

NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM

MEDIA ADVISORY

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MUSEUM PHOTOS
www.bit.ly/NYTMPHOTOS

ACCESS FOR ALL: DESIGNING PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM

May 1st, 2017 from 8:30am – 5:30pm at the New York Transit Museum in Downtown Brooklyn

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 1 in every 68 children is identified as having autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Every community in New York City is home to individuals with ASD, and yet there is a dearth of specialized, strengths-based programs offered by community institutions. After nearly 10 years of developing and refining award-winning out-of-school programs for people with autism, the [New York Transit Museum](#) is in a unique position to offer some of the tools and resources needed to create meaningful and tailored experiences for people on the autism spectrum at Museums, libraries, community centers, religious, cultural, and recreational organizations.

On **May 1st, 2017**, the Transit Museum will host a forum to help others explore how to design positive and impactful programs for people living with ASD. Featured panelists will include scientists, psychiatrists and therapists, parents, educators, and advocates and topics will range from the science of ASD, the types of strategies that professionals employ to work with people living with ASD, examples of successful programs and how they were developed (including low-cost programs and resources), and the importance of a strengths-based approach to programming.

RSVP: Media interested in covering the event must RSVP by sending an e-mail to chelsea.newburg@nyct.com **between Monday, April 24th and Friday, April 28th, at 5:00PM EST.**

Sessions include:

Keynote Speaker: Amy Gravino

Amy Gravino, M.A., is a Certified Autism Specialist, self-advocate, and the president of A.S.C.O.T. Coaching. She is an autism consultant, mentor, and college coach for individuals on the autism spectrum. Amy is also a professional national speaker who has given two TED talks, spoken at the United Nations, and presented to numerous audiences on a variety of topics related to autism.

The Latest In Scientific & Academic Work On Autism

In this session, scientists, psychologists, and academics will come together to discuss autism from the perspective of their work and also illuminate current scientific research, including Autism Speaks' genome project and the latest in technology communication. Presenters include

professor and psychologist Michelle Gorenstein-Holtzman, PsyD, Autism Speaks' Head of Genomic Discovery Mathew Pletcher, Ph. D. and professor Meryl Alper, Ph.D.

A Strengths-Based Approach For Developing Programs

How can special interests make students with autism more engaged with the world around them? How can programs use individuals' interests to create positive environments? Experts in the field will give advice on tools and techniques that can be used to better engage and accommodate people with autism using a strengths-based approach. Presenters include Susan Brennan, CCC-SLP, autism specialist; Amy Gravino, autism specialist; Lauren Hough, MSED, NYU Steinhardt Associate Professor; Kristie Patten Koenig, PhD, OT/L, FAOTA; and Play Therapist, Amy Weber, LCSW.

Words From A Parent: Beth Rosenberg

Beth Rosenberg is an educator with over 20 years of experience teaching students and educators. She founded Tech Kids Unlimited in 2009 after realizing that her son, who learns differently, loved technology but wasn't exposed to it during the school day. She is on the faculty at NYU-Tandon School of Engineering in the Department of Technology, Culture, & Society. She consults on special needs and education programs at cultural and community organizations, and she is a tireless advocate for access programs.

Programs In Action

What do successful programs for people with autism look like? Join representatives from the New York Transit Museum, Lincoln Center, MoMA, and the FAR Fund to learn more about current programming trends and how you can bring them back to your organization.

Access for All: Designing Programs for Individuals with Autism is generously sponsored by the Meringoff Family Foundation.

ABOUT NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM:

The [New York Transit Museum](http://www.nytransitmuseum.org) is the largest museum in the United States devoted to urban public transportation history and one of the premier institutions of its kind in the world. The Museum explores the development of the greater New York metropolitan region through the presentation of exhibitions, tours, educational programs and workshops dealing with the cultural, social and technological history of public transportation. Since its inception forty years ago, the Museum – which is housed in a historic 1936 IND subway station in Downtown Brooklyn – has grown in scope and popularity. As custodian and interpreter of the region's extensive public transportation networks, the Museum strives to share through its public programs this rich and vibrant history with local, regional, and international audiences.

What: Access for All: Designing Programs for Individuals with Autism

When: Monday, May 1st, 2017 from 8:30am – 5:30pm

Where: New York Transit Museum
Corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street
Downtown Brooklyn

Info: www.nytransitmuseum.org/symposium

Media Contact: Chelsea.Newburg@nyct.com or 718-694-4915