



SENIOR PLANET

Aging with Attitude



FACT SHEET: SENIOR PLANET EXPLORATION CENTER



The Senior Planet Exploration Center is the nation's first technology-themed space that focuses exclusively on the needs of individuals aged 60 and over.

Located on the ground floor of a newly renovated building at 127 West 25th Street in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan, the center provides a comfortable and supportive environment where older adults can meet, learn, work, and explore new ways to thrive in today's digital world.

Active and vibrant, Senior Planet members come from all walks of life, and reflect an ethos of "Aging With Attitude".

The facility, developed and operated by the nonprofit Older Adults Technology Services, Inc. (OATS), features:

- A state-of-the-art training suite for classes and open lab time
- A range of laptop and desktop computers, tablets, smartphones, digital cameras and other devices, all freely available for seniors to explore and use
- A "living room" with gaming consoles
- Open space for curated exhibitions and presentations
- Free broadband WiFi throughout the space



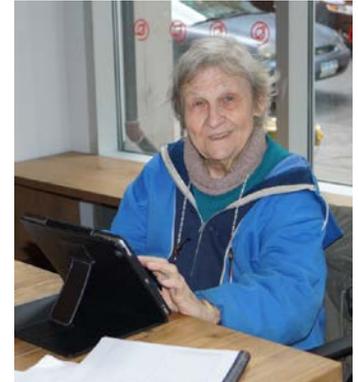
In addition to providing access to technology, the center offers a catalog of free training courses including internet basics, digital photography, social networking, and job searching in the digital age.

The Senior Planet Exploration Center also invites older adults to participate in a varied slate of special programs and events, often centered on a theme such as health and wellness, lifestyle, or personal finances.



“Before, I felt so ashamed and embarrassed; I’d just pretend and tell people ‘OK’ when they’d say ‘Go look at that website.’ But I didn’t know how. I felt totally left out of things.”
 --61-year-old member of the Center

“I’m so excited; I’ve finally joined the 21st century. I can’t wait to learn more.” --85 year-old member



Key background facts on seniors and technology:

- 1 in 8 Americans is now aged 65 or over (43 million people)
- Fastest-growing age group: By 2030, 1 in 5 Americans will be 65+
- Almost half (48%) of Americans aged 65 and older have **never** accessed the internet
- Technology adoption and use is especially low among those aged 75+
- Many seniors suffer from social isolation, which breeds a host of health and mental health problems
- Longer lifespans and economic conditions are prompting more seniors to work, but many lack the technology skills to effectively compete in the workplace

SeniorPlanet.org



An online community specifically created for older adults to connect with others, expand their horizons, and express themselves, SeniorPlanet.org publishes high-quality features, “Guides to Life”, and a popular events calendar. The website complements the activities of the Senior Planet Exploration Center by providing information on the physical center and its many classes, activities, and special events.

Partnerships

Senior Planet is sponsored by the New York-based nonprofit OATS (Older Adults Technology Services, Inc.), a national leader in the field, whose mission is to “Harness Technology to Change the Way We Age”. OATS has joined with public and private partners to establish the Exploration Center, launch a Senior Planet mobile (vehicular) technology lab, and build 23 new Senior Planet labs at local senior centers in neighborhoods throughout New York City, where OATS provides technology training courses.

