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Youth Artists View New York City as a Canvas

Major Works of Public Art Underway Between July 3rd and August 16th

NEW YORK, NY - This summer, upwards of 100 young people ages 14 - 24 will be employed to create eight works of public art through Groundswell's Summer Leadership Institute (SLI). Working with professional artists and commissioned by community-based organizations, youth will beautify neighborhoods in all five boroughs, from Hunts Point to the Rockaways, Staten Island to Riverbank State Park.

Through these projects, New York youth will address important social issues meaningful to all of us, including urban transportation and related environmental concerns, economic revitalization within low-income communities, and healing and recovery in the aftermath of natural disaster.

Projects taking place this summer include:

Livable Streets Atlantic Avenue Underpass

Groundswell teen artists will use art as a tool to transform an uninspiring underpass into an inviting gateway between the vibrant shopping district on Atlantic Avenue and the beautifully restored Brooklyn Bridge Park, to be safely shared by pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles alike.

The mural will be developed as part of a larger effort to revitalize this underpass, led by the Atlantic Avenue BID together with Interboro Partners and funded by Deputy Mayor Steel and the NYC Department of Small Business Services through the BID Challenge grant.

Lead scholarship sponsorship support is provided by Barclays / Brooklyn Nets.

Community Partners: NYC DOT and Atlantic Avenue BID

Location: Atlantic Avenue underpass between Hicks and Columbia streets, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Livable Streets Pitkin Avenue

Groundswell youth muralists, some with a history of court-involvement, will create a mural designed to highlight community assets in Brownsville, promote a vision of shared streets, and support the economic revitalization of historic Pitkin Avenue.

Community Partners: NYC DOT, Pitkin Avenue BID, and the Brownsville Community Justice Center

Location: Lane Bryant, 1550 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11212

Recovery Diaspora

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, Groundswell's Voices Her'd Visionaries and Making His'tory teams of emerging youth leaders will work with Master Artist Swoon to create a series of murals addressing disaster recovery in four New York City communities deeply impacted by the devastating storm, including Red Hook, Staten Island, Coney Island, and the Rockaways. These four projects will be tied together by a temporary mural on the famed Bowery Wall by Swoon herself.

Project activities in Red Hook, Staten Island, Coney Island, and the Rockaways are made possible through the generous support of LISC New York City.

Community Partners: LISC New York City, Astella Development Corporation, Fifth Avenue Committee, Northfield Community LDC, and Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation

Locations:

Coney Island: MCU Park, 1904 Surf Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11224

Red Hook: Home/Made, 293 Van Brunt Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232

Staten Island: New Dorp High School, 465 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, NY10306

The Rockaways: Challenge Preparatory Charter School, 710 Hartman Lane, Far Rockaway, NY 11691

Bowery Mural Wall: 272 Bowery, New York, NY 10012

Riverbank State Park

As Riverbank State Park celebrates its 20th anniversary, Groundswell youth will partner with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and NYC Department of Environmental Protection to create a mural which engages the park's diverse visitors in a celebration of our local water cycle, from the Catskill Mountains to New York City.

This project is made possible with funds from the Catskill Watershed Corporation in partnership with NYC Department of Environmental Protection, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation.

Community Partners: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Location: Riverbank State Park Water Splashing Area, 679 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10031

StreetWise: Hunts Point

Through a unique partnership between Groundswell and the NYC DOT, a team of young artists from the South Bronx will create a mural that illustrates and finds solutions for local residents' transportation and related environmental concerns.

This project is made possible thanks to a significant investment by the Rockefeller Foundation and its Cultural Innovation Fund and is the final in a series of five Hunts Point projects.

Community Partner: NYC DOT

Location: 854 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474

About Groundswell

Groundswell brings together artists, youth, and community organizations to use art as a tool for social change. Our projects beautify neighborhoods, engage youth in societal and personal transformation, and give expression to ideas and perspectives that are underrepresented in the public dialog. Groundswell is now celebrating our 17th anniversary as New York's leading organization dedicated to community public art.

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Major financial support for Groundswell's 2013 Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) is contributed by Altman Foundation, Barclays / Brooklyn Nets, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Catskill Watershed Corporation, Charles Lawrence Keith and Clara Miller Foundation, David Rockefeller Fund, Dedalus Foundation, Ethel and W. George Kennedy Family Foundation, Irene B. Wolt Lifetime Trust, Lambent Foundation, LISC New York City, M&T Bank, Rockefeller Foundation and its Cultural Innovation Fund, Variety The Children's Charity, and Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation, in addition to numerous individuals.

SLI is made possible in part by public funds administered by the National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Youth and Community Development Summer Youth Employment Program, New York City Department of Education, and New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Groundswell is grateful to the Office of the Mayor of New York City; the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President; and New York City Council Members Sara M. Gonzalez, Letitia James, Brad Lander, Stephen Levin, and Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.

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