

NEW

**GED Preparation:
Your Path to a
Brighter Future!**

Mondays –Thursdays

In - Person

P1: 6:30pm - 7:15pm

P2: 7:25pm - 8:10pm

Instructor: TBD

For the first time in Creative Exchange history, we are proud to offer GED preparation in partnership with **CUNY's Adult Literacy Program at the College of Staten Island!**

Ready to take the next step toward your educational and career goals? We are offering adults who qualify for Creative Exchange dedicated, modified instruction 4 evenings a week in a caring college environment.

Students will build their skills and confidence while preparing for the New York State High School Equivalency Test, commonly known as the GED.

Regular attendance each night, as well as pre-testing to determine each student's test readiness is required.

Students will learn about career exploration and receive dedicated case management support accessing the GED test and accommodations, if applicable

Your journey starts here! Learn. Prepare. Build Confidence. Reach your goals.

This is more than a course. It is an opportunity to take an important step toward your High School Equivalency Diploma and a brighter future!

Chance 2 Dance Pt. 1

**Mondays – In Person
& Virtual**
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Instructor: Jackie Castore

Everyone deserves a chance to dance!

Get ready to move, groove, laugh, and have fun! Chance 2 Dance is an upbeat and inclusive dance class where students can warm up, learn fun moves, and discover the joy of dancing. We'll begin with gentle stretching and exciting movement games before learning simple dance steps and combinations that help build strength, balance, flexibility, coordination, and confidence.

Whether you dance standing, sitting, or somewhere in between, every student can participate in a way that feels comfortable and works for them. There's no wrong way to move, just bring your energy, your smile, and your own unique style! **Come dance your way!**

Chance 2 Dance Pt. 2

**Mondays – In Person
& Virtual**
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor: Jackie Castore

The music is on, the energy is up, and it's time to dance!

Keep the fun going in Chance 2 Dance Part 2, where students will build on their dance skills while developing confidence, rhythm, coordination, self-expression, and teamwork. Learn fun and engaging group routines with choreography that can be adapted to each student's abilities and movement style. Whether you're dancing on your feet or from a chair, there's a place for you on the dance floor!

And the best part? You'll have a chance to show off your moves! At the end of the semester, students can celebrate their hard work with a fun group performance during Creative Exchange Showcase Week in May. And in June, you can participate in Chance 2 Dance's annual dance performance! **Your chance to shine is here!**

NEW

**Culture Class:
Short Stories from
the Americas**

Mondays – Virtual
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Instructor:
Christine Justiniano

Do you live in another NYC borough? No problem! Explore culture and places in these virtual classes!

Explore the amazing cultures of North, Central, and South America through fun and engaging short stories. Each week, students will discover new places, characters, traditions, celebrations, food, music, and customs through stories, videos, art, games, and lively group conversations.

Students will have opportunities to share their ideas, learn new vocabulary, practice communication skills, and express their creativity while discovering what makes each culture unique. No passport needed; your adventure begins right from your computer! **Come explore the Americas one story at a time!**

NEW

**The Americas
Geography Class**

Mondays – Virtual
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor:
Christine Justiniano

Ready for a virtual adventure across the Americas?

Grab your imaginary passport and explore North, Central, and South America! Discover fascinating countries, colorful flags, amazing landmarks, interesting animals, delicious foods, unique traditions, and incredible places through maps, pictures, videos, games, and interactive activities.

Students will learn about capitals, geography, weather, cultures, and famous places while developing map-reading skills, curiosity, and appreciation for the diverse world around us. From the mountains to the beaches, from bustling cities to amazing natural wonders; there's always somewhere new to explore! **Your virtual journey across the Americas starts here!**

NEW

**Art Studio:
Explore, Create,
& Express Yourself**

Mondays – *In Person*

P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor: TBD

Your creativity belongs on campus!

Step into the **Art Studio at the College of Staten Island** and discover your inner artist! This hands-on course invites students to experiment, create, and express themselves through drawing, painting, collage, mixed media, and exciting creative projects.

Each class is an opportunity to try something new, learn artistic techniques, make creative choices, and turn your imagination into an original work of art. Explore color, texture, design, and self-expression while building confidence, developing your artistic skills, and connecting with fellow artists in a supportive college environment.

Your Art. Your Voice. Your Showcase!

Your creativity deserves to be celebrated! In **May**, students will participate in a special **Student Art Showcase**, celebrating their artistic accomplishments and the incredible work created throughout the year.

Then, in **June**, Creative Exchange will collaborate with **AusomeTech** for a special Student Art Showcase Opening Reception. Student artwork will be displayed on the College of Staten Island campus, giving CSI faculty and staff, friends, and family the opportunity to experience and celebrate the talents of our student artists. No previous art experience is necessary, just bring your creativity and imagination!

Come make art. Come share your vision. Come be a CSI college artist!

NEW

**Center Stage: Explore
the Magic of Theatre**

**Tuesdays – *In Person
& Virtual***
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15 pm

Instructor: TBD

Lights, Cameras, Imagination!

Step into the spotlight and discover the magic of theatre! Explore famous plays and musicals, unforgettable characters, costumes, props, and the behind-the-scenes world that brings productions to life.

Through theatre games, storytelling, movement, and hands-on acting, students will build confidence, communication, teamwork, and social skills while discovering how to bring characters and stories to the stage. Whether you love acting or working behind the scenes, there's a place for you at Center Stage!

NEW

**Stage Presence:
Drama & Performance**

**Tuesdays – *In Person
& Virtual***
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor: TBD

Lights up - The Stage is Yours!

Step into character, improvise, move, laugh, and bring stories to life through fun acting games, creative challenges, and scene work while building confidence, communication, creativity, and teamwork. **Then take your final bow!**

At the end of the semester, students will have the opportunity to **take the spotlight and showcase their talents in a special performance for family and friends!**

NEW

**Music Through History
Part 1: Exploring the
Sounds of the Past**

Tuesdays – *In Person
& Virtual*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15 pm

Instructor: Evan Fersko

Turn up the music and travel through time!

Discover how music has shaped cultures, celebrated traditions, told stories, and brought people together throughout history. Travel to different times, eras, and places while exploring exciting sounds, instruments, artists, and musical traditions from around the world.

Enjoy music, games, crafts, movement activities, and lively discussions while building listening, communication, social, and cultural awareness skills. **Come travel through history; one song at a time!**

NEW

**Music Through History
Part 2: Music in Action**

Tuesdays – *In Person
& Virtual*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor: Evan Fersko

The music is on, and YOU are part of the show!

Bring music history to life through singing, rhythm, movement, and performance! Travel through different musical eras while enjoying favorite songs, simple dances, music trivia, “Name That Tune,” rhythm games, karaoke-style sing-alongs, and group performances.

Whether you love to sing, dance, keep a beat, or simply enjoy music, there’s a place for you! Build confidence, creativity, communication, teamwork, and self-expression while discovering how music brings people together. **Come make music and make memories!**

Everyday Writing for Future Authors

Tuesdays – *In Person*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Instructor: Lenore Marchese

Your words have power; let's put them to work!

Get ready to unlock the power of your words in this exciting class where you will build practical reading and writing skills to use every day:

- Sentence Building: Create clear, complete sentences with everyday words
- Real-World Reading: Practice understanding notes & messages you see daily
- Creative Communication: Share your ideas, stories, & information

Throughout the year, you and your classmates will work on a special group project, and you'll get to show your hard work during Showcase Week in May! Get ready to express yourself and share your unique voice with the world. We can't wait to see you there!

Poetry for a Purpose: Spreading Joy & Kindness

Tuesdays – *In Person*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor: Lenore Marchese

"Poetry is the voice of the soul reaching out to others."

In this meaningful and community building class, you'll explore how poetry can bring joy, hope, and kindness to others. Students will learn to write different kinds of poems, like haikus, couplets, nursery rhymes, and inspirational poetry, while building reading, writing, and rhyming skills. The class will use their poems to create beautiful, handmade cards for people who need a smile.

Together, we'll design and write: Seasonal holiday cards, "Thinking of You" cards and "Get Well Soon" cards and donate them to members in our community like seniors and others in hospitals.

Join us and become a kindness creator, one poem, one card, one smile at a time!

NEW

**¡Hola, Español!
Practice Spanish**

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Virtual
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor: Christine Justiniano

Do you live in another NYC borough? No problem! Learn & practice Spanish virtually!

Get ready to learn, laugh, and speak Spanish! Discover the fun of learning a new language in this engaging and interactive class. You'll learn useful words and phrases you can use in everyday life, from greeting others and introducing yourself to ordering food, shopping, telling time, and asking questions.

As your Spanish skills grow, you'll practice talking about your daily routine, favorite foods and activities, family, interests, and the world around you. Through fun activities, conversation practice, and hands-on learning, you'll build confidence while discovering a new language and culture.

No previous Spanish experience is necessary. Come ready to learn, participate, and have fun!

¡Habla! ¡Aprende! ¡Conecta!

By the end of the course, you'll feel more confident using Spanish to communicate, connect with others, and express yourself. And in May, you'll have the opportunity to show off your new Spanish skills during Showcase Week!

¡Vamos a Aprender! (Let's go learn!)

Cinema, Culture & You

**Wednesdays – In
Person**

P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Instructor: Mitchell Lovell

Get ready to see movies, television, and animation in a whole new light!

In this class, dive into the magic of cinema. You'll learn how filmmakers use everything from music, camera angles, and special effects to tell powerful stories that make us feel a range of emotions. You'll get to share and hear from others as we explore how the stories make us feel, what these stories remind us of, and what messages these stories say about culture and the world.

Learn fun cinema vocabulary, share your opinions, and join lively conversations about the movies and shows you love and what makes each piece of film special. **Let's watch, learn, and explore life together through the Magic of Cinema!**

NEW

Writers' Room: Create Your Own TV Show

**Wednesdays – In
Person**

P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor: Mitchel Lovell

Lights. Camera. YOU'RE The Writer!

Ever dreamed of creating your own TV show? Now is your chance! Step into the Writers' Room and work with your classmates to create an original television series from the ground up. Dream up unforgettable characters, create their stories, invent hilarious catchphrases, write exciting scenes, and decide what happens next in each episode.

Then take your ideas from the page to the stage! Students will hold auditions, act out scenes, and bring their original characters to life. The excitement builds toward Showcase Week in May, when your team will present scenes from your very own TV show and celebrate the stories you created together! **You bring the ideas; we'll bring them to life!**

NEW

Mind Matters: Games & Challenges

Wednesdays – *In Person*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Instructor: Hosam Shaarawy

Ready to play, laugh, compete, and put your brain to the test?

Get ready for a fun-filled hour of games, challenges, and friendly competition! Test your knowledge with trivia, sharpen your memory, tackle word games, play bingo, solve brain teasers, and compete in exciting team challenges.

Every activity is designed to get you thinking, communicating, working together, and having fun. Build focus, memory, problem-solving, creativity, and confidence while connecting with classmates and celebrating every win; big or small! **Bring your game face and your next challenge is waiting!**

NEW

Clues, Challenges & Creative Thinking

Wednesdays – *In-Person*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor: Hosam Shaarawy

Calling all detectives, mystery lovers, and curious minds!

A mystery is waiting to be solved, and we need you on the case! Each week, become a detective as you follow clues, crack codes, solve puzzles, uncover secrets, and tackle new mysteries. Work with your team to investigate clues, piece together information, and figure out what happened.

With every new case, you'll sharpen your observation, memory, communication, problem-solving, decision-making, and creative-thinking skills while having a great time with your classmates. No detective experience needed. Just bring your curiosity, teamwork, and detective instincts! **Can you crack the case? Join us and find out!**

NEW

Adult Living Skills

Virtual Instructor:
Jaimee Wieber
or
In Person Instructor:
TBD

Thursdays – *Virtual*
or
Thursdays – *In Person*

P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Do you live in another NYC borough? No problem! You can take this class virtually or in person!

Adult Living Skills is a dynamic, hands-on course designed to help students build the skills and confidence needed to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in their communities. Students will discover their unique strengths, explore their interests, develop practical strategies for greater independence, and pursue their personal goals.

Through interactive activities, discussions, and real-life experiences, students will explore topics related to wellness, self-discovery, and personal growth. Lessons focus on building self-awareness, developing healthy habits, strengthening communication skills, and learning to advocate for themselves with confidence.

The course also emphasizes essential life and workplace skills, helping students navigate everyday responsibilities, participating actively in their communities, and preparing for future employment opportunities.

Learning is student-centered, engaging and meaningful, encouraging collaboration, problem-solving, critical thinking, and real-world application. Every activity is designed to support students in building independence, making informed choices, and creating a fulfilling and successful future.

Note: *Students are encouraged to register for either the virtual or the in-person course. Both courses will cover the same material.*

NEW

Earth and Beyond!

Instructor: Evan Fersko

**Thursdays – *In Person*
& *Virtual***

P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

3...2...1...BLAST OFF!

Get ready for an out-of-this-world adventure! Explore the sun, moon, planets, stars, and amazing mysteries of space, then journey back to Earth to discover volcanoes, mountains, oceans, rocks, animals, and fascinating habitats.

Through hands-on activities, videos, creative projects, and games, students will investigate how our world works and discover the incredible planet we call home. And the adventure doesn't stop in the classroom! Students will have opportunities to share their discoveries and creations during Showcase Week in May. **Your adventure starts here, let's explore Earth and beyond!**

NEW

Create-A-Toons: From Classic Comics to Your Own Cartoons

Instructor: Evan Fersko

**Thursdays – *In-Person*
& *Virtual***

P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Bring your imagination to life in this creative cartoon adventure!

Students will explore the history of classic comics, cartoons, and comedy while discovering how artists use characters, drawings, and humor to tell stories. Through hands-on activities, students will create their own cartoon characters, comic ideas, and original creations while building creativity, communication, confidence, and self-expression.

Students will have the opportunity to showcase their artwork and creations during Showcase Week in May! **Grab your pencil, unleash your imagination, and become a cartoon creator!**

Instructor and Paraprofessional Bios

Jacquelyn Castore is a proud native of Staten Island and is the Director of Programs and Expansion at Chance 2 Dance, Inc., where she leads inclusive dance initiatives that empower individuals of all abilities. She has over five years of experience as a special educator and professional dancer, including performing with the Orlando Magic NBA team. Jacquelyn brings passion, creativity, and leadership to every project. She has helped grow Chance 2 Dance from Florida to New York, building community partnerships and adaptive dance programs across the five boroughs. Jacquelyn also serves as Head Coach at Moore Catholic High School and holds a degree in Exceptional Student Education from FAU. Her work continues to inspire joy, confidence, and inclusion through dance, music, and the arts.

Evan Fersko is a dedicated administrative professional serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1993 in various roles with OPWDD's Staten Island Developmental Disability Service Office. He has a bachelor's degree in human services. He started as an Instructor in Creative Exchange in 2011.

Jasmine Ferrer holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in Sociology and Anthropology. For the past four years at On Your Mark, she has supported individuals with developmental disabilities in building independence, daily living skills, and emotional growth. Her experience has deepened her commitment to advocacy, mental health awareness, and youth development as she works toward becoming a counselor. Outside of work, Jasmine enjoys podcasting and storytelling centered on personal growth, identity, and relationships.

Johnathan Hannam is a dedicated Paraprofessional serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Creative Exchange since 2023. As a former student of AusomeTech, Jonathan was eventually recruited to work for the organization in 2018. In his professional capacity, he travels with CEO, Darlene Bowman, to present AusomeTech's work at national conferences, and to visit universities like MIT to learn more about their cutting-edge coding technology designed to be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

Christine Justiniano is a Puerto Rican educator with over 11 years of experience teaching Spanish and currently serves as a Spanish teacher at Valley Stream High School. She holds a B.A. in Adolescence Education (Spanish 7–12) from SUNY Cortland and an M.S. in Education (TESOL) from SUNY New Paltz and is professionally certified in New York State in both Spanish (7–12) and ESOL. Having strengthened her own Spanish later in life, Christine creates a

supportive, engaging classroom environment. Outside the classroom, she enjoys dancing salsa and bachata and spending time with friends and family.

Mitchell Lovell joined Creative Exchange in Spring 2025 and has been a College Lab Technician in CSI's Department of Media Culture since 2015. He leads workshops in video and film production and co-instructs the Filmmaking in Paris study abroad program every other summer. Mitchell also directs the CSI Student Film Festival and serves on RELAY, the College's anti-bias response team. He holds a degree in Cinema Studies from the College of Staten Island/CUNY and is committed to creating spaces where students can thrive and tell their stories.

Lenore Marchese has been an instructor with the Creative Exchange program for 16 years, guiding students in exploring their creative potential as poets and writers. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in education from CSI. In 2020, she became a children's book author with *The Grumpy, Grumpy Grandpa* series, and in 2022, she guided her students to create the program's first children's book: *Once Upon a Time in Staten Island*. Her students continue to write and perform their own couplets at end-of-year celebrations.

Hosam Shaarawy holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and serves as Director of Community Support Services at Person Centered Care Services (PCCS), bringing over a decade of experience supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). He has demonstrated strong leadership, program development, and compliance expertise, with a focus on person-centered services that promote independence and dignity. Hosam is committed to creating supportive environments that empower individuals, strengthen families, and uphold the highest standards of care.

Jaimee Wieber is a disability rights advocate and Outreach and Engagement Coordinator at Person Centered Care Services (PCCS) on Staten Island. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work, Summa Cum Laude, with a minor in Disability Studies from CSI in 2025. With over seven years of experience in direct support and supervision, she has developed inclusive programs that promote independence and personal growth for individuals with developmental disabilities. Jaimee is committed to advancing disability rights through education, outreach, and systemic change.