



540 President Street, Suite 1A, Brooklyn, NY 11215 | 718.254.9782 | www.groundswellmural.org

Contact:
Sharon Polli (718) 254 9782
sharon@groundswellmural.org
Vanessa Hadox (718) 254 9782
vanessa@groundswellmural.org
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GROUNDSWELL'S YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TEAMS UP WITH BROADWAY STAGES, HOME OF THE 'GOOD WIFE,' TO UNVEIL MAJOR PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION

Designed by North Brooklyn Students, "Stages of Greenpoint," a 16 ft wide by 12 ft high Mural, Celebrates Neighborhood's Rich Immigrant History and Future as NYC's Capital for TV and Film

Mural Dedication Ceremony: Wednesday, May 7 at 4pm
Location: 370 Greenpoint Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222

GREENPOINT - Groundswell, New York's leading organization dedicated to community public art, unveiled a new mural at Broadway Stages in Greenpoint, Brooklyn today. Entitled "Stages of Greenpoint," the installation celebrates the neighborhood's rich immigrant history and future as NYC's capital for TV and film.

"Painting this mural has been such an exciting journey for our students," said **Groundswell Executive Director Amy Sananman**. "They went to every nook and cranny of Greenpoint to put it together, from the shelter pavilion at McGolrick Park to St Anthony's Church on Manhattan Avenue. What makes it so special is that showcases their artistic vision of Greenpoint. Knowing that and seeing the mural displayed for the whole community today gives our teen artists a powerful sense of accomplishment."

The project aims to bring public art and creative opportunities to New York City's most underserved communities and youth. The group of students, working under the guidance of Groundswell Lead Artist Esteban del Valle and Assistant Artist Angel Garcia, created the mural as part of Groundswell's Teen Empowerment Mural Apprenticeship (TEMA), an after-school program where teen artists meet weekly throughout the year to create large-scale public art projects for community organizations, such as Broadway Stages.

"We're honored that these students chose to build their gorgeous mural at Broadway Stages. They have put so much hard work into recreating, even re-imagining, our entire neighborhood. Their mural will be a constant reminder that Greenpoint is at the heart of who we all are," said **Broadway Stages President Gina Argento**. "We're committed to supporting the local non-profit and community organizations that help North Brooklyn flourish."

The group began working on the mural in October, taking field trips to different parts of Greenpoint, conducting interviews with long-time residents, taking workshops on mural making, researching the history of the neighborhood, and noting new developments, including the surge of immigrant families and growth of film and television in Greenpoint, to develop their designs.

"It's amazing how much Greenpoint have evolved," said **Groundswell Lead Artist Esteban del Valle**. "Creating the mural has been a way for us to learn about the immigrant families who first settled here, but also embrace the new people who are coming in, the exciting evolution of Greenpoint's restaurants, and its role in the film industry, through new shows like 'The Good Wife.' I'm very proud to have been a part of this project."

Previous public art projects that the students have installed include "Kaleidoscopic Dream" at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, "The Game of Not Playing" developed with the GED Plus Regional High School in the Bronx and "Respect the Work," built with Domestic Workers United (DWU) and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ).

The Greenpoint mural is supported by Elaine and Norm Brodsky, Lori and Kevin Thompson, Roux Associates, Broadway Stages and Two Trees Management. Major financial support for Groundswell's 2013-2014 Teen Empowerment Mural Apprenticeship (TEMA) program is also contributed by Altman Foundation, Ethel and W. George Kennedy Family Foundation, Lambent Foundation, Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Pinkerton Foundation, Variety The Children's Charity of New York, and William Randolph Hearst Foundations, in addition to numerous individuals.

"I'm glad that I got to do this for the community," said **Safiyah Wilkerson, 17, Brooklyn High School of the Arts**. "I want people to know there's a place for everyone and everything in our mural of Greenpoint."

About Groundswell:

Founded in 1996, Groundswell brings together youth, artists, and community partners to make public art that advances social change for a more just and equitable world. Each year, Groundswell advances this mission by engaging 800 culturally underserved, marginalized, and economically disadvantaged young people, primarily aged 14-21, from New York's most diverse communities in their public art-making programs. Groundswell has worked with 95 established artists and thousands of NY youths to complete 450 public arts projects in over 75 of the city's neighborhoods from the Bronx to the Battery and beyond. Groundswell is celebrating its 18th anniversary as New York's leading organization dedicated to community public art.

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About Broadway Stages:

Broadway Stages is the largest film, television and music production facilities in New York, operating 28 stages in Brooklyn and Queens on over 1,000,000 square feet, with plans to transform Staten Island's shuttered Arthur Kills prison into a 69 acre moviemaking mecca. It's home to several award-winning shows and blockbuster movies including "The Good Wife," "Blue Bloods," "Smash," "Rescue Me," and music videos for Kanye West and Jay-Z.

Headquartered in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, Broadway Stages is driving NYC's film and television resurgence. More than 500 New Yorkers work at the family-run company at any given time. It supports a network of more than 150 small businesses throughout North Brooklyn, and has donated \$500,000 to local community groups such as McGolrick park, PS 110, the Greenpoint YMCA, Elmhurst's Church of the Ascension, 5 Boro Basketball, North Brooklyn Boat Club, and Queens Botanical Garden.

The company is also an innovative leader in sustainability—engineering the world's first solar-powered sound studios that generate 30% of their own electricity, and building the first organic rooftop farm in New York to help improve access to fresh produce in North Brooklyn. Find out more at www.broadway-stages.com.