



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mural Unveiling at South Brooklyn Community High School

Youth Artists in Red Hook

Transform their Lives and their Communities

Mural Dedication Ceremony: Wednesday, June 3 at 12 pm

Location: 173 Conover Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231

NEW YORK, NY – Groundswell, in partnership with the New York City Department of Education and Councilmember Carlos Menchaca, is pleased to announce a dedication ceremony celebrating the unveiling of a new mural, entitled “The Sea of Transformation.” Designed by a talented team of South Brooklyn Community High School (SBCHS) students, the mural illustrates the positive growth and leadership development of young people which takes place within SBCHS’s highly personalized educational environment.

To create this mural, twelve SBCHS students participating in an intensive Cultural Afterschool Adventures (CASA) Program worked with Lead Artist Misha Tyutyunik and Assistant Artist Jessica Angel to research, design, and fabricate this monumental mural installed at South Brooklyn Community High School, 173 Conover Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231.

In New York City, there are nearly 140,000 young people who have dropped out or are significantly off-track for graduation. When students first enroll at SBCHS, a model transfer high school operated in partnership with Good Shepherd Services, they are asked one question: “What are you ready to change?”

Inspired by this question, the youth mural team reflected on the transformation of students at SBCHS: During an intensive research phase, they interviewed SBCHS staff, administration, fellow students, and alumni. They developed visual imagery that reflects the growth and development of SBCHS young people, from who these students are when they arrive to who they’ve become as they prepare to graduate. In recognition of SBCHS’s Red Hook location, this transformation is captured in the mural in vibrant ocean imagery, including a seagull taking flight and a mermaid figure which evokes notions of change and renewal.

“I am delighted to partner with an organization like Groundswell to offer SBCHS students with the opportunity engage in the creative process through the Cultural Afterschool Adventures Program,” said Councilmember Carlos Menchaca. “More importantly, I welcome the opportunity to empower these emerging artists and activists with a monumental platform to make their voices and perspectives visible to a broader community.”

“SBCHS is a vibrant school community that engages in the work of transforming lives,” said SBCHS Principal LaToya Kittrell. “We are proud to see our students spread their wings and display their talents. This project is an excellent opportunity to display our school's commitment and value for student voice.”

“In the process of creating the mural, these talented young people not only captured the individual transformations that take place within the walls of SBCHS,” said Groundswell Executive Director Amy Sananman, “but they were offered the unique opportunity to physically transform the school environment itself, making a lasting and highly visible impact that will resonate with thousands of future students.”

This project is made possible by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council. Special thanks to Council Member Carlos Menchaca for his support.

Additional support is provided by Good Shepherd Services.

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. Our projects beautify neighborhoods, engage youth in societal and personal transformation, and give expression to ideas and perspectives that are underrepresented in the public dialogue. www.groundswell.nyc

About South Brooklyn Community High School

SBCHS is committed to providing students with a quality education that will prepare them for post-secondary education, meaningful employment, healthy personal and family relationships and participation in the life of their communities. Students and staff work together to build a strong sense of community based upon mutual respect and a commitment to participate in an effective learning environment that fosters excellence and is responsive to student needs and interests. The school supports the comprehensive development of young people and provides diverse opportunities for them to exercise leadership skills at school. The school also recognizes the importance of family and supportive adults to the success of its students and works to ensure that they are appropriately involved in their children’s experience at SBCHS.

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