

And finally: The warehouse where the supplies are free



Image Credit Laura Fuchs

The Times's Melissa Guerrero writes:

Imagine a huge warehouse where everything inside is free.

Then imagine it's in Queens.

[Materials for the Arts](#) is far from new, but it's extra busy at the start of the school year as teachers forage for supplies.

The program was founded 41 years ago to promote reuse and creativity. It provides free, donated items to nonprofit organizations with art programs. Think dance studios, public schools and theaters.

Members are invited to the 35,000-square-foot warehouse in Long Island City to help themselves to [materials that include buttons, fabrics](#), binders, file cabinets and sewing machines.

The benefit works in reverse, as well: Conservation-minded people with too much stuff on their hands can donate anything from a “full floor of office furniture to three bags of yarn,” said Harriet Taub, the program's executive director.

Even props from TV shows sometimes make their way to the warehouse. (Looking for an orange jumpsuit from Netflix's "Orange Is the New Black"?)

"What we try to do is to let people see the magic and the magnitude of what can be done with these kinds of materials," Ms. Taub said.

In addition to free supplies, the program also offers community art workshops, field trips, in-school residencies and professional development courses for educators.

To donate items, you can call the warehouse, (718) 729-2065, or email donations@mfta.nyc.gov.