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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mural Unveiling in Downtown Brooklyn

International Women's Movements Empower Young Artists

Mural Dedication Ceremony: Thursday, August 31 at 5pm

Location: Mobil, 185 Flatbush Avenue Extension, Brooklyn, NY 11201

NEW YORK, NY - Groundswell, in partnership with the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, is pleased to announce a dedication ceremony to mark the unveiling of "For Those Who Speak and Those Who Have Yet To Speak," a new public mural that celebrates women as international community through representations of global struggles of and progress by women.

This summer, 17 teens participating in Voices Her'd Visionaries, a young women's leadership development program, collaborated with artists Nicole Schulman and Leola Bermanzohn to research, design, and fabricate this 81 ft wide by 45 ft high mural as part of Groundswell's Summer Leadership Institute (SLI).

From the central role of women in the Egyptian revolution, to grassroots activism across Latin America, this decade has witnessed a groundswell of female leadership which transcends national boundaries. During an intensive afterschool research phase, the Voices Her'd Visionaries team investigated the rise of women's rights movements across the globe. They also interviewed New York City activists to better understand women's organizing efforts on a local level.

The finished design celebrates female strength and solidarity through visual representations of these struggles. Included in the mural is a tribute to the CoMadres of El Salvador, a human rights group founded to raise awareness of the disappearances and murders committed during the country's civil war. Also included are Burmese opposition leader and Noble Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and Peggelene Bartels, known informally as King Peggy, renowned as the first female chief chosen of the Ghanaian village of Otuum.

Finally, the mural presents healthy representations of female body image, an issue emphasized throughout the Voices Her'd workshops. As part of these workshops, the young women observed dance classes hosted by Spoke the Hub Dancing and visited the Brooklyn Museum to view its collection. Inspired by the diversity of female figures observed, the team's resulting sketches evoke female strength and potential, in all its many forms.

“Groundswell looks forward to unveiling another monumental new work of public art for Downtown Brooklyn, particularly one in such a highly visible location at the entrance to the Manhattan Bridge,” said Groundswell Executive Director Amy Sananman. “Voices Her’d Visionaries has once again provided young women a powerful platform to speak out about an issue of importance in their lives.”

About Groundswell

Groundswell brings together artists, youth, and community organizations to use art as a tool for social change. “For Those Who Speak and Those Who Have Yet To Speak” 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 Downtown Brooklyn Partnership

The Downtown Brooklyn Partnership is a not-for-profit local development corporation that coordinates economic development activities in Downtown Brooklyn and ensures implementation of public and private development projects in the area. www.dbpartnership.org

“For Those Who Speak and Those Who Have Yet To Speak” is made possible through the generous support of Charles Lawrence Keith and Clara Miller Foundation, EILEEN FISHER, and the Irene B. Wolt Lifetime Trust. 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, David Rockefeller Fund, Edelman Community Investment, Ethel and W. George Kennedy Family Foundation, 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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