

# New York Beacon

website:  
NewYorkBeacon.com

*Showing the Way to Truth and Justice*

E-Mail  
newyorkbeacon@yahoo.com

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**East Harlem School students participate in National Dance Institute's two-week residency learning about the culture of Mexico through dance.**

## **E. Harlem students in NDI two-week program**

From Feb. 23 to March 6, fifth through eighth grade students from East Harlem School explored the culture of Mexico through dance at National Dance Institute's (NDI) two-week residency at their newly renovated building.

NDI Associate Artistic Director Tracy Straus and NDI Teaching Artist Dr. Jenny Seham, accompanied by musician Tomas Fujiwara on drums, led the children during their two weeks of classes to discover the magic of dance.

The young dancers performed original choreography set to pieces inspired by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, *El Día De Los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), and the Zapatista movement.

National Dance Institute is a not-for-profit organization founded in the belief that the arts have a unique power to engage children and motivate them towards excellence. Using professional artists and a distinctive combination of dance classes and performances integrated with music, literature and the visual arts, children learn how to work together to reach for their personal best.

Over 2 million children have participated in NDI programs. NDI was founded in 1976 by Jacques d'Amboise, and since 1995 has been under the artistic leadership of Ellen Weinstein. For more information, please log on to [www.nationaldance.org](http://www.nationaldance.org).