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Youth Artists Transform NYC Neighborhoods, One Wall at a Time, through Socially Engaged Art

Major Works of Public Art Underway Between July 7th and August 29th

NEW YORK, NY - This summer, upwards of 140 young people ages 14 to 24 will be employed to create eight transformative murals through Groundswell's Summer Leadership Institute (SLI). Working as paid apprentices under the guidance and leadership of professional artists, youth will beautify neighborhoods in collaboration with community-based organizations throughout Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens, from Tremont to Brownsville, Greenpoint to South Jamaica.

Groundswell's community-based partners will use the collaborative artmaking process to generate activism and shift attitudes around social justice concerns, including environmental inequality, the high school drop out crisis, and the causes and effects of incarceration. Through their hard work and creativity, youth artists will inspire thousands of New Yorkers and offer passersby a chance to feel a new connection, look at a problem in a new way, or decide to get involved.

Projects taking place this summer include:

DWI Jackson Heights

As Vision Zero gains momentum, Groundswell teen muralists will collaborate with the New York City Department of Transportation to educate New Yorkers through public art about the prevention of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). The mural will promote the important role all members of the community have to play in stopping DWI and prepare youth participants with DWI deterrence strategies with the potential to save lives.

This project is made possible with funds from NY STOP-DWI.

Lead Artist: Olivia Fu

Co-Lead Artist: Angel Garcia

Community Partners: Food Bazaar Supermarket on Junction Boulevard and the New York City Department of Transportation

Location: 34-20 Junction Boulevard, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Greenpoint Environmental Justice

In collaboration with The Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Groundswell youth artists will celebrate Greenpoint's history of

environmental justice activism and highlight the importance of watershed stewardship. The mural, to be installed at MS 126 Magnet School for Environmental Engineering, will motivate participants and the community to learn more about local watershed conservation and infrastructure, and further explore careers in related environmental sectors.

This project is made possible with funding provided by the Office of the New York State Attorney General and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund and the Catskill Watershed Corporation. Additional support is provided by New York City Councilmember Stephen Levin and the New York State Office of Public Safety.

Lead Artist: Yana Dimitrova

Assistant Artist: Ruth Hofheimer

Community Partners: The Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Location: 424 Leonard Street, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, NY 11222

Jamaica NeON Arts

Recognizing education as the most crucial step toward success in life, Groundswell teen mural artists will give voice to disconnected youth in South Jamaica in an effort to combat the high school dropout crisis. By empowering disconnected youth with a highly visible public platform, the project will place young adult probation clients and community members on a path to graduation and affirm the importance of education to a vibrant South Jamaica.

This project is made possible with funds from NeON Arts, a program of the NYC Department of Probation in partnership with Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. Funding to support NeON Arts is provided by the Open Society Foundations through a grant to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City in support of the NYC Young Men's Initiative.

Lead Artist: DonChristian Jones

Community Partners: Jamaica NeON

Location: 107-25 Wren Place, Jamaica, NY 11433

Making His'tory

In partnership with the Brownsville Community Justice Center, Groundswell teen artists—some with a prior involvement with the justice system—will raise awareness of the causes and effects of incarceration. Using public art as a means of expression and civic participation, the mural will inspire a sense of self-empowerment and agency by engaging youth as agents of social change and active community contributors.

This project is made possible with funds from The Center for Court Innovation and the Brownsville Community Justice Center through the Fund for the City of New York. Additional support is provided by the Charles Lawrence Keith and Clara Miller Foundation, David Rockefeller Fund, and Dedalus Foundation.

Lead Artist: Esteban del Valle

Assistant Artist: Jose de Jesus Rodriguez

Community Partners: Brownsville Community Justice Center and Food Bazaar Supermarket on Junius Street

Location: 417 Junius Street, Brownsville, Brooklyn, NY 11212

The Trust for Public Land: CS 300 Playground

In partnership with The Trust for Public Land, Groundswell youth will create a mural to serve as a backdrop to a new playground planned for the C.S. 300 Twin Parks campus, which houses C.S. 300, I.S. 129, and Kappa III. For many in the community, the building is not just school but home. Through the transformation

of the schoolyard through public art, youth artists will support community stakeholders in creating a beautiful public space where young people's futures can take flight.

This project is made possible with funds from the Trust for Public Land.

Lead Artist: Pasqualina Azzarello

Assistant Artist: Ifeatuanya Chiejina

Community Partners: The Trust for Public, C.S. 300, I.S. 129, and Kappa III

Location: 2050 Prospect Avenue, Tremont, Bronx, NY 10457

Transform/ Restore Brownsville

Groundswell's NEA grant award-winning initiative Transform/Restore: Brownsville, presented in collaboration with the New York City Department of Probation and the Pitkin Avenue BID, will engage young adult probation clients, local businesses, and community members in the creation of visible and permanent change within their own community. As the third mural unveiled among a series of five, this project will highlight Brownsville's hidden treasures and celebrate the unsung heroes of the neighborhood.

This project is made possible through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts, through its national Our Town initiative; New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Council on the Arts, through the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Initiative; and the Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District. Lead scholarship support is provided by Barclays/ Brooklyn Nets.

Lead Artist: Misha Tyutyunik

Assistant Artist: Justin Batten

Community Partners: New York City Department of Probation and the Pitkin Avenue BID

Location: 62 Herzl Street, Brownsville, Brooklyn, NY 11212

VIP Community Services

Groundswell will engage VIP Community Services adult clients in the research, design, and creation of a large-scale mural to generate public awareness around the complex issue of chemical dependency. The project will inspire self-sufficiency and social participation and support VIP Community Service's commitment to changing lives and transforming its community.

The project is made possible with funds from VIP Community Services.

Lead Artist: Marc Evan

Community Partner: VIP Community Services

Location: 746 E 176th Street, Tremont, Bronx, NY 10460

Voices Her'd Visionaries

Through a neighborhood beautification project, Groundswell Voices Her'd Visionaries team will use art as a tool to inspire dialogues about reproductive health in Bushwick. The project will present a new perspective on supporting young women's growth and development through self-love and affirmative decisions to generate hope in the community and extend the conversation to the care networks of local young women.

This project is made possible with funds from EILEEN FISHER, Charles Lawrence Keith and Clara Miller Foundation, and the Irene B. Wolt Lifetime Trust.

Lead Artist: Crystal Bruno

Assistant Artist: Lauren Baccus

Community Partner: Food Bazaar Supermarket

Location: 17-59 Ridgewood Place, Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY 11237

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.groundswellmural.org

Major financial support for Groundswell's 2014 Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) is contributed by Altman Foundation, Barclays / Brooklyn Nets, Catskill Watershed Corporation, Charles Lawrence Keith and Clara Miller Foundation, David Rockefeller Fund, Dedalus Foundation, EILEEN FISHER, Ethel and W. George Kennedy Family Foundation, Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, Irene B. Wolt Lifetime Trust, Lambent Foundation, M&T Bank, Pinkerton Foundation, Variety The Children's Charity, and William Randolph Hearst Foundations, in addition to numerous individuals.

SLI is made possible in part by public funds administered by the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Office of Public Safety, 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; New York State Assembly Member Joseph Lentol; and New York City Council Members Brad Lander, Stephen Levin, Carlos Menchaca, and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

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