **archival tours, lectures, and book talks**, as well as virtual exhibits with detailed stories from the archives.

The digital collections are accessible to the public online through our website and in-depth scholar sessions are available by appointment.

## Here to Stay

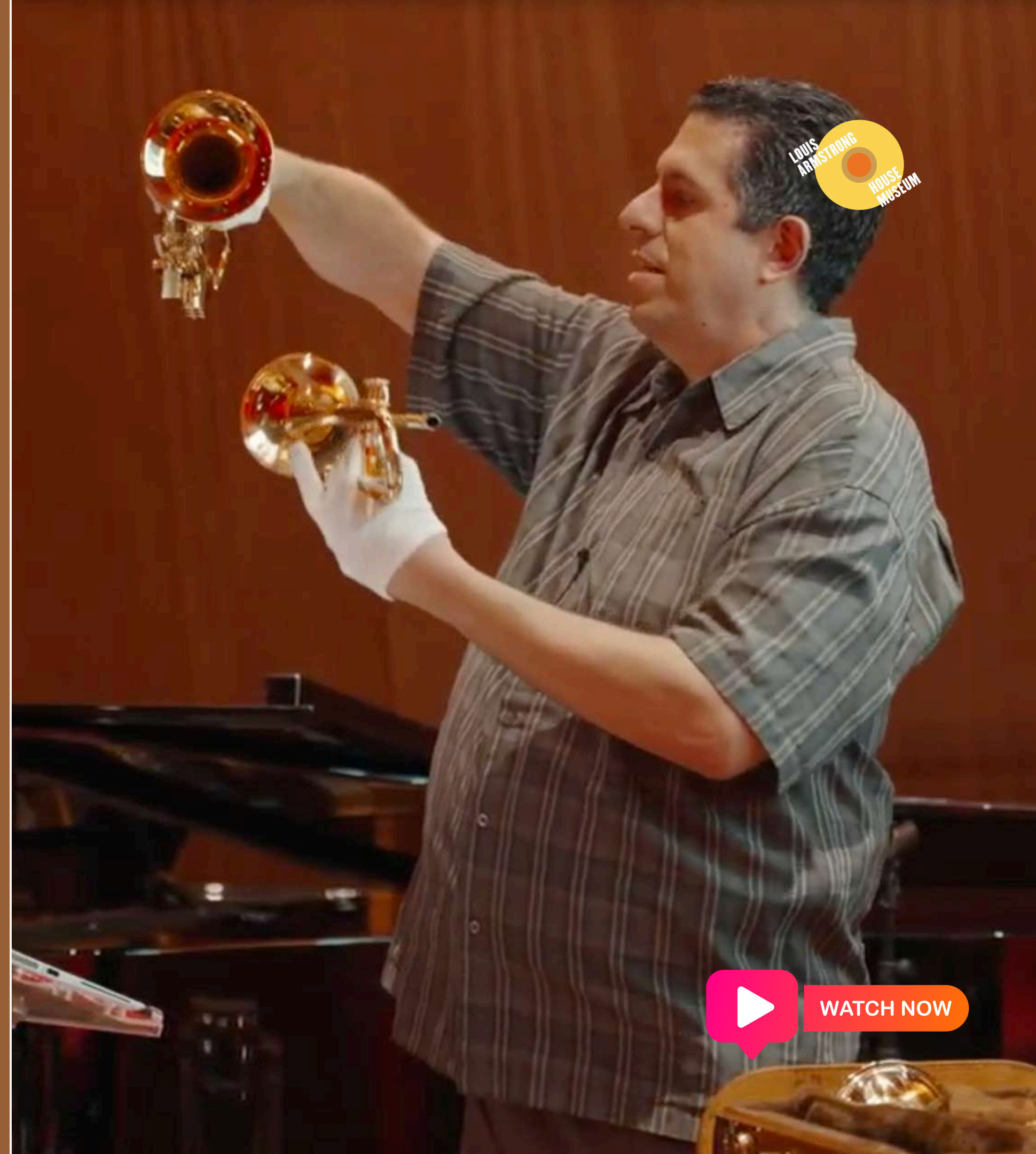
The **multimedia exhibit**, Here to Stay, curated by jazz pianist and MacArthur Genius, Jason Moran, utilizes the Armstrong archives to tell a dynamic story.

## Listening Parties

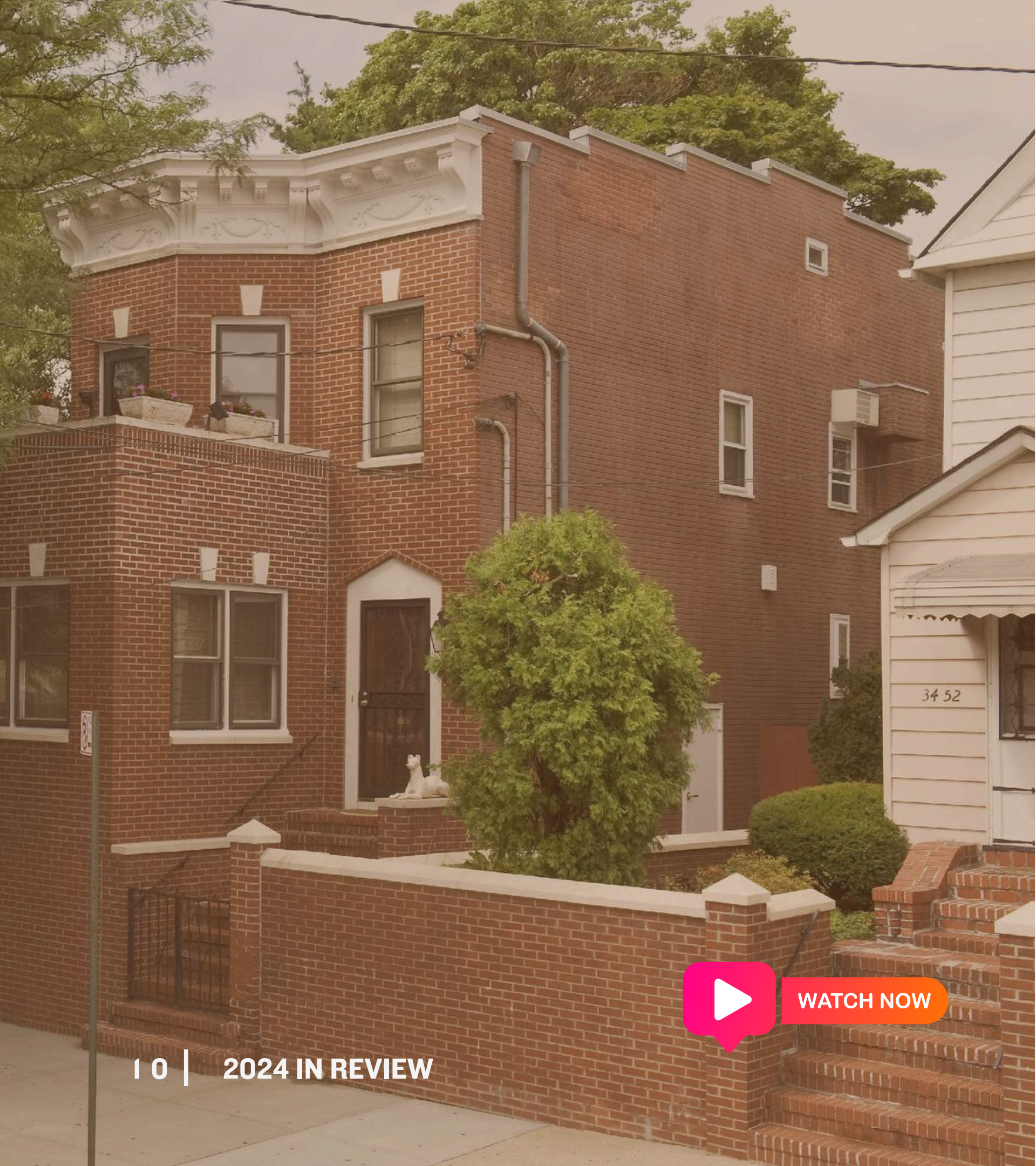
We **spin Louis Armstrong classic 78s** in the Armstrong Center and community centers, inviting guests to also bring their own records and share insights with our team.

## Virtual Exhibits

Over **200 online virtual exhibits**, led by our Director of Research Collections and 2-time Grammy winner, Ricky Riccardi, tell detailed stories about the Armstrong legacy.







# SPECIAL PROJECTS CONSERVATION PLANS



## SELMA’S PLACE

We continue our extraordinary journey to **restore the home of Selma Heraldo, a cherished neighbor** in Queens, thanks to a generous grant sponsored by the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

Selma, affectionately known as ‘Little Dynamite,’ was a beacon of strength and fortitude. Her connection to Armstrong and her contributions to the fabric of the neighborhood make this renovation project even more meaningful.

This endeavor is not just about restoring a home—it’s about honoring the deep cultural roots of our community.

## THE ARMSTRONGS HISTORIC HOUSE

The National Park Service awarded the Museum multiple grants to be used to preserve and **rehabilitate the historic home.**

We extend a heartfelt thank you to Senator Schumer for championing this effort and to both Senators Schumer and Gillibrand for their support of this preservation plan.

Built in 1910, the landmarked historic home was inhabited by the Armstrong family until the death of Louis in 1971 and Lucille in 1983. The project seeks to protect the structural integrity of the house and ensure it remains a vibrant and lasting testament to the Armstrong legacy.









## SPECIAL PROJECTS

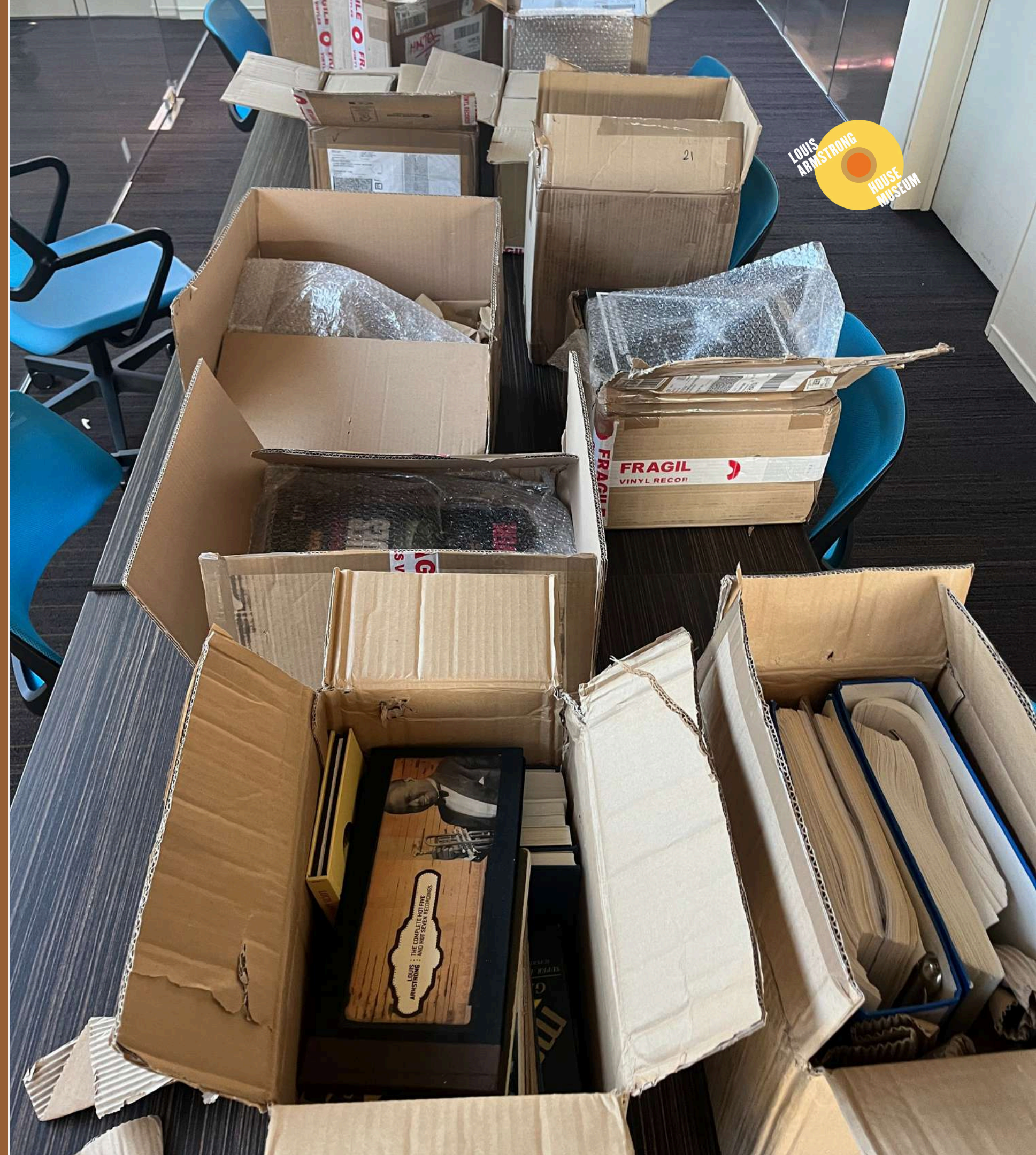
### ARCHIVAL ACQUISITIONS

In 2007, Belgian discographer Jos Willems published *All of Me*, which remains **the definitive Louis Armstrong discography** nearly 20 years later. Willems passed away in 2012 and in 2024, his widow Josee agreed to donate her husband's collection to the Louis Armstrong House Museum.

In August, Willems' son Jan visited the Louis Armstrong Center along with his wife Silvia and longtime Armstrong House supporter, Richard Noorigian who supported this effort.

The collection arrived in November and features over a thousand records and compact discs, including dozens of hours of previously unissued Louis Armstrong concerts and broadcasts.

**The collection is being catalogued and digitized** now with help from Cristina Genao from the Queens College internship program and will be made available to the public in late 2025.







# ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE



# ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

## Armstrong Now!

The Armstrong Now **Artist in Residence** and Signature programs provide emerging and established multidisciplinary artists with a platform to create and perform new work inspired by the vast Armstrong Archives collections.

## The Jazz Room and Garden Concerts

Indoor Jazz Room concerts now join our outdoor Garden Concert series and exponentially increases the Museum's live music offerings. In 2024 we offered **over 30 concerts to the public.**

## Newport Jazz Festival

The Armstrong Now Signature event, **Armstrong at Newport**, featured trumpeters Marquis Hill, Bruce Harris, Giveton Gelin, along with the legendary drummer Herlin Riley, pianist Mathis Picard, and bassist Russell Hall and curator Jake Goldbas.

The concert was rehearsed in the Center, including an open rehearsal for students. It was then performed in the Garden for community, at Newport, the Kupferberg Center, and Dizzy's Club.









# ARMSTRONG NOW! 2024

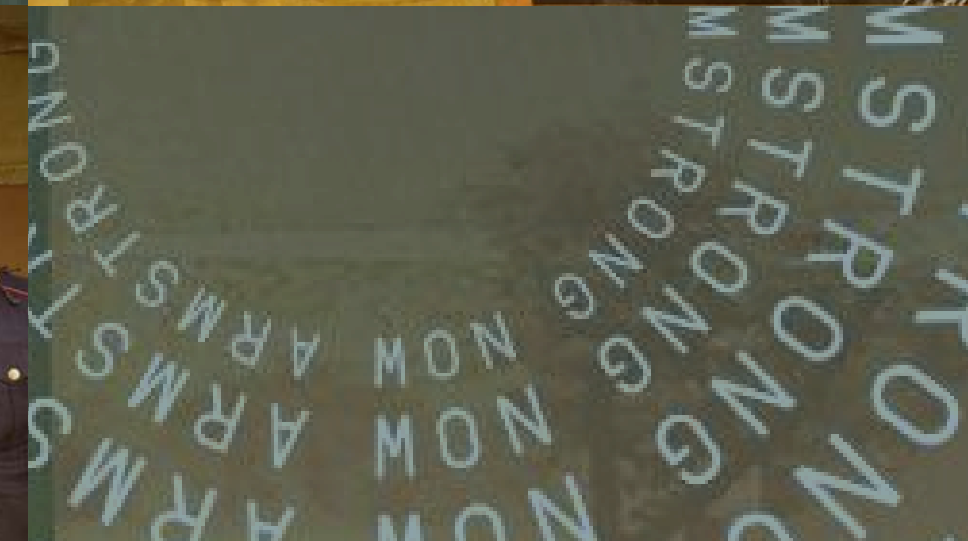
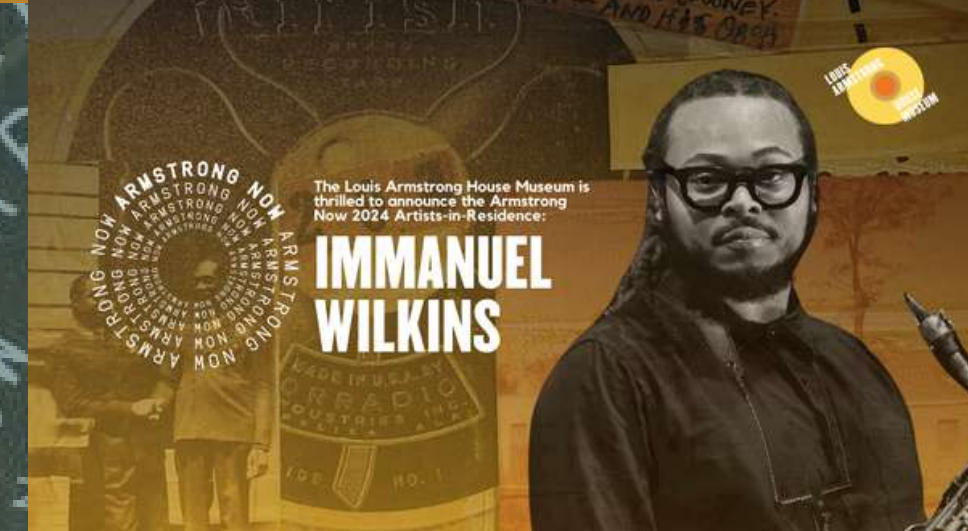
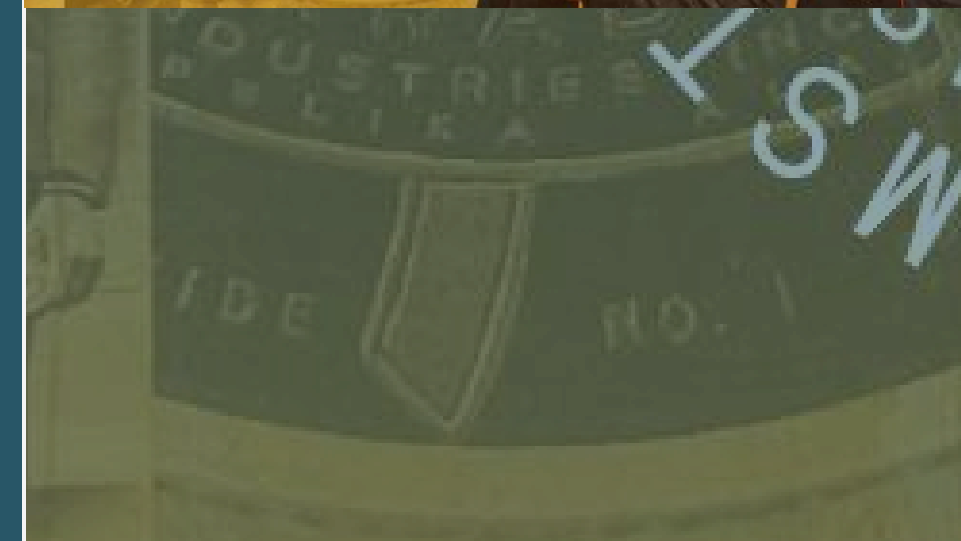
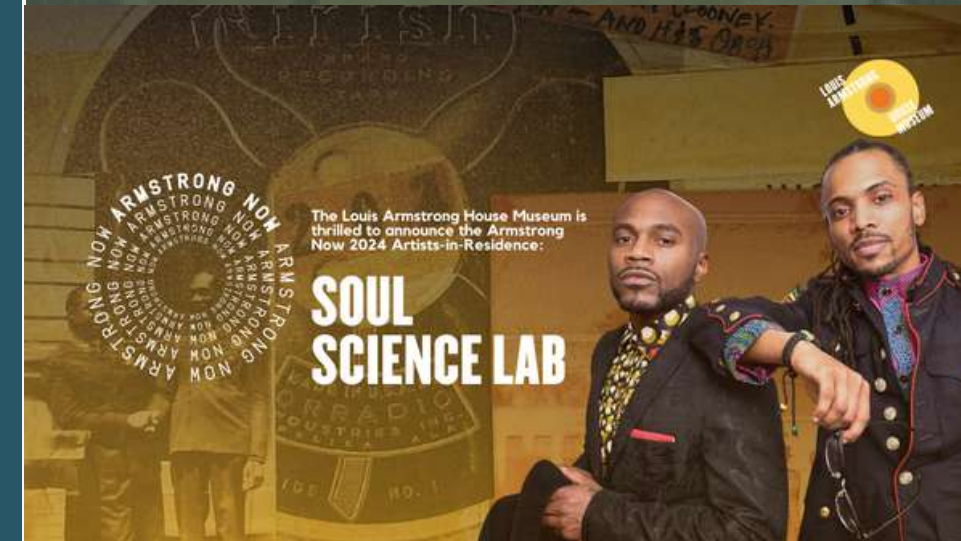
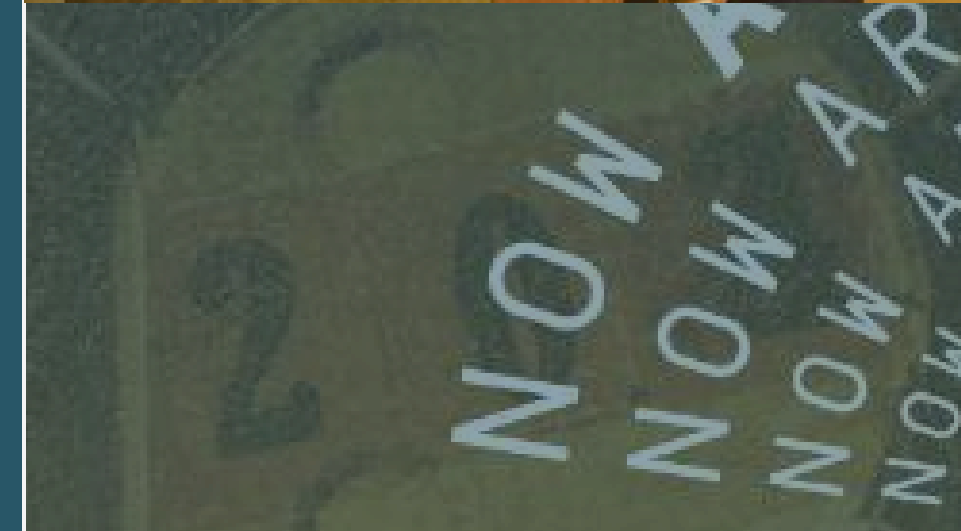
The ARMSTRONG NOW Artist-in-Residence program **provides established and emerging artists with a platform to create new work** inspired by the vast collection of artifacts and documents in the Armstrong Archives.

Artists-in-Residence spend time at the Museum for **an intensive period of research and rehearsal**, creating their new work based on thematic content drawn from the Armstrong Archives. At the end of their residency, artists present a public performance of the work at the Museum and additional performances may premiere in collaboration with partners throughout New York and beyond. These new works fuse music, dance, spoken word, visual and performing arts.

2024 Armstrong Now Artists-in-Residence include:

- Lisa La Touche: tap dancer, choreographer and original Broadway cast member of Shuffle Along
- Immanuel Wilkins: jazz saxophonist and composer and The New York Times #1 Jazz Album of 2020
- Steven Salcedo: saxophonist, composer and educator
- Soul Science Lab: dynamic musicians and multimedia artists

In the true spirit of tap, Lisa La Touche calls this opportunity the “call and response of a lifetime! One of spirit filled proportion, held with the anticipation of great honor and gratitude.”

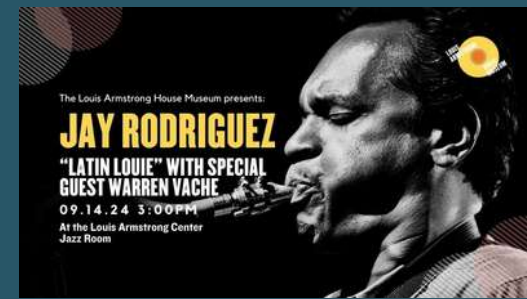




# CONCERTS GALLERY

In 2024, the Louis Armstrong House Museum was proud to expand its concert programming, welcoming many new artists to our space for the first time and celebrating the return of museum ambassadors who continue to honor Armstrong's legacy.

Our mission is to bring world-class artists to Corona, Queens, making high-quality live music accessible to all. We offer affordable ticket prices, with special discounts for local residents, as well as free garden concerts and community performances that invite everyone to experience the joy of live music. Here is a look back at a few of the incredible artists and concerts that filled our space with music in 2024.



In addition to concerts held in the Louis Armstrong House Museum's Jazz Room and Garden, we also present performances at esteemed venues such as Jazz at Lincoln Center, Kupferberg Center, and other valued partners.



In 2024, we've been sharing more concert highlights on our YouTube channel, capturing unforgettable moments and incredible live jazz performances. Subscribe here to experience the music.



*Joe's Drumming*

# EDUCATION



# EDUCATION

## After School Program

Our after-school programs cover **grades K-12 across all NYC boroughs**, delving into Louis Armstrong's digitized jazz archives. The programs offer hands-on activities, exploring Jazz's origins, music elements, composition, and rhythm. They include 12-week residencies, assemblies, and customizable curricula for schools.

## Pops is Tops

Pops is Tops, now in its 37th year, brings K-8 students to the Museum's beautiful garden to experience **live jazz by world-class artists**. This year was led by sought-after trumpeter and educator, Alphonso Horne.



**POPS IS TOPS STUDENTS SERVED  
IN 2024: 2,056**

**POPS IS TOPS STUDENTS SERVED  
ALL-TIME: 75,000+**

**ALL STUDENTS SERVED: 200,000+**

## Welcome to Pops' House

**Class visits** feature a tour of the historic home and rare personal recordings of Louis and Lucille Armstrong. These visits are customizable for all student ages and learning goals. The new Armstrong Center hosts the "Here to Stay" multimedia exhibit.

## Voices of Freedom

K-12 students 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 **at the Museum, online, and in classrooms** throughout New York and beyond.

## Internships

**High school, college, and graduate school interns** at the House Museum have the opportunity to lead House Tours, work closely with our staff and learn more about the workings of the museum.



**WATCH NOW**







# TRUMPET LEARNING PROGRAM

In 2024, the Trumpet Learning Program at the Louis Armstrong House Museum made a profound impact, equipping young musicians with the skills, confidence, and inspiration to explore the world of jazz. Recognizing the lack of accessible music education in our Corona community, we launched this initiative to provide **high-quality instruction at an affordable cost**. Over the past year, students progressed from beginners to intermediate players, with many showcasing their talents at community performances.

Led by seven world-class trumpet instructors, the program blends hands-on instruction, group practice, and performance opportunities, ensuring students not only learn technique but also gain a deeper appreciation for jazz and its cultural significance. A key component of our success has been our commitment to removing financial barriers—students receive trumpets on loan, and we offer significantly reduced tuition for local participants.

We are especially grateful to Ken Karnofsky for his generous support, which has been instrumental in helping us launch and sustain this vital program.





A black and white photograph of a man in profile, wearing glasses and a plaid shirt, playing a trumpet. The image is the background for the entire page. The word "COMMUNITY" is centered over the image, flanked by two horizontal yellow lines.

# COMMUNITY





## COMMUNITY

### Justice Arts

Armstrong was incarcerated in a youth detention center in New Orleans. In that legacy, the museum leads Justice Arts programming working with individuals who are currently incarcerated, formerly incarcerated or youth who are system involved. Initiatives include:

An immersive 8-week arts program developed in partnership with Re-entry Theatre of Harlem integrating collage, theatre, and facilitated discussions.

Collaborations with the Queens Public Library to curate experiences within correctional facilities.

A network of cultural organizations working with justice-impacted individuals convened in partnership with NY4CA.



### Housing

The Armstrongs were two Black artists who owned their own home in the 1940's. In that legacy, the museum partners with organizations such as Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens and Western Queens Land Trust to support conversations that inquire into housing, homeownership, and neighborhood histories.





Justice Arts





# SPECIAL PROJECTS

## THE BRIDGE

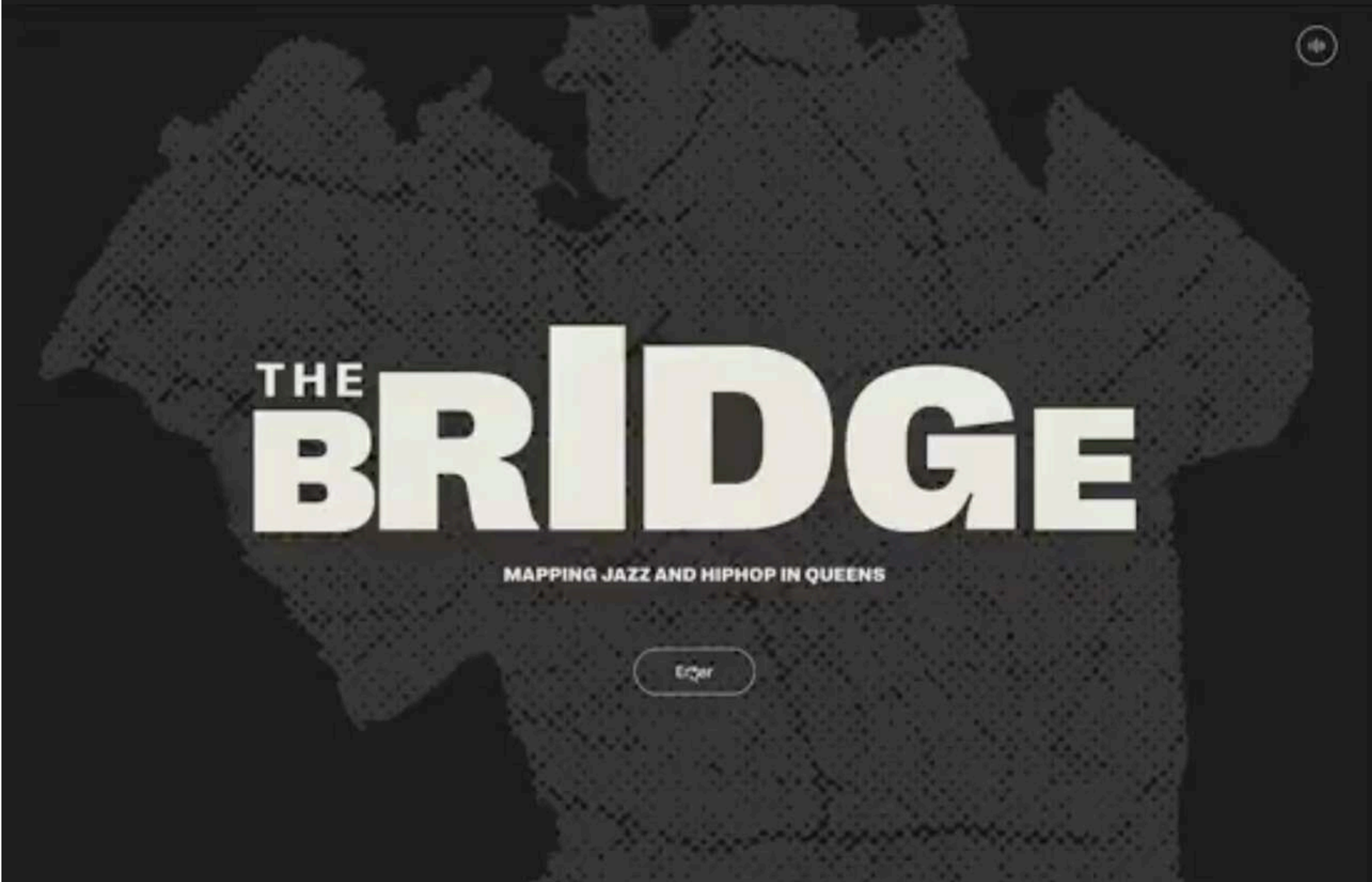
### Mapping Music in Queens

The Bridge: Mapping Jazz and Hip-Hop in Queens is **a digital experience with accompanying programs** that 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, The Bridge utilizes research, oral history, and more to explore the genealogy of connection, including neighborhoods, familial and friendship ties, as well as listening and sampling patterns within Queens.

**Previously supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, the Bridge is now supported by a community sharing new strategies to bring this project into the future.**





## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### THE CORONA COLLECTION

#### Oral Histories from the Louis Armstrong House Museum

Currently underway, the Louis Armstrong House Museum is actively engaged in an initiative to gather and disseminate **oral histories from the Corona community and beyond**. This project, aligned with our mission of community engagement, aims to capture diverse voices that coexisted with Louis and Lucille Armstrong in their neighborhood. These oral histories will then live within the Armstrong Archives.

Through ongoing one-on-one interviews and community gatherings, we are actively working to deepen our understanding of the cultural impact of this jazz icon, fostering a connection between past and present. As we progress, the project promises to enhance both onsite and online experiences for a broad audience of visitors and researchers.

In 2024, we secured a grant from **the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** to bring this initiative to life. In 2025, we look forward to beginning the dissemination of these stories with an exhibition debuting in the fall.





## SPECIAL PROJECTS

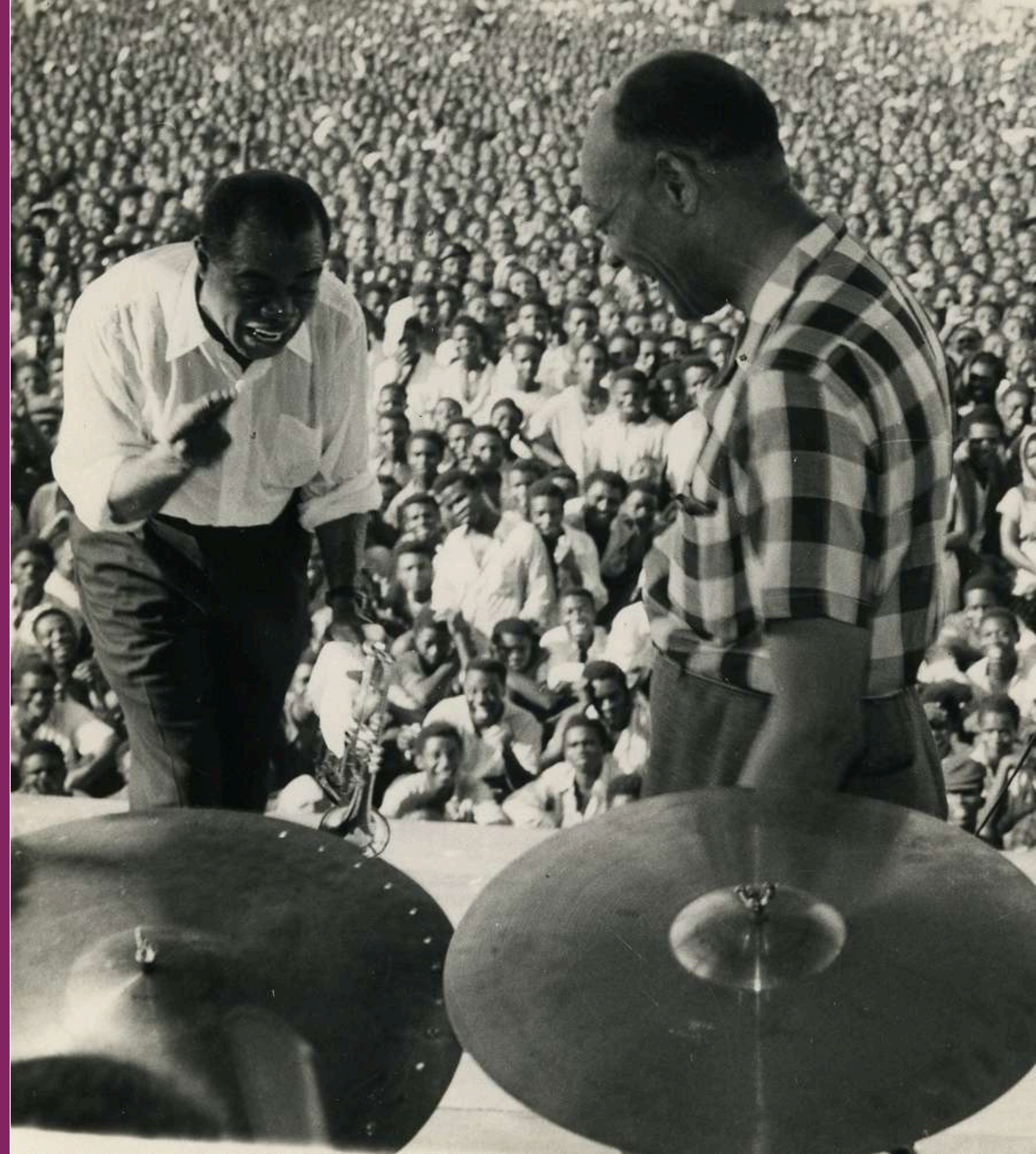
### ARMSTRONG IN GHANA

#### Exhibition, Performances, and Educational Workshops

The Global Ambassadors Program explores Armstrong's legacy as an American and global icon, navigating cultural and political complexities as he toured his music throughout the world. Armstrong in Ghana is an exhibition, performances and educational workshops exploring the Armstrongs' connection to Ghana.

In the 1950's and 60's, the height of the American civil rights movement, Louis Armstrong toured throughout the continent of Africa, including the Gold Coast as it transitioned out of British colonial control to become the independent country of Ghana. The 60,000-piece [Armstrong Archive](#) includes an array of artifacts, recordings, pictures and documents pertaining to these tours.

The **new exhibition, debuting in 2026/2027 and presented in both New York City and Accra**, will utilize these archival items, alongside new recorded oral histories, and commissioned artistic works to explore the reciprocal cultural and political impact of Armstrong's travels to the newly independent nation.









## OUR PARTNERS 2024

The Louis Armstrong House Museum extends its deepest gratitude to the many individuals and organizations whose generous contributions make our work possible.

From our supporters, donors, and grantors, to the artists, audiences, and volunteers who bring life to our programs, we are profoundly thankful for your commitment to preserving and celebrating the legacy of Louis Armstrong. Your generosity allows us to continue offering world-class concerts, educational programs, and community initiatives, ensuring that the Armstrong legacy thrives in Corona, Queens, and beyond.

Thank you for supporting the Louis Armstrong House Museum as a place of music, history, and community.

### Ongoing Partners:

Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation  
Queens College CUNY

### Foundations:

- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Booth Ferris Foundation
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- New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)
- New York State Assembly
- New York State Education Department (NYSED)
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Office of the Queens Borough President
- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

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## GALA 2024 - HONORING JERRY CHAZEN

On June 25, 2024, the Louis Armstrong House Museum held its annual gala fundraiser at Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center. **This year's event honored the memory of our Chair Emeritus, Jerome "Jerry" Chazen**, recognizing his extraordinary commitment to the Museum and his lifelong love of Louis Armstrong.

The evening was a fitting tribute to a man whose passion for Satchmo and the arts touched so many. It was a moving celebration not only of Jerry's legacy, but also of the enduring power of music to connect and uplift.

We extend our deepest thanks to the Chazen family, along with the many friends and supporters who joined us to honor Jerry's legacy and celebrate the music he so deeply loved. We share a special thank you to Kathy Chazen and board member Larry Miller for helping to lead the event.

### Gala 2024 Donors, Honoring Jerry Chazen

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