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HARLEM CDC CELEBRATES THE DEBUT OF MORE ART IN HARLEM RIVER PARK

Murals and banners by local youth reveal designs for Harlem River Park's past and future

Harlem Community Development Corporation today announced four murals and six banner designs by youth from Creative Arts Workshop for Kids (CAW) – their latest artwork for Harlem River Park. The murals and banners were supported by the Harlem Community Development Corporation (HCDC), Harlem River Park Task Force, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), which gave permission to use its walls.

"As a lifetime resident of Harlem, I consider Harlem River Park one of the new jewels in our community," said Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright, Chairman of the Harlem CDC Board of Directors. "Our young folk have dedicated countless hours of work and have been an integral part of the success and the beautification of this project," Wright said. "I look forward to enjoying the fruit of their labor for many years to come."

The murals cover east-facing overpass walls of the Harlem River Drive between 132nd and 139th streets. The 3-by-8-foot banners are installed on the lamppost standards leading into Harlem River Park at 135th, 139th and 142nd streets.

"CAW feels privileged to listen to the Harlem River Park Task Force and its constituents," said Phoebe Zinman Winters, Program Director for CAW. "Our teaching artists and 60 teens have further beautified Harlem River Park, with themes that address the history and diversity of Harlem's inhabitants and traditions, from the natural environment to the original peoples and the current cultures that reside here."

"Harlem River Park has quickly become a must-see neighborhood destination in a city filled with places to see," said Phillip Eng, Regional Director for NYSDOT's New York City office. "The never-ending imagination and artistry of the local teenagers and the CAW teachers has been wonderful to behold. NYSDOT is once again proud to have provided the canvas so their dreams can be shared by all."

Harlem River Park may be reached by taking the 2 or 3 Broadway/Seventh Avenue Subway to 135th Street, then head north to 139th Street and east to the 5th Avenue ramp into Harlem River Park.

Harlem Community Development Corporation, a subsidiary of Empire State Development Corporation, serves the greater Harlem community through planning and implementing a range of community development and revitalization initiatives for restoring Upper Manhattan as an economically stable and culturally vibrant

community. For more information on Harlem CDC and its role in Harlem River Park, please visit http://www.harlemcdc.org/Planning/planning_hr_park.htm.

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