



EXPRESS NEWARK

a signature initiative

In 2014 under the leadership of Rutgers University-Newark (RU-N), Chancellor Nancy Cantor, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and stakeholders engaged in creating a new strategic plan. Through this process a RU-N definition of excellence was derived: the commitment to boundary-crossing scholarship, diverse talent cultivation, and collaborative tradition of engagement as an anchor institution in the city and the world.

With this objective in mind, Express Newark was conceived as a true collaborative in which community partners and the university communicate on equal footing in what has been called “*the Third Space.*”

Express Newark cultivates an inclusive ecosystem that aligns creative production, education, and entrepreneurial innovation through cross-unit, cross-sector, and cross-institutional social practices, which will allow for the expansion of existing programs and institutions.

At Express Newark, student-artists and entrepreneurs join with community partners in a shared sense of purpose, to collectively undertake the necessary, painstaking work of attending to the well-being of the public trust.

COMMUNITY STATEMENT

bridging differences

Express Newark functions as a countermeasure to today's disjointed world. As a Third Space, it has transformed three floors of the renovated Hahne's building into a seamless web of marketplace, culture, and civic concern. It uses the arts to build trust by bridging differences in power, position, scale, resources, culture, and education. To this end, Express Newark aligns multiple art, education, and cultural initiatives in order to foster a shared civic vision and develop new social infrastructure.

This approach prompts and facilitates difficult dialogue and assist in the creation of informal networks and decision-making processes that will change how Newark sees itself and its relationship to the university which all too often has been perceived as “closed to the public.” This ambitious plan will fulfill the university's public mission.

“The goal is to be of Newark, not just in Newark.”

A BRIEF HISTORY

bringing people together

In 1858, Julius Hahne opened a specialty store. In 1901, architect Goldwin Starrett was commissioned to design a building at 609 Broad Street, now Hahne & Company, to serve as a hub bringing people of the region together in the center of Newark. After more than eighty years Hahne's closed in 1988, however its motto is still relevant today:

"The store with the friendly spirit."

During RU-N's strategic planning process, the Arts, Culture and Media (ACM) department introduced an ambitious plan to build a new center for their social practice that would be located in the arts and cultural district on the eastern border of campus.

In Fall 2015 when RU-N was invited to invest in redeveloping the Hahne's building, Chancellor Cantor saw the synergy between RU-N's new strategic plan, its mission as an anchor institution, and the ACM faculty's plan for a center for social practice. By building civic infrastructure to create social infrastructure, Hahne's could once again be a hub.

EXPRESS NEWARK STATEMENT

structures for collaboration

Express Newark will be a place unlike any other on the RU-N campus or in Newark. Community partners, faculty, staff and students have worked with the KSS architects to envision a space within the Hahne's building where all of Newark can feel at home and the university and community can come together. Our mission statement encapsulates this goal:

"Express Newark is a conceptual framework and an interdisciplinary learning space where artists and community residents collaborate, experiment, and innovate in partnership with RU-N faculty, staff, and students to engage in creative practice, foster democratic dialogue, and promote positive transformation."

A guided assumption underlying Express Newark is that success in changing the inequality map in Newark depends on building sustainable structures for collaboration that augment capacity within the arts ecosystem. Express Newark will house exceptional artists whose practices include printmaking, photography, 3D printing, painting, poetry, video, journalism, gallery exhibits, multimedia, and graphic design.

OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE

"The word "art" is something the West has never understood. Art is supposed to be a part of a community. Like, scholars are supposed to be a part of a community...Art is to decorate people's houses, their skin, their clothes, to make them expand their minds, and it's supposed to be right in the community, where they can have it when they want it...It's supposed to be as essential as a grocery store... that's the only way art can function naturally." -Amiri Baraka

How should we define success? The goal was always to be of Newark and not just in Newark. A true "the third space" can only exist when Rutgers University and the Newark community are no longer seen as separate, self-enclosed systems and when a shared optimism for the future includes space for new, diverse voices to emerge in art, design, media, and business. Express Newark is a gathering place for the community to connect and define itself beyond just the parochial.

We screen culturally engaged works, host a diverse set of guest speakers, and present multimedia anthologies and other live forums that will speak to local and global concerns. Our Business Hub follows our gains in art and media by incubating Newark-based startups and guiding them to the marketplace. Express Newark extends the arc of our community and academic initiatives with a shared social vision.

OUR PARTNERS

A conceptual framework and an interdisciplinary learning space Express Newark houses:

- **Humanities Action Lab** a coalition of universities, issue organizations, and public spaces in 40 cities, and growing
- **Artistic Passion & Purpose** a nonprofit organization of Newark-based creatives whose goal is to encourage, embrace, and empower the community through sewing, hairstyling, skincare, voice, dance, fitness and self-expression
- **NewAnce** - a digital magazine dedicated to covering arts and culture in the city of Newark
- **Institute of Jazz Studies** - the global leader in Jazz archives
- **Newest Americans** a multimedia laboratory where visual storytellers, journalists and artists collaborate with academics and students to document the stories that radiate from the most diverse university in the nation;
- **New Arts Justice**, an incubator for intersectional approaches to art and activism. New Arts convenes thinkers and doers; collaborates with community, university, and municipal partners; and creates public projects powered by art's relationship to place, social justice, and civic engagement in Newark and beyond
- **Form Design Studio** capture the vision of designers, educators, researchers, manufacturers, amateur inventors, and the overall curious through the use of 3D modeling, scanning, and printing technology
- **Design Consortium** and **Visual Means** which are student/faculty creative studio rooted in a collaboratively engaged design process
- **Shine Portrait Studio** an artist-driven, socially-engaged art project that is in collaboration with other artists, photographers, curators, community partners and students
- **Community Media Center** - a place where media makers can share their expertise with each other and the larger community through classes, screenings, internships and professional development opportunities; and
- **Paul Robeson Galleries** named for esteemed political activist and Rutgers University alumni. Robeson said "Artists are the gatekeepers of truth: we are civilization's radical voice."

In each of these spaces, community artists in residence partner with Rutgers University - Newark faculty, students and staff to collaborate, experiment, and innovate.

MEDIA

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