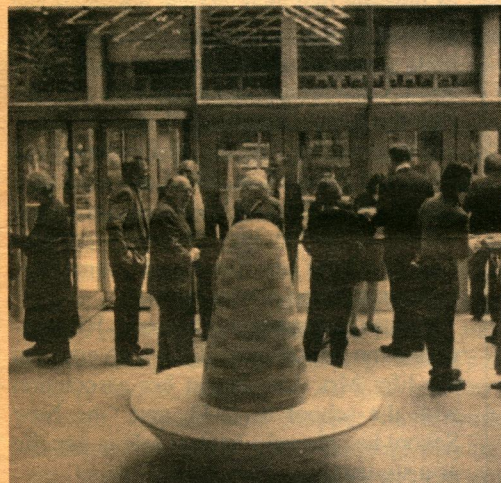


List Courtyard is dedicated



Above: Some of the seating in the List Courtyard, and extended lobby at 66 West 12 Street, is on Martin Puryear's sculptures. Above, right: Cutting the ribbon on November 2 to open the Vera G. List Courtyard were (from left): Landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh; Eugene Lang College Dean Beatrice Banu; Trustee Eugene M. Lang; Museum of Modern Art President Agnes Gund; Trustee Lois List; Austin List; Sculptor Martin Puryear; University Curator Kathleen Goncharov; Mrs. List's grandson, Ezra Mack; Trustee William E. Havemeyer; and New School Dean Elizabeth Dickey.

The New School has a beautiful new central space: the Vera G. List Courtyard. On November 2, a formal dedication of the courtyard brought together members of the List family, trustees, and students, staff, and friends.

At the dedication ceremony, President Jonathan F. Fanton characterized the courtyard, which links the Alvin Johnson and J.M. Kaplan Buildings at 66 West 12 Street, and the Eugene Lang Building at 65 West 11 Street, as the University's "only outdoor space, our virtual campus." He noted how the courtyard has been used: for concerts, readings, art classes, demonstrations—and especially for informal and relaxed purposes by students. "This rich history underscores the centrality of this courtyard in the life of the New School which it, more than any other place, symbolizes for over a million New Yorkers who have studied here."

The original courtyard—to which Vera and Albert List were donors—was opened in Fall 1959. The transformation of the space, a \$2.6-million project, was funded entirely by gifts. Mrs. List made a major contribution. In addition, Trustee Eugene Lang provided a challenge grant which resulted in gifts from 26 New School trustees.

The courtyard renovation project—which grew out of a proposal from the University Committee on the Art Collection, then chaired by Museum of Modern Art President Agnes Gund—began a decade ago. To fund initial planning, the University applied for, and received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. However, the support was awarded with a controversial anti-obscenity provision—which the University refused to accept. The New School hired First Amendment attorney Floyd Abrams and filed a U.S. District Court suit seeking to force the NEA to drop the condition. The University was victorious in its efforts; the NEA dropped the controversial clause, the University received its \$45,000 grant, and all subsequent NEA grants were provided without the condition.

The New School was then able to move forward with the courtyard project, which features a collaborative design by landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh and sculptor Martin Puryear.

Cutting the Ribbon

Four speakers shared their thoughts on the process of moving the List Courtyard from concept through construction.

Agnes Gund described how she was recruited by Vera List to serve on the University Committee on the Art Collection—which Mrs. List then chaired. Ms. Gund cited key individuals—such as Trustee Gabriella De Ferrari, and Kathleen Goncharov, the University's Curator—who energized the committee. "Collaboration," Ms. Gund declared, "is obviously something that the New School does beautifully, and in this case the collaboration between Vera, Jonathan, Kathy, Gabriella, Michael, Martin and the generous donors to this project make this courtyard the embodiment of why the New School is such a vibrant part of New York City."

Mr. Puryear joked how he had had "nearly 10 years to fine tune the design." He commented that he felt his contribution was to create art "sensitive to human need and direction."

He was particularly struck by the effort to make the courtyard completely accessible to the disabled. He expects that the courtyard will quickly join other outdoor oases in New York, such as Paley Park, as "a visionary space."

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Assessment of liberal arts is accelerating

"Our most pressing educational challenge," President Jonathan F. Fanton writes in beginning his 1996-97 *Annual Report* essay, "[is] how to strengthen and make more coherent liberal arts instruction at the University."

Many groups—a faculty task force convened by Provost Judith B. Walzer, faculty groups in a number of academic divisions, and Cambridge Associates, an external consultant—are now studying liberal studies instruction throughout the University. The Board of Trustees, and the Board's Educational Policy Committee and Executive Committee, also have discussed these issues.

"In undertaking a study of liberal studies across the University," comments Provost Walzer, "our goal is first and foremost to improve what we offer to *all* undergraduates."

• Liberal arts courses need a uniform high quality.

Students at Eugene Lang College and The New School's Bachelor of Arts program are primarily studying in liberal-arts disciplines. Undergraduates at Parsons, and Jazz and classical students at Mannes, are required to complete liberal studies courses. Each year, there are more than 9,000 liberal studies enrollments across the University. Improving liberal studies curriculum is a matter of importance to Deans Beatrice Banu (Eugene Lang College), Lesley Cadman (Parsons), Elizabeth Dickey (The New School), Judith Friedlander (The Graduate Faculty) and Joel Lester (Mannes). Deans Banu and Friedlander are working with faculty groups in their academic divisions.

"The goal of our evaluation," notes Provost Walzer, "is to make sure that these courses are of uniformly high quality for liberal arts students and for those in the arts, to rationalize the overall curriculum and find

Awards honor four superb teachers

The University uses the occasion of the annual convocation which opens the academic year to acknowledge publicly outstanding teachers throughout the New School. For 1997-98, four faculty members received University Distinguished Teaching Awards.

Lee Ann Ledgerwood teaches in Mannes's Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz and Contemporary Music program.

A pianist and composer, she has performed with Red Mitchell, George Mraz, Eddie Gomez, and Buster Williams among others. She also has recorded with a number of notable Jazz performers.

Ms. Ledgerwood was teaching in Mannes's Jazz diploma program when it and the Jazz

B.F.A. were merged in 1995. Today, her courses include "Keyboard Harmony and Proficiency," "Music of Bill Evans," "Reharmonization/Improvisation," and "Improvisation Ensembles."

As a student, Ms. Ledgerwood attended the Cleveland Institute of Music, North Texas State University, and the Berklee College of Music. As a teacher, she chooses to work with students who are new to the performance experience. In his introduction of Ms. Ledgerwood, Dean Joel Lester noted her ability to unlock musical doors for students: "Her warm, compassionate, and witty personality has instilled in many a shy, reserved student the sense of self that enables taking the

artistic risks so essential to Jazz—perhaps the most individually expressive of musical genres.... She is the very embodiment of our mentoring philosophy."

Mohammad Khalil was born in the Republic of Sudan and received his diploma in painting from the School of Fine and Applied Art in Khartoum. He emigrated to the United States in the late 1960s, and began teaching in The New School's Studio Art program in 1971.

Mr. Khalil's work is included in the permanent collections of museums in this country and abroad.

He teaches "Graphic Art" and "Printmaking Workshop: Woodcut, Etching, Collagraph," and his students often sign up to work with him semester after semester. One student commented: "He is a superb printmaking teacher and I haven't stopped learning new methods and processes; as long as I have Wednesdays off and Mohammad is teaching this course, I will be here."

In her remarks, Dean Elizabeth Dickey praised Mr. Khalil as an "inspirational" instructor, and said that "Great teachers are known for having something new to say, a new insight, a new approach to a problem, a unique way of looking and interpreting." She then quoted Mr. Khalil on why he finds etching to be so satisfying a medium, "The parameters of etching are limitless, endless."

Mr. Khalil could not attend the convo-

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The Graduate Faculty's new Director of Undergraduate Studies: Jeffrey C. Goldfarb

the best ways to use our extensive intellectual and scholarly resources efficiently."

• Unnecessary duplications among academic divisions should be eliminated.

Undergraduate students now pursue liberal arts studies in nine program areas: Parsons Liberal Studies; Eugene Lang College; Mannes's Jazz and Contemporary Music program; Mannes's classical program; The New School; DIAL; the Graduate Faculty (where advanced undergraduates may take social science and liberal studies courses for which they are qualified); the University Committee on Liberal Studies; and the University Foreign Language Program.

The latter two areas have been developed in recent years. Originally, the Committee on Liberal Studies was created at Parsons so that Parsons students could take liberal studies electives that went beyond required courses. The focus was broadened in the

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1997 winners of University Distinguished Teaching Awards (from left to right): Lee Ann Ledgerwood; Warren Linn; Medina Khalil (who accepted for her father, Mohammed Khalil); and Keith Long. (Provost Judith B. Walzer is at right, and Dean Elizabeth Dickey is in background.)