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Contact: Sharon Polli (718) 254-9782
Sharon@groundswellmural.org
Nana Lee (718) 254-9782
Press@groundswellmural.org

Mural Unveiling in Tremont

**Teen Artists Unveil Mural as Backdrop for
Local School Campus Playground**

Mural Dedication Ceremony: Friday, August 29 at 1pm
Location: 2050 Prospect Avenue, Tremont, Bronx, NY 10457

NEW YORK, NY – Groundswell, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, is pleased to announce a dedication ceremony to celebrate the unveiling of “We All Share One Sky,” which will serve as a vibrant 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. The playground will break ground in fall 2014.

This summer, 15 youth participating in Groundswell’s flagship Summer Leadership Institute worked with Lead Artist Pasqualina Azzarello and Assistant Artists Ify Chiejina and Chris Soria as paid apprentices to research, design, and fabricate this 20’ by 92’ mural. For many in the community, the building is not just school but home. Through the transformation of the schoolyard through public art, youth artists facilitated community stakeholders to come together and create a beautiful public space where young people’s futures can take flight.

During the research period, the youth project team went on guided neighborhood walks and interviewed local residents to capture not only the fauna and flora in the area, but also gain more insight into what the school campus means to community members. “This mural really creates a sense of community and belonging for our school,” said Vanessa Singleton, Principal of Community School 300. “The stars in the sky inspire hope that our young students’ dreams will be achieved. It is a perfect backdrop for our new schoolyard.”

A stylized figure on the right hand side of the design, inspired by the mural team’s field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, provides a sense of welcome and attachment to young people and families reaching out to her. The roots of the plants in the mural deeply extend into the soil, symbolizing the strong connection individuals have with their community. In the sky, paper airplanes transform into birds, a playful visual metaphor designed to capture the imagination of children and adults alike.

“Children who grow up in park-poor neighborhood have no safe place to enjoy their childhood. The mission of The Trust for Public Land is to create parks and protect lands for generations to come. We

are delighted to continue our partnership with Groundswell and use the artmaking process to build community and foster healthy and livable spaces for our kids,” said Will Rogers, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Trust for Public Land. “Through this mural and the new playground to come, the children in the neighborhood will have a safe and beautiful place to have fun.”

“Our partnerships with The Trust for Public Land and local schools is so synergistic. Together, we use the artmaking and playground design process to create a shared sense of stewardship by the community,” said Groundswell Founder and Executive Director Amy Sananman. “The change from before the mural to after is so visible. As the driving force behind such visible transformations, our youth muralists really look forward to sharing their experience – from conceptualization to the final unveiling – with a broader community.”

“My experience with Groundswell has not only opened my eyes to see beyond my surroundings and to see the issues the rest of the world is facing,” said youth participant Juana Euceda, who recently received multiple college offerings. “The works I done with Groundswell has played a big role in shaping my future as an advocate for all of those who don’t have a voice.”

“We All Share One Sky” is made possible with funds from the Trust for Public Land. The playground renovation is part of The Trust for Public Land’s ongoing effort to transform neglected spaces into community playgrounds, helping to ensure that every child in the city has a safe outdoor place to play.

Major financial support for Groundswell's 2014 Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) is contributed by Altman Foundation, 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 Council on the Arts, New York State Office of Public Safety, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 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 New York State Attorney General; 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.

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. This mural was completed as part of Groundswell’s flagship program,

the Summer Leadership Institute (SLI), which employs over 140 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. To follow a youth-driven social media campaign highlighting SLI, use #GroundswellNYC. www.groundswellmural.org

About The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Nearly ten million people live within a ten-minute walk of a Trust for Public Land park, garden, or natural area, and millions more visit these sites every year. Learn more at www.tpl.org.

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