

# Framework for Delivering 21<sup>st</sup> Century Music Education at Settlement Music School

## Teaching and Learning Philosophy

**Settlement Faculty understands the importance of student motivation and that it impacts all learning.**

### ***Learner Motivation***

The quality and intensity of the learner's motivation is the most important determinant of advancement, in the short- and longer-term; and so we prioritize this intrinsic engagement, investing in all the things we can do to nurture it.

### ***Growth Mindset***

We firmly adhere to growth mindset practices, which help learners to see challenges as invitations and clues to new approaches. This mindset develops a lifelong love of the arts and learning in and around the arts, reduces anxiety about failure, and maximizes satisfaction and success in the learning process.

### ***Persistence***

All arts learning requires persistence over time to produce high quality results; there are no short cuts. We recognize that such discipline is most likely to occur through building excitement and intrinsic motivation in the student, and we dedicate ourselves to nurturing these motivations.

### ***Excellence***

All instruction at Settlement aims high, encouraging as much rigor as the individual can grow into. High aspirations maximize achievement and satisfaction, and we recognize that there are multiple kinds of excellence. There is excellence determined both by objective standards of the field and by individual accomplishments determined in response to each student's abilities and interests. We believe in the power of public performance, and we seek out opportunities for our students to perform.

### ***Assessment***

Self-assessment is more important than any other kind to strengthen learning. We help learners develop this skill set (that serves them well in all learning and life), and provide transparent, consistent, useful, and illuminating evaluation to help the student and family stay aware of the process. In accepting this value, we welcome the contribution that clear and supportive evaluation of our own teaching leads to continual improvement.

**Settlement Faculty believes in the power of mentoring.**

### ***Creativity***

We develop more than the musical or other artistic abilities of students; we develop the artistry of students, which means we nurture their creative skills and aesthetic sensibilities. Whatever

content is being mastered, our students' creativity must be engaged to find their unique voices, because this empowers their learning.

### ***Modeling***

We recognize that our most powerful instructional tool is the example we set every day—we embody the kind of learner and artist we hope our students will become. This means we must bring our own intrinsic motivation, growth mindset, relentless curiosity in experimentation, creativity, joy in process, and delight in discovery to every lesson, along with our artistic and pedagogical skills.

### ***Guide and Advisor***

Empathy and supportiveness are the heart of teaching and learning at Settlement. We meet our students enthusiastically where their current abilities are, and tap existing assets and interests to foster personal growth. We nurture them as emerging artists and help find pathways for them. We advise them about learning with other teachers and other programs. We are selfless in service of igniting our students' self-motivated path.

## **Settlement Faculty focuses on social engagement through the arts as a way to create engaged, motivated students.**

### ***Engaging the Whole Student***

We place a high priority on the personal relevance of what we teach, tapping students' interests and abilities. There are so many commercial offerings available that are pushed toward learners; we must help our students learn how to make good choices in the kinds of learning and musical exploration they do online and through other technology.

### ***Beyond the Lesson***

We understand that what happens on the days that our students do not come to Settlement determines the learner's success, and so we take responsibility for finding every way we can to enrich the quality of practice, the effective support of the family, the wider exploration of the art, and the use of technological resources. Helping students to make effective use of technological tools can add significant power to live instruction.

### ***Social Connections***

Recognizing that learning in the arts is strengthened when we engage with others, we seek every opportunity we can to bring our students together as artists in all the ways we can.

## **Settlement Faculty is deeply committed to the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion.**

### ***Diversity, Equity and Inclusion***

Settlement is for everyone—our history is rooted in our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and the effectiveness of the arts to empower *all* lives. Diversity enriches all of us, and our commitment to equity of opportunity and inclusion extends beyond our pedagogical practices into the financial, developmental, cultural and ability realms that affect our entire community.