



# **BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE**

**A capital campaign to fund  
The IDEAL School of Manhattan's  
move to 5 Hanover Square**



## **Mission Statement**

The IDEAL School of Manhattan is an inclusion school dedicated to creating a diverse community that affirms and accepts the full identities of all people, while inspiring academic excellence, creative leadership, and a desire to build a more just and equitable world.



### **Our Story**

In 2005, three families were looking for an elementary school in New York City for their young children. Like many parents, they sought a school that provided a strong academic foundation in a nurturing, supportive environment, that recognized their children's many strengths while helping them to overcome any challenges, that developed their sense of character, community, and social responsibility, and that fostered empathy and emotional intelligence. These families believed that their children would flourish with the small class sizes, individualized attention, and commitment to the arts that are the hallmarks of independent schools.

Although their sons and daughters were quite different from one another, they shared one characteristic in common—each child had Down syndrome. These families were thus looking for an independent school that offered differentiated instruction, would cele-

brate each child's unique identity, and would welcome their children into the community. Unable to find such a school, they were inspired to start one.

Thus, the idea for a truly diverse and inclusive independent school with differentiated and individualized instruction to meet the needs and support the identities of all types of learners emerged. The founding families partnered with educators committed to creating a school that teaches and reaches children of all backgrounds, socioeconomic levels, races, genders, cultures, sexual orientations, and religions, as well as a broad range of learning styles, readiness levels, and abilities. The IDEAL School of Manhattan is built on this philosophy of inclusion and is committed to extending the definition of diversity in education to include all learners. The school's core principles and the foundation of its mission are built into its name and acronym: Inclusion, Diversity, Excellence, Acceptance, and Leadership.

## The IDEAL of Today

IDEAL's founders had a vision for a school as diverse and dynamic as New York City itself, and their shared vision has become a reality. The IDEAL School of Manhattan opened its doors in 2006 with 20 students in kindergarten to second grade. In the years since, IDEAL has grown from an elementary school to a K-12+ program of approximately 200 students, including IDEAL's Next Steps Transition Program for students aged 18-21. IDEAL's K-12 program is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools, and our High School is registered with the Board of Regents of the State of New York.



A parent connection brought Charles Imohiosen and Robert Masters of the Andrew Goodman Foundation to IDEAL's Civil Rights Community Day in May 2022.

Today, IDEAL continues to live its mission in new ways, expanding on our message of inclusion and work in social justice. IDEAL's annual Civil Rights Museum features student research projects that they present at our Civil Rights Community Day, where noted speakers in the field of social justice visit with students, staff, and families to share their work. Last year's event



A parent donation made it possible for IDEAL students to visit the Muhammad Ali Center.

featured renowned disability rights activist Judith Heumann and Charles Imohiosen as well as Robert Masters of the Andrew Goodman Foundation.

For the second year, the American Sign Language initiative in Lower School brings students in kindergarten and Grade 1 together on a weekly basis with High School students to practice their ASL skills through projects and conversation. Lower School Extended Day programming includes a partnership with Special Olympics, a developmental dance class, and a pottery class with our Upper School art teacher.

Along with building a strong academic foundation at all levels, IDEAL's Middle School program fosters positive relationships and social-emotional learning through its advisory program and leadership opportunities. Middle School students plan and facilitate their own clubs, help to lead Friday assemblies, and build confidence composing and delivering IDEAL Talks. End-of-day advisory periods have a different focus each day of the week, from Mindful Mondays and Tolerance Tuesdays to Free Expression Fridays.

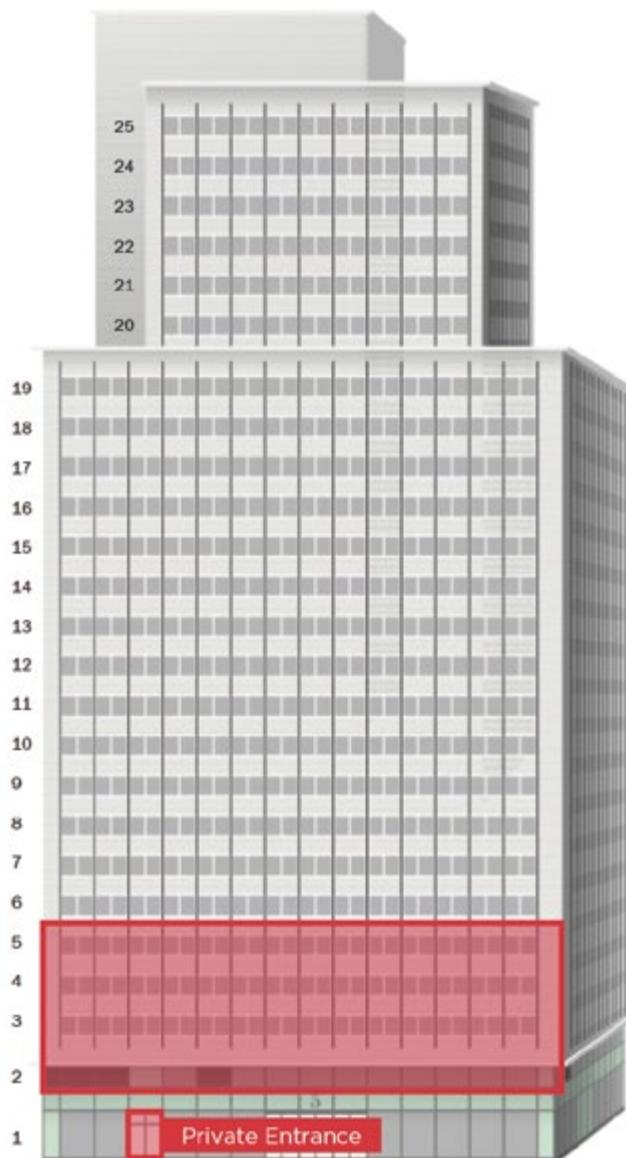
IDEAL High School students traveled to the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, KY, in the spring of 2022, and this year's senior class will take their Civil Rights Journey to Atlanta, GA, in November. High School students engage in a weekly Life Skills block, where they explore topics such as Boundaries, Self Advocacy, and Mental Health in a collaborative and hands-on way. Senior electives focus on career exploration in fields where students have an interest and engage them in multiple career shadow days over the course of the year. Every Friday, the seniors participate in a differentiated financial literacy course.

Our Next Steps Transition Program now hosts an annual speaker series for families of adults with disabilities, which is free and open to the public. In 2021, Next Steps introduced a partnership with the Bridge Program at the College of Mount Saint Vincent to allow IDEAL students to experience life on a college campus. Next Steps students travel weekly to Empowered Sports & Fitness, an adaptive gym where they learn to develop and implement independent fitness plans.

### **Building for Our Future**

For many years, IDEAL's founders and trustees have been searching for a space to unify our growing community in one building. In 2020, the Board of Trustees officially formed a Real Estate Committee to search for a location that unites all divisions and reflects IDEAL's core values and mission. After an exhaustive search in locations throughout Manhattan, the committee signed a 33-year lease for IDEAL's new home at 5 Hanover Square. The work of building our future has begun!

IDEAL at 5 Hanover Square will be a 63,000 square-foot, self-contained building-within-a-building occupying floors one through five. Architects Alexander Gorlin and Quincie Williams are working with a design committee including founders, trustees, staff, and



The IDEAL School of Manhattan at 5 Hanover Square will be a building within a building, occupying five stories with a private entrance, staircase, and elevators.



families to build out the space as a model of learning, access, and inclusion. IDEAL's five floors will be connected with a private entrance and elevator. Each floor above the entrance is designated to a division and connected by a central staircase. A significant addition to the footprint of IDEAL's current spaces, 5 Hanover Square will allow IDEAL to open its doors to 275 students in the coming years, expanding our market and reach in New York City.

From the welcoming square and gathering space outside of IDEAL's first floor entrance to the Next Steps Suite modeled as a studio apartment and the double-height gym and multipurpose room on the third floor, IDEAL's new home will join the students and faculty in a whole new way. Other features include a test kitchen, art and music studios, and therapy suites for both the Lower and Upper Schools, a High School science lab, a dance and drama room, and a Learning Center that will allow us to build our library.

THE IDEAL SCHOOL OF MANHATTAN

A welcoming green space (above) outside the IDEAL's front doors will be the waiting and meeting area for families. The Elevated Acre (below) is an open space that classes can use which is just a block from the building.



# Capital Campaign Giving Levels

## Naming Opportunities at 5 Hanover Square

### Capital Campaign

IDEAL is poised to build for the future at 5 Hanover Square. The building is so much more than just a new space. It symbolizes the power of IDEAL's mission and the potential of our future growth. We need your help to bring our vision for IDEAL's future at 5 Hanover Square to life. With your donations, we will be able to achieve our vision for the build-out of the new space; you will leave your mark on IDEAL and allow us to create a learning space and program that expand upon the ways IDEAL fosters a passion for equity and inclusion, creative leadership skills, and a desire to build a more just and equitable world in our students.

Our goal for the capital campaign is \$2 million. You can make a major gift all at once or plan a gift over the course of five years. Please consider funding a naming opportunity. There are various naming opportunities and ways to support IDEAL's move to 5 Hanover Square. Your gift will allow us to shape the future of IDEAL students and the school's message of inclusion for generations to come. We look forward to discussing the ways that your family can have a long-standing impact on the school's new home with you.

Donors who would like to give at one of the specified major giving levels without naming a program will also receive special recognition.

### **\$200,000 Naming Opportunities**

#### **The IDEAL Gym and Multipurpose Room**

Leave an IDEAL legacy for your family. IDEAL's gym will be double-height and a feature of the school.

IDEAL's physical education classes and after-school athletic teams reflect our commitment to inclusion and serve as a model for differentiated physical education programs. A retractable stage in the gym will facilitate play practice and highlight the centrality of the arts to IDEAL's mission. Activities in the third-floor gym will be visible to the community through fourth floor windows, making this space the true core of the school and a visual reflection of how we live our mission.

Opening up to the gym is IDEAL's multipurpose room. The potential to combine the gym and multipurpose room will allow our school to hold essential events in this space. Imagine IDEAL graduates walking across the stage each year. On a daily basis, the multipurpose room will be used for family-style lunch. IDEAL is also developing an early drop-off breakfast program to assist families with a long commute and to provide our High School students with an opportunity to learn valuable life skills and become integrated into the lives of our younger students.

In addition to naming the space at the heart of IDEAL's new 5 Hanover Square home, the donor will have a voice in its design.

#### **Lower School Sensory Gym and OT Suite Upper School Sensory Gym and OT Suite**

Your gift will create a sensory gym and occupational therapy suite for either the Lower School or Upper School. We will work closely with the IDEAL therapy team and architects to design and outfit exceptional sensory and therapy spaces for both divisions.



The gym at 5 Hanover Square will be two stories high, allowing IDEAL to host volleyball and badminton competitions. It will feature glass walls so that the Middle School floor can look in on the activities below. The space will also open into a multipurpose room for assemblies, plays, musical performances, and more.

## **\$100,000 Naming Opportunities**

### **Next Steps Life Skills Suite**

Your donation will help us to design a cutting-edge space where students in IDEAL's Next Steps Transition Program will gain proficiency in the skills of daily living. The space will include a washer/dryer, a culinary lab with kitchen tools, a bed, and a large dining area for Next Steps students to come together and share the meals they have prepared. The Next Steps Life Skills Suite will also include spaces for academics, therapy, and training in job-related skills like technology and communication.

THE IDEAL SCHOOL OF MANHATTAN

### **Learning Center/Library**

The Learning Center and Library is a feature of IDEAL's new building. This double-sized space will hold bookshelves allowing IDEAL's book collection to grow. It will also include modular furniture for collaborative learning; picture a learning specialist working with a small group of students on reading skills or helping them to organize research for a presentation. The Learning Center will also include a soundproof dividing wall so the space can be opened or closed depending on the use. Imagine areas of soft seating for students to read, work on a project with a friend, or listen to a recorded book.



IDEAL scholarships are vital building blocks in creating a student body that follows our mission of inclusion.

### **Lower School Speech and Language Suite Upper School Speech and Language Suite**

Your gift will allow us to work with the IDEAL therapy team and architects to design an exceptional speech and language suite for the Lower or Upper School. IDEAL's speech and language therapists support students in and out of the classroom using a wide variety of creative activities. Both the Lower and Upper School will have a speech and language suite.

### **The IDEAL Scholarship**

The IDEAL Scholarship is a merit-based grant that is awarded to a select number of new applicants to IDEAL's Standard Program in Grades K-8 who demonstrate a unique connection to, passion for, and/or ability to contribute to the school's core values. This merit-based award renews annually until the recipient graduates from Grade 8. If you choose to fund The IDEAL Scholarship, your gift will help more students and families with a connection to IDEAL's core

values afford an IDEAL education.

### **The Open Door Scholarship**

The Open Door Scholarship Fund covers 100% of the school's tuition for a small number of students who are enrolled in the Standard Program at IDEAL and whose families could not otherwise sustain an IDEAL education. The Open Door Scholarship is awarded annually to students in Grades 3-8 who have been enrolled at IDEAL for at least three years, who have demonstrated a unique commitment to or passion for the school's core values, and whose families have demonstrated financial need. By funding this naming opportunity, you are supporting the socioeconomic diversity of the school.

### **Transportation Fund**

As IDEAL prepares to move to 5 Hanover Square, the school remains deeply committed to its students and families who live on the Upper West Side, Wash-

ington Heights, the Bronx, and Harlem. By becoming a named donor of the transportation fund, you will support subsidies for safe and comfortable bus routes that make continued attendance at IDEAL possible for the students who live the furthest away. Your gift may also be allocated to support faculty transportation by allowing the school to offer subsidized parking.

### **Sponsor a Major Space or Program of Your Choice**

With your gift of \$100,000, you may also choose to work with the school to sponsor a major space or program of your choice.

## **\$50,000 Naming Opportunities**

### **Lower School Art Studio**

### **Upper School Art Studio**

The arts are at the heart of IDEAL's mission, and art is essential to our inclusive pedagogy, which fosters confidence, creativity, and respect for all perspectives. IDEAL will have both a Lower and Upper School art studio at 5 Hanover. Both spaces are larger and have east-facing windows to maximize natural light. The Upper School art studio will have glass walls and space for a kiln, easels, sewing machines, and other specialized equipment to support our arts program and electives.

### **Dance and Drama Studio**

Your donation will allow us to outfit one classroom with dense vinyl flooring, a mirrored wall, barres, and other equipment so that this multiple-purpose room can be used for dance and drama classes.

### **Lower School Music Studio**

### **Upper School Music Studio**

Singing and music fill the halls of IDEAL's Lower and Upper Schools. Our inclusive approach to teaching music encourages students at all levels to strengthen their voices, develop their skills, and gain confidence. In Upper School, in addition to singing, students



Work with IDEAL arts teachers to design and fit out the visual art, music, drama, and dance studios and leave your name on the space for generations.



Imagine your name on a state-of-the-art science lab outfitted with the latest equipment.

learn to play guitar, bass, drums, or keyboards, and they perform in bands and in the spring musical. Music performances are a centerpiece of IDEAL's assemblies and annual Peace and Light and Moving Up Ceremonies. Help us to create a studio in the Lower or Upper School where IDEAL students and their voices shine.

### **Culinary Lab**

Adjacent to IDEAL's multipurpose room is a culinary lab that will not only provide space for lunch service but also serve as an area for teachers to incorporate lessons that foster cooking and other daily living skills. Imagine small classes making pies as they

learn about fractions, following recipes to prepare meals for their friends and families, or organizing snacks to sell at a Lower School movie night or volleyball matches in the gym.

### **High School Science Lab**

Your gift will allow us to outfit IDEAL's first High School-level science lab. Help to create a hub of experiential learning for our High School students. All IDEAL students study biology, chemistry, and physics, differentiated and tied to essential life skills, in their High School years. Your gift will support everything from science tables and fume hoods to Bunsen burners, scales, pulleys, and pipettes.

### **Conference Room**

IDEAL's first level will include a conference room where the admissions team can meet with visitors, teachers can hold round-table discussions, and the Board and Parents Association can hold committee meetings. Clubs and the Student Government Association will also be able to sign up to use this space. Your gift will help to outfit this room with appropriate technology and furnishings to facilitate collaboration and conversation among all constituencies of the community.

### **College and Postsecondary Counseling Center**

IDEAL's new building will feature a dedicated space to serve as the hub of college and postsecondary counseling activities. Our school's matriculation list reflects the range of paths our students take, each as unique as they are. The IDEAL college and postsecondary program includes a class for juniors to guide the students in their selection process, help them identify their interests, and equip them with the life skills required for a successful transition to dorm living. The program also includes SAT prep for interested students, as well as visits to local programs. Students and families will meet with IDEAL's counselor in the counseling center to consider and prepare for their next steps.

### **Health Suite**

Support the development of a comfortable health suite. Students and staff will be able to visit IDEAL's nurses in this new suite if they are not feeling well or if they want to discuss a health-related issue. The health suite must allow the nurses to safely store medication and files while still presenting a safe and comfortable space for the community. IDEAL's nurses



Help design the room where our youngest IDEAL students play and learn, and your name may be one of the first they learn to read!

are trusted resources who are looking forward to designing this new space where they can see students and consult with families.

### **Kindergarten Room**

Your contribution will allow us to design a truly cutting-edge space for our youngest students. The kindergarten room would be designed by our kindergarten team, with your input, to incorporate elements such as a community reading area, a play area, an arts and crafts area, and modular furniture to facilitate flexible groups and collaborative learning.

### **Sponsor a Room or Program of Your Choice**

Your gift of \$50,000 will sponsor a classroom or program of your choice, allowing the school to select the most appropriate and inclusive furnishings and designs or to build upon our collaborative, inclusive, and differentiated pedagogy.

## \$25,000 Naming Opportunities

### American Sign Language Program

Your gift will allow IDEAL to develop its American Sign Language Program, which brings together our youngest and oldest students for project-based learning in American Sign Language and teaches inclusive and readiness-based lessons in both the Lower and High School divisions. Your gift will bring guest experts to campus and help to fund interdisciplinary projects and field trips, where older students not only practice their language skills but also learn life skills through interaction with our kindergarten and first grade classes.



Name the program that gives Lower School students the chance to learn ASL with High School students.

### APEX Athletics

Your donation will allow the school to continue building its High School APEX (Academic and Physical EXcellence) Athletics Program. As the High School APEX program grows, we will expand girls' and boys' basketball teams and develop and strengthen our golf, badminton, cross country, and volleyball programs to ensure activities for all. Your contribution will also help fund the rental of a space for home basketball games, transportation, and uniforms, as well as provide resources for visiting expert coaches and field trips to local training facilities.

### Chess Program

Your gift will support IDEAL's chess program. IDEAL students participate in chess during elective blocks in Lower School. We would like to expand this pro-

gram into Upper School. Students develop patience and concentration, reading and math skills, creativity, and strategic thinking by playing chess.

### Eighth Grade Leadership Series

At IDEAL, eighth grade is a capstone year focused on the development of leadership skills. IDEAL's eighth grade class travels annually to an outdoor education center in the fall to engage in activities that strengthen their leadership and collaboration skills and help to solidify lifelong friendships among classmates. Additionally, we plan two additional leadership "retreats" over the course of the year that bring speakers and activities to campus. Help us to develop the Eighth Grade Leadership Series and be a part of the conversation with administrators about the speakers we will bring to the school.

### Fifth Grade Leadership Experience

Fifth graders are the leaders of the Lower School. They help to lead assemblies, assist younger students during family-style lunch, and play a variety of leadership roles. As a part of their fifth grade experience, we do special activities in Community Time, plan local trips focused on leadership development, and bring speakers into the classroom. Your gift will support our fifth graders as they look ahead to IDEAL's Middle School.

### Civil Rights Journey

Each year, the senior class travels to a new destination to walk in the footsteps of civil rights leaders, dive deeper into questions of social justice, and explore their own interest in and definition of advocacy. In prior years, students have traveled to Alabama and Washington, DC. IDEAL's Class of 2023 will travel to Atlanta to visit sites including the Jimmy Carter Library, the Martin Luther King Center, and Spelman and Morehouse Colleges. This trip will also include a visit to the High Museum and the Georgia Aquarium and serves to build teamwork and relationships among senior class members. Your gift will ensure that the IDEAL capstone experience continues for years to come.



World-renowned disability rights activist Judith Heumann opened IDEAL's inaugural Civil Rights Community Day. Joined by an IDEAL student and founder, they set the tone for a full day of presentations.

### **Civil Rights Community Day**

IDEAL held its first Civil Rights Community Day in May of 2022. The day provided time for students to display and discuss their own civil rights research projects and brought leaders in various areas of social justice work to school to meet with students. Speakers last year included criminal justice professor Katheryn Russell-Brown, internationally recognized disability advocate Judith Heumann, and New York Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez, as well as Charles Imohiosen and Robert Masters of the Andrew Goodman Foundation. Your donation will allow us to build on and broaden the reach of this program.

### **Lower School Assembly Speaker Series**

As a result of your gift, the school will be able to design a speaker series on an annual theme to add new perspectives to Lower School assemblies.

### **Graphic Design and FIRST LEGO League Robotics Program**

Your donation will outfit an IDEAL classroom with MacBook Pros, graphic design software, and LEGO robotics equipment. This equipment, along with essential software, will allow us to integrate digital photography and graphic design into our curriculum, preparing students for internships and ca-

reers in high-demand fields. In this space, younger students will practice and prepare for FIRST LEGO League competitions, while older students will learn exciting skills and assist in the production of school materials, like event programs, the yearbook, and *The Buzz*.

### **Poet In Residence**

With your gift, the school will bring a poet to IDEAL each year to lead writing workshops with students of various ages. The day will conclude with an annual poetry reading, including the poet-in-residence as well as the students.

### **Next Steps Personal Fitness Program**

Students in the Next Steps Transition Program work off-campus once a week with specialized trainers in an adaptive gym to learn skills related to lifelong health and fitness. Under their trainer's guidance, they develop and practice a personal fitness plan. Your gift will help continue the Next Steps Personal Fitness Program after the move to 5 Hanover Square.

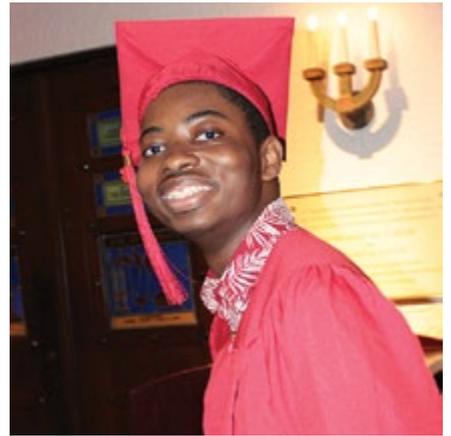
### **Sponsor an IDEAL Program or Space of Your Choice**

With your gift of \$25,000, you may also choose to work with the school to sponsor a space or program of your choice.



**\$5,000 Building Blocks of 5 Hanover Square**

Every donor who contributes \$5,000 or more will be acknowledged in a prominent display in the lobby of 5 Hanover Square.



## **How to Join IDEAL's Building for Our Future Campaign**

There are various naming opportunities and ways to support IDEAL's move to 5 Hanover Square. We look forward to discussing how your family can have a longstanding impact on the school's new home with you.

The members of the IDEAL Capital Campaign Committee are happy to meet with you to discuss your choice of naming opportunities and funding options. Please reach out to any of the individuals listed below to make a gift to the capital campaign..

**Jay Eisenhofer**, President of the Board of Trustees, [jeisenhofer@gelaw.com](mailto:jeisenhofer@gelaw.com)

**Hector Guinness**, Capital Campaign Committee member, [hectorguinness@gmail.com](mailto:hectorguinness@gmail.com)

**Dan Kesten**, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, Capital Campaign Chair, [dankesten@gmail.com](mailto:dankesten@gmail.com)

**Tracy Nixon**, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, [Tracy@nixonnyc.com](mailto:Tracy@nixonnyc.com)

**Alyssa Picchini Schaffer**, Capital Campaign Committee member, [apicchinischafter@gmail.com](mailto:apicchinischafter@gmail.com)

**Janet Wolfe**, Head of School, [jwolfe@theidealschool.org](mailto:jwolfe@theidealschool.org)

**Audra Zuckerman**, Founder and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, [azuckerman@theidealschool.org](mailto:azuckerman@theidealschool.org)

## **Thank you!**



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