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Youth Transform New York City This Summer

Seven Major Works of Public Art Underway Between July 5th and August 31st

NEW YORK, NY - This summer upwards of 100 young people ages 14 - 24 will be employed to create seven works of public art in New York City through Groundswell's Summer Leadership Institute (SLI). Working with professional artists and commissioned by community-based organizations, teens will beautify walls throughout New York City, from the Brooklyn Navy Yard to Sunset Park, Hunts Point to Corona.

Through these projects, New York youth will speak out and address critical social issues significant to all of us, including environmental concerns for waterfront communities, urban transportation, local labor and industry, and engaging with neighborhood and global movements.

Projects taking place this summer include:

Voices Her'd

Groundswell's Voices Her'd Visionaries team of exceptional young women will design and fabricate a monumental mural that explores the theme "Women as International Community" on the side of the Gowanus Arts Building, rehearsal, teaching, and performance home of Spoke the Hub Dancing since 1985.

Location: Gowanus Arts Building, 295 Douglass Street, Brooklyn NY 11217

Making His'tory

In partnership with the Brownsville Community Justice Center, a team made up exclusively of young men will spend the summer creating its vision of role models and the male identity. The mural will be located at the Student Farm Project Garden.

Location: Student Farm Project Garden, 512 Rockaway Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11212

StreetWise: Hunts Point

Through a unique partnership between Groundswell, the NYC Department of Transportation, and Majora Carter Group, a team of young artists from the South Bronx will create a mural at the entrance to Hunts Point Riverside Park 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 second in a series of five Hunts Point projects.

Location: Rocking the Boat, 812 Edgewater, Bronx, NY 10474

Broadway Junction

In partnership with the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, the NYC Parks Department, and Aspirations Diploma Plus High School, young people from East New York will develop a mural for the neglected Broadway Junction subway station in East New York, as part of the City's larger plan to revitalize and empower the East New York community through public art. The mural will be inspired by the theme "I Love East New York," and its development will be supported by local cultural organization ARTs East New York.

Location: Van Sinderen Avenue and Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233

Livable Streets Sunset Park

As Sunset Park prepares to implement a series of transformative community-led initiatives, Groundswell youth will partner with the NYC Department of Transportation and environmental justice leader UPROSE to create a mural celebrating livable streets.

Location: C-Town, 760 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11232

Brooklyn Navy Yard

Groundswell youth will partner with the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation to develop the second of two murals in collaboration with the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92 that showcase the history of this modern industrial park and engage passers by in the thriving activity taking place today.

Location: Navy Street and Sand Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Livable Streets Corona

Groundswell youth muralists will work with the NYC Department of Transportation's Office of Safety Education and the High School for Arts and Business to create a mural designed to promote traffic safety at the location of a dangerous intersection in Corona.

Location: High School for Arts and Business, 105-25 Horace Harding Expressway N, Queens, NY 11368

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 16th anniversary as New York's leading organization dedicated to community public art. www.groundswellmural.org

Major financial support for Groundswell's 2012 Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) is 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.

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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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