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Mural Unveiling at the Brooklyn Navy Yard

Mural Celebrates Thriving Community-Based Industry in Navy Yard

Mural Dedication Ceremony: Wednesday, August 29 at 2pm
Location: Navy Street and Sands Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

NEW YORK, NY - Groundswell, in partnership with the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92 and the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, is pleased to announce a dedication ceremony to celebrate the unveiling of “Here Goes Something,” a new public mural that uncovers the rich hidden history of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and engages passersby in the thriving activity taking place today.

This summer, 16 young people participating in Groundswell’s Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) collaborated with artists Tanya Linn Albrigtsen-Frable and Joel Bergner to research, design, and fabricate this 3,074 sq ft mural. The young people’s work completes the mural first begun in spring 2012 by elementary school students from PS 307. Together, the two mural sections visually transform a monumental wall along the outside of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and introduce viewers to the legacy and innovation of this modern industrial park - from the Revolutionary War to the revolution in jobs and industry happening in New York City right now.

During the mural design process, Groundswell’s youth artists conducted intensive archival research and gathered oral histories from community members and workers who shaped the Yard over time and who now are creating its future. “Here Goes Something” illustrates a timeline of the Navy Yard and incorporates influences from social realism, WPA-era murals, and street art. Key moments in the Navy Yard’s history are presented through a series of vignettes visually connected by a motif of ship portholes. The mural culminates in a vision of a bright economic future based on sustainable industry.

“So many exciting things happened right here,” said youth participant Nathaniel James. “When the kids on the playground across the street or people walking by see the images in the mural, they will be able to learn about this history firsthand. Rather than reading about it in a textbook, the mural will help you imagine that you’re there.”

“Partnering with Groundswell on this mural underscores our commitment to not just changing the face of the Yard but engaging the surrounding communities in a meaningful way. The images created with youth from across the city reflect the Yard’s past and, most importantly, the promise of its future,” said Andrew H. Kimball, President and CEO of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation.

“Groundswell was thrilled to be invited to use public art as a tool to tell the story of the Yard’s significant impact on New York history – from the City’s labor movement to its politics and education system,” said Groundswell Executive Director Amy Sananman. “This collaboration has provided a singular opportunity for our young artists to develop their research and critical thinking skills while learning about one of our country’s premier industrial parks.”

About Groundswell

Groundswell brings together artists, youth, and community organizations to use art as a tool for social change. “Here Goes Something” was completed as part of Groundswell’s flagship program, the Summer Leadership Institute (SLI), which engages nearly 100 youth each summer as paid apprentices on mural projects that beautify neighborhoods and give voice to ideas and perspectives that are underrepresented the public dialog. www.groundswellmural.org

About the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation

The Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC) is a not-for-profit corporation that manages the Navy Yard under a contract with the Yard’s owner, the City of New York. BNYDC is responsible for leasing space in the Yard, for developing the underutilized areas of the Yard, and for overseeing the ongoing modernization of the Yard’s infrastructure. www.brooklynnavyyard.org

About the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92

The mission of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92 is to celebrate the Navy Yard’s past, present and future, and to promote the role the Yard and its tenants play as an engine for job creation and sustainable urban industrial growth. By providing access to exhibits, public tours, educational programs, archival resources, and workforce development services, BLDG 92 reinforces the Yard’s unique bonds with the community and inspires future generations to become industrial innovators and entrepreneurs. www.bldg92.org

“Here Goes Something” is made possible through the generous support of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation. Major financial support for Groundswell’s 2012 Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) is also contributed by Altman Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Brooklyn Community Foundation, Catalog for Giving, Charles Lawrence Keith and Clara Miller Foundation, David Rockefeller Fund, Edelman Community Investment, EILEEN FISHER, Ethel and W. George Kennedy Family Foundation, Irene B. Wolt Lifetime Trust, Lambent Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation and its Cultural Innovation Fund, Travelers Foundation, 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 State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Department of Education, and the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development Summer Youth Employment Program.

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 Darlene Mealy.

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