

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Elisa Cose attended La Escuelita from 2004-2007. She continues to use Spanish frequently with her extended family and Spanish speaking friends. Her facility with language has allowed her to teach herself French and elementary Chinese. Elisa is working toward a bachelor's degree in Fashion Business Management at Fashion Institute of Technology, and is interning at a direct-to-consumer shoe company. Elisa made a big decision to be more true to her interests when she transitioned from George Washington University to FIT; she says, "It helped me realize that it's okay to change course when you're pursuing what you're truly passionate about. At FIT, I've learned to lean into my ambition, and now I have hopes of creating my own brand." In her spare time she enjoys fashion styling, graphic design, drawing, reading, fitness, and cooking - these hobbies help her maintain a healthy work-life balance and keep her creativity flowing." Brava Elisa!



Alumnus Profile

If you have a story to share or want to get in touch with other alums, please contact alumni@laescuelitanyc.org



From The Classroom

Last year every classroom participated in the One Tree Planted Earth Day contest by creating a project from recycled materials. Roja built a beautiful planter made out of 2 liter beverage bottles which you can see hanging in the Family Lounge (pictured above), Azul used repurposed toilet paper rolls to make binoculars, Verde designed insects, Amarilla created maracas, and the administrators designed various stylish hats. After a school-wide vote, Clase Anaranjada emerged as the winner with their Arco Iris Marte Rover space shuttle. 20 new trees were planted in Mexico in honor of their creativity.

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Teacher Profile

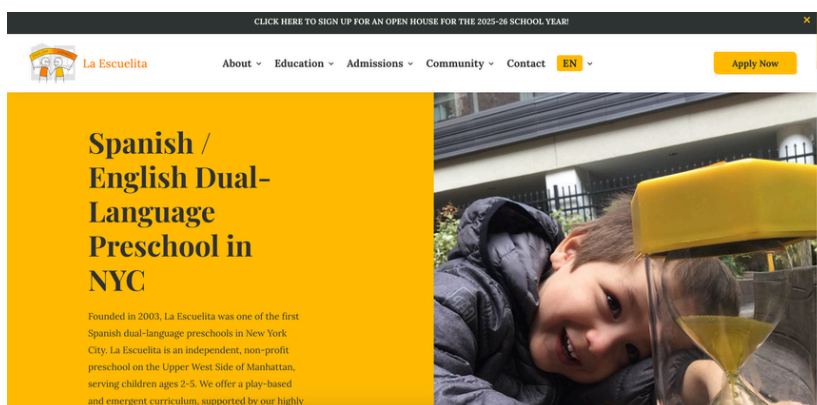
Berenice enjoys teaching every day at La Escuelita...and that is a lot of days, considering she is beginning her 19th school year with us! The fifth of nine children, Berenice recalls fondly the first years of her childhood on a coffee plantation in Colombia, which provided continual opportunities for play and exploration in nature with her brothers and sisters. The plantation had horses, cows, fruits and vegetables. One of her favorite memories was getting fresh water from bamboo. Her family even had a tank in which to collect it.

Berenice adores teaching preschool aged children because it allows her to help plant the seeds for the adults they will become. She also remains constantly amazed by what children have to teach adults as well.

Berenice came to the US in her early 20's and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts from City College. Studying in English was difficult, but it helped build her fluency. Berenice's passion outside of La Escuelita is spending time with her two grandsons; one started Kindergarten this year and the other started Pre-K. They live nearby and Berenice cherishes being able to see them as often as she does.

Berenice loves and respects the United States and is grateful for all of the opportunities this country has provided her, but she says her soul will always be in her native Colombia.

Our New Website!



If you haven't seen our new website, check it out! Thank you to former board member Lindsay Kaden for spearheading this initiative.

From Kelley's Desk

During the pandemic, our enrollment decreased from 86 students to 43 students as families left New York City. This had a domino effect on enrollment in the 2s class which is typically filled in part or whole with siblings. Our enrollment is recovering well and look at how the sibling enrollment is recovering! Thank you to all of our donors who helped us through the difficult pandemic years and continue to support us as we both stabilize and thrive.

- 2022-2023: 1 sibling in the 2s
- 2023-2024: 1 sibling in the 2s
- 2024-2025: 6 siblings in the 2s
- 2025-2026 (anticipated): 14 siblings in the 2s!



A Record Year for the 23-24 Annual Fund

- Total dollars: \$109K
- Participation: 72% of current families and 100% of board members
- These contributions support tuition reduction and special programs like yoga and music

You can contribute to the 24-25 Annual Fund [here](#) or via our website.





Our Home at St. Michael's

Our gym offers our children a safe and spacious place to develop their gross motor skills. But it can get noisy when there are many children inside. Professional acoustic management can be pricey. Former board member Abhishek Mistry accepted the challenge and found these sound absorbing panels in yellow and orange. He not only installed them in August for us, but configured them in an eye-catching design on all four walls in the gym. Between Amazon and Abhishek's DIY, the final price tag was less than \$150! They've not only made the gym a more accessible place for children who are sensitive to loud noise, but they've improved the decor as well! Parents at our first open house this season expressed admiration at the functional "artwork" on the walls.

What a wonderful start we've had to our 2024-2025 School Year! We remain grateful to each and every one of you who comprise our special community.