

The Creative School New York City 2026

May 25–May 29, 2026

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Introduction

The Creative School
New York City 2026

New York Experience: Creative Enterprise

provides students with an immersive experience to learn directly from creative industry professionals working and living in New York City.

Transdisciplinary and disciplinary perspectives will be explored through lectures, workshops, guest speakers, site visits and networking events.

Creative enterprises, international markets and global creative industries will be explored in and out of the classroom.

Students will consider their personal and professional trajectories toward becoming changemakers in creative fields.

MEET THE TEAM



mfb@torontomu.ca

Michael Bergmann

Associate Professor,
New York Hub
Academic Instructor



sadia.kamran@torontomu.ca

Sadia Kamran

Associate Director,
External Relations
and International
Development

If you have any questions, contact global.creative@torontomu.ca

Itinerary

May 25–29, 2026



DAY 1 MONDAY, MAY 25

10:00 AM–
2:00 PM

Art & Cultural Experiences

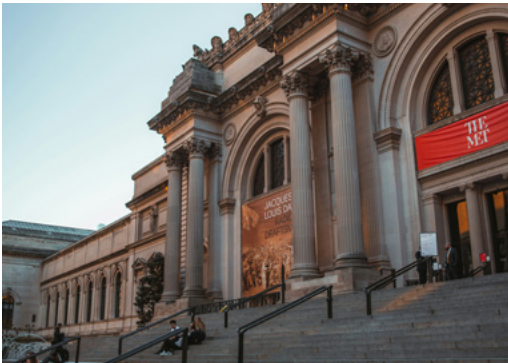
Choose one museum visit from these renowned New York City cultural destinations.

Option 1– The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met)

Option 2– Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum

2:00 PM

FREE TO EXPLORE NYC



The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The museum's permanent collection consists of works of art ranging from the ancient Near East and ancient Egypt, through classical antiquity to the contemporary world. It includes paintings, sculptures, and graphic works from many European Old Masters, as well as an extensive collection of American, modern, and contemporary art.

[metmuseum.org](https://www.metmuseum.org)

1000 5th Ave, New York, NY 10028



Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum

The Cooper Hewitt collections consist of decorative and design objects. The museum's original collection focused on architecture, sculpture, painted architecture, decorative arts, woodwork, metalwork, pottery, costume, musical instruments and furniture.

[cooperhewitt.org](https://www.cooperhewitt.org)

2 E 91st Street, New York, NY 10128

PLAN YOUR TRAVEL

Cooper Hewitt

The Met

MANHATTAN

BROOKLYN

DAY 2 TUESDAY, MAY 26

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS. All students must be in attendance.

9:00 AM–
9:30 AM

Leads: **Michael Bergmann and Sadia Kamran**

📍 The New School, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall, room A407
66 West 12th Street, NYC, NY 10011

TRANSDISCIPLINARY SESSION. All students must be in attendance.

9:30 AM–
11:30 AM

Lead: **Peter Nigrini**

📍 The New School, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall, room A407
66 West 12th Street, NYC, NY 10011

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC SESSIONS. You can sign up for up to two session on the same day.

11:30 AM–
1:00 PM

OPTION 1

Theme: **Design and Interiors** Company: **Yabu Pushelberg**

👤 **Robert Walshaw**, Director of Business Development
Kressina Benko, Marketing Coordinator | **Mitchell Joiner**, Senior Designer
Namita Chandrashekar, Intermediate Designer
Chloe Chun, Junior Designer | **Sohaila Mosbeh**, Junior Lighting Designer

📍 Yabu Pushelberg, 66 White Street, NYC, NY 10013

1:00 PM–
2:30 PM

OPTION 2

Theme: **Brand Management, Marketing, Strategy, & Entrepreneurship**
Company: **J Wolf Advisors**

👤 **Javier Farfan**, President and Founder

📍 Syracuse University-NYC Campus, 19 East 31st Street, NYC, NY 10023

3:00 PM–
4:30 PM

OPTION 3

Theme: **Film and Television** Company: **Multiple affiliations**

👤 **Alissa Cherry**, Consultant, Flex Dance Program

📍 Syracuse University-NYC Campus, 19 East 31st Street, NYC, NY 10023

OPTION 4

Theme: **Photography** Company: **Freelancer**

👤 **Chris Buck**, Photographer & Director

📍 55 Meadow Street, Unit 111, Brooklyn, NY 11206

PLAN YOUR TRAVEL




DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

TRANSDISCIPLINARY SESSION. All students must be in attendance.

10:00 AM–

Lead: **Laura Callanan**

12:00 PM

 The New School, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall, room A407
66 West 12th Street, NYC, NY 10011

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC SESSIONS. You can sign up for **up to two session** on the same day.


1:00 PM–


OPTION 1

2:30 PM

Theme: **Advertising**

Company: **Omnicom Group**

 **Joanne Trout**, SVP, Chief Communications Officer,
Global Communications

 Syracuse University-NYC Campus, 19 East 31st Street, NYC, NY 10023

3:00 PM–

OPTION 2

4:30 PM

Theme: **Performance & Media**

Company: **The Metropolitan Opera**

 **Lee Milliken**, Production Manager


 The Metropolitan Opera, 30 Lincoln Center Plaza, NYC, NY 10023

OPTION 3

Theme: **Brand Management, Marketing, Strategy, & Entrepreneurship**

Company: **Bulletin**

 **Danielle Noriega**, Partner Manager

 Syracuse University-NYC Campus, 19 East 31st Street, NYC, NY 10023

PLAN YOUR TRAVEL



The Metropolitan Opera

23 min

MANHATTAN

19 East 31st Street

The New School

16 min

BROOKLYN

DAY 4 THURSDAY, MAY 28

TRANSDISCIPLINARY SESSION. All students must be in attendance.

10:00 AM–
12:00 PM

Lead: **Julianna D’Urzo**

📍 The New School, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall, room A407
66 West 12th Street, NYC, NY 10011

1:00 PM–
4:00 PM

FREE TO EXPLORE NYC

DAY 5 FRIDAY, MAY 29

CLOSING SESSION. All students must be in attendance.

10:00 AM–
12:00 PM

Lead: **Michael Bergmann**

Culminating session to recap, share with your peers and plan forward for your final projects and next steps.

📍 The New School, Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall, room A407
66 West 12th Street, NYC, NY 10011

1:00 PM–
4:00 PM

FREE TO EXPLORE NYC



New York



Partners

Learn directly from
creative industry professionals





nigrini.net

Peter Nigrini Projection Designer

Peter Nigrini is one of Broadway's pioneering projection designers. His work includes Chess, Hell's Kitchen, Tommy, Here Lies Love, MJ; Ain't Too Proud; Beetlejuice; The SpongeBob Musical; Dear Evan Hansen, A Doll's House, Part 2; and Fela! In other venues, Grounded (Public Theater); Hans Zimmer Live; Lucia de Lammermoor and Don Giovanni (Santa Fe Opera) The Grace Jones Hurricane Tour; Deep Blue Sea (Bill T. Jones/Park Avenue Armory); and Real Enemies (BAM). He has been nominated for five Tony Awards and won a Lortel, a Drama Desk, a Jeff and an Obie.

Robert Walshaw

Director of Business Development at Yabu Pushelberg

Robert Walshaw is Director of Business Development at Yabu Pushelberg, with a background that spans design leadership roles at Marriott, Auberge Resorts, and Ian Schrager Company. He holds a Bachelor of Interior Design from Toronto Metropolitan University and brings a cross disciplinary perspective shaped by experience across architecture, interiors, and brand driven hospitality.



[in LinkedIn profile](#)



[in LinkedIn profile](#)

Kressina Benko Marketing Coordinator at Yabu Pushelberg

Kressina Benko is a Marketing Coordinator at Yabu Pushelberg, working across brand strategy, press relations, and digital content. Her background spans social media and campaign development, shaped by experience in both studio practice and consumer facing retail environments. She holds an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Florida State University.



Mitchell Joiner

Senior Designer at Yabu Pushelberg

Mitchell Joiner is a Senior Designer at Yabu Pushelberg, with experience spanning residential and hospitality interiors. He began his career in the Toronto studio before relocating to New York, and his recent work includes Raffles Sentosa and the JW Marriott Hotel Tokyo. He holds a Bachelor of Design in Environmental Design from OCAD University.

[in LinkedIn profile](#)

Namita Chandrashekar

Intermediate Designer at Yabu Pushelberg

Namita Chandrashekar is an interior designer and architect based in New York. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Interior Design from Parsons School of Design and a Bachelor of Architecture from L. S. Raheja School of Architecture, Mumbai University. Her work moves between architecture and interiors, shaped by early experience with *Kapadia Associates, SHROFFLEON and Arris Architects in Mumbai, with recent projects including the Hafawa Lounge for Riyadh Air and the Aman Tokyo Residences.



[in LinkedIn profile](#)



Chloe Chun

Junior Designer at Yabu Pushelberg

Chloe Chun is a designer based in New York, working across interior projects. She holds a Bachelor of Interior Design from Toronto Metropolitan University. Her experience spans residential and commercial interiors, with roles at MAED, COLLECTIVE and Asare Design in Toronto.

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**Sohaila Mosbeh**

Junior Lighting Designer at Yabu Pushelberg

Sohaila Mosbeh is a New York based Industrial Lighting Designer at Yabu Pushelberg. She holds a Master's in Interactive Telecommunications from NYU and an MFA in Lighting Design from Parsons, with prior experience at SBLD Studio. Her work blends interactive media across real time installations, and digital physical experiences.

[**in** LinkedIn profile](#)**Javier Farfan**

President & Founder, J Wolf Advisors

For the past 25 years, Javier Farfan has been at the forefront of culture—as thought leader and innovative thinker in the world of marketing, film, communications and creative strategy. Renowned and recognized by clients and industry peers as a “man of the people,” Farfan places culture front and center in his work with large blue-chip corporations, young entrepreneurial start-ups and everything in between.

[**in** LinkedIn profile](#)**Alissa Cherry**

Consultant, Flex Dance Program

Alissa Cherry is a Ph.D candidate at the University of Toronto in social justice education, specializing in workforce learning and social change. Her research focuses on diversity and inclusion in the film and television industry. She explores occupational pathways for Black women in the entertainment industries, highlighting barriers to entry and on-the job skills needed.

Alissa was previously the director of education for Reel Works Teen Filmmaking, a documentary and narrative film program for over 200 students per year. Alissa is a diversity and representation advocate for young people in the media and entertainment industry and has organized internship programs, job shadowing and workforce development programming for young artists.

[**in** LinkedIn profile](#)



[🔗 chrisbuck.com](https://chrisbuck.com)

[@the_chris_buck](https://www.instagram.com/the_chris_buck)

Chris Buck

Photographer and Director

Chris Buck (1964, Toronto, Canada; works in the New York area) is a photographer known for his distinctive style—irreverent, smart, and intimate. His portraits have been selected for the annual American Photography Open more than fifty times, and he was the first recipient of the Arnold Newman Portrait Prize. His editorial clients include The New Yorker, The Guardian Saturday, and The New York Times Magazine. Lürzer's Archive praised his work, writing: "Chris Buck is a genius at creating photos that stick in people's minds. He is a master at coming up with inventive, offbeat ideas, and his subjects respond perfectly."



[Profile](#)

Laura Callanan

Founding partner, Upstart Co-Lab

Laura Callanan is the founding partner of Upstart Co-Lab, disrupting how creativity is funded by connecting impact investing to the creative economy.

Laura was senior deputy chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, leading all grant-making programs, operations, and research before launching Upstart Co-Lab in 2015.

As a consultant with McKinsey & Company's Social Sector Office, Laura led work on social innovation, sustainable capitalism, and social impact assessment. She previously served as senior adviser at the United Nations Development Programme; executive director of the Prospect Hill Foundation; and associate director at the Rockefeller Foundation where, in addition to her responsibilities managing the endowment, she co-led the Foundation's first impact investing efforts which included two investments in the creative economy: Smithsonian Folkways Records and netomat.

An expert on impact investing, philanthropy and the creative economy, Laura has been published and quoted in The New York Times, Financial Times, Harvard Business Review, The Chronicle of Philanthropy, The Art Newspaper and elsewhere.



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Joanne Trout

SVP, Chief Communications Officer, Global Communications
at Omnicom Group

Joanne Trout oversees the development and implementation of external, internal and executive communications programs for Omnicom, including digital leadership, corporate social responsibility, media relations, reputation management, financial communications and thought leadership. She works closely and collaborates on programming with the communications teams at BBDO, DDB, TBWA, OMG and DAS.

Trout has more than 30 years of experience on the client and corporate communications agency side building top brands, including Sony, Sharp, Pioneer and XM Satellite Radio. She provides high-level strategic counsel to clients seeking to build corporate images and brands, launch products and services, deal with reputational issues as well as tackle other communications challenges.



[in LinkedIn profile](#)

Lee Milliken

Production Manager at The Metropolitan Opera

Lee Milliken is a production professional with more than 25 years' experience in opera. She has been the Production Manager for the Metropolitan Opera since 2018, where her focus is managing the development process of the Met's new productions and participating in the company's future season planning process. Prior to joining the Met, she had a long career in Canada. As Production Manager at the Canadian Opera Company, she collaborated with many of the opera world's leading directors, designers, and performers and worked with international opera companies on major co-productions as well as managing COC tours to the Hong Kong Festival, Melbourne Festival, Edinburgh Festival, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Subsequently, as Director of Production for Canadian Stage, she led a team producing and presenting a wide variety of multi-disciplinary contemporary work in three venues, including the outdoor Shakespeare in High Park.

Danielle Noriega

Partner Manager at Bulletin

Danielle Noriega is a partner manager for Bulletin, Meta's platform that supports independent writers and subject matter experts. A graduate of Rutgers University, Noriega joined the News Partnerships team at Meta in 2015, guiding global newsrooms and public figures on how to inform and grow their audiences and businesses on social media. Noriega led the launch of Facebook for Student Journalists where she worked directly with college juniors and seniors on enhancing their social toolkits. Prior to Meta, Noriega has worked with newsrooms and publications ranging from Univision, Us Weekly, Hollywood Life, CNN, CNN en Español, HLN and MSNBC.

As a first-generation Latinx, Noriega has collaborated with brands and organizations like PUMA, La Calle and Pepsi Co. across their efforts on amplifying Latinx voices.



[Profile](#)



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Julianna D'Urzo

Producer at NewsNation

Julianna D'Urzo is a producer who has led multi-platform content for major networks including NewsNation, CNN, and Variety, as well as global brands like Pepsi and Sephora. At NewsNation, she leads digital strategy for special projects, editorial campaigns, and network-wide initiatives—from political town halls to long-form documentaries—executing messaging that drives tune-in and audience engagement. A proud alumna of Syracuse University and Toronto Metropolitan University, Julianna actively mentors in the media community. She serves on the Syracuse University Generation Orange Leadership Council and as Co-Vice President of Communications for the Newswomen's club of New York. She also serves as an industry judge for the Emmys and other industry awards.

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Contact Us

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