



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mural Unveiling at Community Health Academy of the Heights
Assembling a Healthy “Hive:” New York City Girls
Paint Mural on Community Health

Mural Dedication Ceremony: Wednesday, June 3 at 11:00 am
Location: 504 W 158th Street, New York, NY 10032

NEW YORK, NY – Groundswell, in partnership with Community League of the Heights (CLOTH) and the Community Health Academy of the Heights (CHAH), is pleased to announce a dedication ceremony celebrating the unveiling of a new mural entitled “Assembling the Future.” Designed by a talented team of New York City young women, the mural illustrates that the building of a strong healthy child is a community responsibility.

To create this mural, a team of emerging young women artists participated in an intensive public artmaking program, presented with the support of the New York City Council through its STARS Citywide Girls Initiative. In collaboration with Lead Artist Crystal Bruno and Assistant Artist Leola Bermanzohn, the young women researched, designed, and fabricated this mural installed at 504 W 158th Street, New York, NY 10032.

“We wanted to empower young girls and women to create imagery that inspires both them and their community,” said CLOTH Executive Director Yvonne Stennett. “Our services provide for the entire family, from child to senior citizen, and we are proud that the mural reflects how everyone contributes to a healthy community.”

“Groundswell is excited to continue our partnership with CLOTH as part of the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative,” Groundswell Executive Director Amy Sananman. “This project brought together powerful girls and young women of color and inspiring community partners. We thank all our supporters, and special thanks to Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez for his generous support.”

The mural design centers on a golden, smiling child covered with a honeycomb motif. A young woman and an elder help build the child by placing honeycombs where pieces were missing. Surrounding the three figures are hexagonal shapes which show other components of a community’s health, such as education and housing. “Honeycombs are an advanced natural design,” said Lead Artist Crystal Bruno, “because they get the most out of the least amount of material. Their stability, harmony, and efficiency represent CLOTH and CHAH’s strength at promoting health.”

This project is made possible with public funds from the New York City Council through its STARS Citywide Girls Initiative. Special thanks to New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, New York City Councilmember Julissa Ferreras, and New York City Councilmember Laurie Cumbo.

Additional public support for this project is provided by New York City Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez.

The STARS Citywide Girls Initiative, funded at \$1 million by the New York City Council, will offer the City of New York a unique opportunity to support the healthy development of thousands of girls and young women of color in the coming year.

The STARS Citywide Girls Initiative is a collaboration of six leading NYC nonprofits that will help girls and young women of color overcome barriers to success, grow emotionally, academically and physically stronger, and develop as leaders in their communities. The six partners—Girls Write Now, Groundswell, Lower Eastside Girls Club, PowerPlay NYC, Row New York, and Sadie Nash Leadership Project—all leaders in after-school and summer programming, will create 1,000 or more new program slots for girls in all five boroughs by June 2015.

With support and funding from the New York City Council, the STARS Citywide Girls Initiative will develop the life and leadership skills of NYC girls through after-school and summer sports, academic enrichment, STEM, college preparation and the arts. The launch of STARS will provide vital services to communities in all five boroughs to ensure that girls have access to a broad array of opportunities in team sports, college prep, financial literacy and technology--experiences that can prepare them for successful adulthood.

Special thanks to New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, New York City Council Member Julissa Ferreras, New York City Council Member Laurie Cumbo, and New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres.

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

About Community League of the Heights

Since 1952, the Community League of the Heights – CLOTH has been dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life for residents of the Southern Washington Heights area. Our mission encompasses advocacy, organizing and providing of services related to decent affordable housing, education, health, youth services and neighborhood improvement. Our enduring philosophy is: *our doors are always open to neighbors in need.* <http://www.cloth159.org/about.htm>

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