



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elsie McCabe Thompson Launches Education Contributor Column

-President of NYC Mission Society to weigh in on education, poverty-reduction issues -

(New York, NY)—New York City Mission Society, Elsie McCabe Thompson has launched a contributor column where she will regularly share her views on education, inequality, and policy. Her first column, published on September 12, explores the importance of music and the arts in education, and how nonprofits like NYC Mission Society are stepping up to fill a critical need:

Arts are a lifeline that we can provide to our children—to open up their eyes, hearts and brains to new opportunities. While not a panacea, filling this gap by providing arts programming as after-school enrichment goes a long way toward closing the gap. For instance, our afternoon GRIOT program offers free music instruction to eight to eighteen year olds and reinforces vital STEM concepts while exploring the cultures and sounds of the African Diaspora...

GRIOT teaches foundational music concepts and instrument proficiency. It also introduces students to music technology, all while reinforcing STEM skills. By the end of each semester, nearly three quarters of the students enrolled in this program experience improvements in their math scores, and all can read music and play an instrument.

The full column and Elsie's other op-eds can be found [here](#).

About the New York City Mission Society

The New York City Mission Society has been on the frontlines of the war on poverty for more than 200 years. Today, our progressive portfolio of educational, workforce development, cultural enrichment, and community-building programs, make a positive, long-term impact on the City's most underserved communities by promoting academic achievement, and providing career opportunities and cultural enrichment. Each year, we serve more than 10,000 children and families throughout New York City with our programs, supportive services, and community events. Learn more at <http://www.nycmissionsociety.org>.

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