



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A City Transformed through Seven Youth-Led Murals

*Youth artists to create monumental murals
in all five boroughs this summer with Groundswell.*

NEW YORK, NEW YORK - Groundswell is pleased to announce that through our Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) 2016, upwards of 140 teens are coming together citywide to create seven inspiring murals from July 5 to August 31. SLI is Groundswell's flagship summer jobs program that employs youth as apprentice artists to create beautiful large-scale works of public art throughout New York City.

Mobilized by national conversations on public health and safety, youth leadership, and social inequities, the youth artists are bringing key community issues to life through the mural-making process. This year, the youth will create murals in every borough to use art as a tool for social change citywide.

For each project, a team of two Groundswell teaching artists and 15-20 youth are engaging with community organizations and city agencies to use public space as a canvas. Through research, design, and fabrication, their murals will give voice to their experiences as young people in New York City by making visible the power of women of color, encouraging young men of color to know their rights, addressing holistic wellness, and inspiring the next generation of leaders.

Groundswell's collaborative process is founded on the belief that art creates community and community creates change. Groundswell's innovative Scaffold Up!TM collective impact model brings together visions of positive change from our diverse stakeholders, from youth and neighborhood residents, to city agencies and wall owners, to social activists across the globe.

Each mural will have two upcoming public events. During a **community painting day**, the teams invite the local community to join them on the wall in a day of painting and activities. At the end of the summer, we celebrate the completed murals during a **dedication** ceremony.

Summer Leadership Institute 2016 projects include:

MAMA DEE'S COMMUNITY GARDEN (Crown Heights, Brooklyn)

Groundswell's Voices Her'd team of young women artists will illuminate and celebrate the power of women of color within both the public and private spheres. Their mural will investigate and elevate perceptions of women of color's self-worth in order to challenge how racism and sexism impact contemporary culture. Inspired by the strength and community leadership of the mural site, Mama Dee's Community Garden, particular attention will be given to the Afro-Caribbean women of Crown Heights. Through this process, the young artists will own their roles as leaders in building a more just and equitable world.

Co-Lead Artists: Jazmine Hayes and Danielle McDonald

Location: 1401 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11216

Community Painting Day: Wednesday, July 27, 1 PM - 4 PM

Dedication: Tuesday, August 30, 1 - 2 PM

FOOD BAZAAR SUPERMARKET (Bushwick, Brooklyn)

This summer, Groundswell's all-male Making His'tory team will create a mural encouraging and inspiring young men of color to know their value and know their rights. With an approach centered on personal narratives and storytelling, the team will challenge notions of identity and break cycles of inequity facing young men of color today.

Lead Artist: Raúl Ayala

Assistant Artist: Ashton Agbomenou

Location: 21 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206

Community Painting Day: Wednesday, July 27, 1 PM - 4 PM

Dedication: Tuesday, August 30, 10 - 11 AM

CASTLE HILL HOUSES (Castle Hill, Bronx)

Through an upcoming monumental mural, a team of young artists at the Castle Hill Houses will call their community to action by supporting youth voices. Their piece encourages their elders to serve as mentors so that the young people of the Castle Hill Houses can become a force of positive change and inspiration at their development and in the surrounding neighborhood.

Lead Artist: Angel Garcia

Assistant Artist: Demetrius Felder

Community Partners: Castle Hill Resident Association, New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres, and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Location: 635 Castle Hill Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473

Community Painting Day: Thursday, July 28, 9 AM - 4 PM

Dedication: Wednesday, August 31, 4 - 5 PM

QUEENSBRIDGE HOUSES (Long Island City, Queens)

A team of young artists will inspire a holistic view of healthy living at the Queensbridge Houses through a new mural on the Jacob A. Riis Settlement House community center. Created in response to the community's tradition of memorial shrines and murals, the youth will tackle health issues faced by Queensbridge residents

such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, food access, mental wellness, and gun violence. Their mural stands in honor of all lives at the development-past, present, and future.

Lead Artist: Misha Tyutyunik

Assistant Artist: Victor A. Saint-Hilaire

Community Partners: Queensbridge Tenant Association, New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres, and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Location: 10-25 41st Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101

Community Painting Day: Thursday, July 28, 9 AM - 4 PM

Dedication: Wednesday, August 31, 10 - 11 AM

SAINT NICHOLAS HOUSES (Harlem, Manhattan)

In Harlem, a team of young artists will engage local elders through the creation of a mural that will transform the entrance to the Saint Nicholas Houses Senior Citizens Center. Their mural will bring together different generations to inspire new perspectives on technology, community engagement, and youth activism.

Lead Artist: Jose de Jesus Rodriguez

Assistant Artist: Marina Perez-Wong

Community Partners: Saint Nicholas Tenant Association, New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres, and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Location: 210 West 131st Street, Manhattan, NY 10027

Community Painting Day: Thursday, July 28, 9 AM - 4 PM

Dedication: Wednesday, August 31, 1 - 2 PM

STAPLETON HOUSES (Stapleton, Staten Island)

Through a new mural, youth artists will join seniors at the Stapleton Houses this summer in a public dialogue about the development's past and future as a site of hope, dreams, and community engagement. Their design combines Staten Island landmarks with images of activism and resilience to build a lasting conversation about the Stapleton Houses' heritage, history, and legacy.

Lead Artist: DonChristian Jones

Assistant Artist: Lina Montoya

Community Partners: Stapleton Resident Association, New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres, and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Location: 230 Broad Street, Staten Island, NY 10304

Community Painting Day: Wednesday, July 27, 9 AM - 4 PM

Dedication: Monday, August 29, 10 - 11 AM

TOMPKINS HOUSES (Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn)

As part of a citywide initiative inspiring young NYCHA residents, a Groundswell artist team will inspire youth leadership with a mural that will give young people the inspiration, tools, and agency to know they can accomplish anything. Painted on a handball court, this mural's empowering message will mobilize youth to engage their community to become the next generation of community leaders.

Lead Artist: Chris Soria

Assistant Artist: Michaela Anaya

Community Partners: Tompkins Houses Resident Association, Inc., New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres, and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Location: Handball Court at Tompkins Houses, Brooklyn, NY 11206

Community Painting Day: Wednesday, July 27, 9 AM - 4 PM

Dedication: Monday, August 29, 1 - 2 PM

About Groundswell

Groundswell, New York City's leading organization dedicated to community public art, brings together youth, artists, and community partners to make public art that advances social change, for a more just and equitable world. Our projects beautify neighborhoods, engage youth in societal and personal transformation, and give expression to ideas and perspectives that are underrepresented in the public dialogue. www.groundswell.nyc

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