

# La MaMa

Experimental Theatre Club

presents

## ArtsLink Assembly 2025: Defending Each Other



ARTSLINK  
ASSEMBLY  
2025

**DEFENDING  
EACH  
OTHER**

Ellen Stewart Theatre  
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003  
November 6-7, 2025

# ArtsLink Assembly 2025: Defending Each Other

**Building Collective Support for Artists in the U.S. Amid  
Persecution, Crisis, and Conflict**

**“In a full-scale war, getting united, working together – it’s an  
existential question for us.”**

**Natalia Matsenko – Ukrainian Curator**

**ArtsLink Assembly in Ukraine**

Curated and produced by CEC ArtsLink (NYC) and Artistic  
Freedom Initiative (NYC) in partnership with Artists at Risk  
Connection (NYC) and On the Move (Belgium/France)

Supported by Trust for Mutual Understanding



ArtsLink Assembly 2025 convenes key organizations across the  
U.S. dedicated to resettling and supporting artists at risk, to  
build solutions for policy and practices across U.S. cultural and  
political sectors.

CEC ArtsLink (NYC) – supports transnational cultural dialogue  
and exchange, empowering artists to engage communities and  
peers in dialogue and collaborations.

Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI) (NYC) – has assisted over  
1,660 artists from 60 countries, offering legal aid, residencies,  
and produced major events at the Kennedy Center and Lincoln  
Center.

ArtsLink Assembly 2025 is a national gathering focused on supporting artists at risk—those directly impacted by war, political persecution, or climate crisis. This two-day event brings together U.S.-based organizations that assist with artist resettlement, resettled artists, cities of asylum, cultural institutions, funders, scholars, and arts networks.

Organized by CEC ArtsLink and Artistic Freedom Initiative in collaboration with Artists at Risk Connection and On the Move, the Assembly features:

Artist talks and personal stories

Expert panels and policy discussions

Working groups on strengthening support systems for Artists

A live concert by resettled musicians

A Central Asian DJ set celebrating cultural resilience

The event will also launch new research commissioned by CEC ArtsLink and On the Move, focusing on the lived experiences of displaced artists and offering actionable strategies for strengthening support systems in the U.S. cultural sector.

As global crises displace more artists than ever, U.S. cities and nonprofit organizations are stepping up to provide refuge and possibility. ArtsLink Assembly 2025 is a crucial platform for advancing collaboration, shaping policy, and ensuring that resettled artists and their peers in the U.S. can build their professional lives and contribute meaningfully to the nation's cultural diversity.

Join us in New York to build a more inclusive, resilient, and artist-centered future.

ARTISTIC  
FREEDOM  
INITIATIVE



**IN PERSON | LIVESTREAM**

Mehrnam Rastegari & Chogan | Sabina Fattakh:  
Double Bill

Featuring

Mehrnam Rastegari – kamancheh, voice

Amit Peled – guitar

Sam Minaie – double bass

Cinque “Ignabu” Kemp – percussion

Sabina Fattakh – DJ

Experience a powerful convergence of global sounds featuring award winning master kamancheh player Mehrnam Rastegari and her virtuoso band Chogan. Hosted by Artistic Freedom Initiative, this special closing concert for the ArtsLink Assembly 2025: Defending Each Other moves through Iranian classical, Middle Eastern folk, Klezmer, and New York jazz traditions, creating a dynamic sonic celebration of cultural survival and creative momentum.

After the intermission Sabina Fattakh, DJ, educator, and cultural organizer from Almaty, Kazakhstan. Her special set will explore the intersections of breakbeat, local instruments, and collective memory, creating dance spaces rooted in resilience and connection.

**A full program with information on this  
production can be found on the**

*ArtsLink Assembly 2025:  
Defending Each Other*

**In addition you can scan the  
QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for  
access to detailed information on this program.**

# LA MAMA



## RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



*Rendering: 74 East 4th St.*

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street underwent an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit [www.lamama.org/remakeaworld](http://www.lamama.org/remakeaworld)

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We thank our supporters who are indispensable to La MaMa as we continue to expand and strengthen our artistic community. You help make space for artists to create and share new stories, present diverse perspectives, and keep us all connected in our 64th Season!

## 64th Season Sponsors (7/1/25 - 6/30/26)

Bloomberg Philanthropies, Doris Duke Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Radio Drama Network, and The Shubert Foundation



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## NOW PLAYING

**Ready For Company and Other  
Family Tales**  
Nov 6-23, 2025  
The Downstairs Theatre

**ArtsLink Assembly 2025:  
Defending Each Other**  
Nov 6-7, 2025  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

**The Reflections of Native Voices  
Festival: The Feast of Ghosts**  
Nov 6-8, 2025  
The Club

**Jump Start - Shared Evening**  
Nov 13-16, 2025  
The Club & Community Arts Space

**The Divine Comedy**  
Nov 20-22, 2025  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

## COMING SOON

**Osni the Flare**  
Nov 20-23, 2025  
The Downstairs Theatre

**La MaMa Kids:  
You Have Arrived**  
Nov 22-23, 2025  
Community Arts Space

**Silent Green**  
Dec 4-7, 2025  
Community Arts Space

**Protest Song**  
Dec 4-21, 2025  
The Club

**From the Other Side  
Reimagining Theatre From  
The Balkans, Edition 1.0**  
Dec 4-14, 2025  
Ellen Stewart Theatre