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Inwood Laundromat Becomes English Classroom

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NEW YORK (WCBS 880) - Walk into a Laundromat in [Inwood](#) these days and you'll hear the gurgling of the washers and the whirring of the dryers, but you might also hear something else.

WCBS 880's Alex Silverman In Upper Manhattan



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Hector Canonge holds an English class at the Magic Touch Laundromat in Inwood – New York, NY – Aug 2, 2011 (credit: Alex Silverman / WCBS 880)

Local artist Hector Canonge decided to teach free [English](#) classes at the Magic Touch Laundromat twice a week for a month.



Reporting [Alex Silverman](#)

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"A laundromat is a community space. People come here, they spend some time doing the laundry, really not doing anything, just waiting for the machine and waiting for the cycles," Canonge said. "Why not use that in something that's going to help people learn English?"

He uses the equipment and garments to help introduce people to the English language.

"Wherever there is an opportunity, I want to take part of it," said one of Canonge's students.

In a way, Canonge said he sees his classes as a public art project.

"I've been exploring this idea of turning spaces that are not conventional [into art]. In this case, art is happening here, but at the same time, learning is happening here," he said.

Canonge said it's his first time teaching English.

"The whole project will go for a month. At least I want to have people to wet their feet in what is learning English, that it's not so hard. It's not so foreign. That's it's something not to be scared of," he said.

This project is just one being overseen by the non-profit [Laundromat Project](#). It's all about bringing different kinds of art to people who can't usually afford it.

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