



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mural Unveiling at Ditmas I.S. 62

Youth Artists Celebrate Unity from Diversity

on Kensington Neighborhood Pharmacy

Mural Dedication Ceremony: Thursday, May 28 at 9:30 am

Location: 525 East 7th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218

NEW YORK, NY – Groundswell, in partnership with Ditmas I.S. 62 and Councilmember Dr. Mathieu Eugene, is pleased to announce a dedication ceremony celebrating the unveiling of a new mural, entitled “Unlock Your Dreams.” The mural explores civic participation within contemporary society and highlights the importance of remaining true to oneself through life’s journeys.

To create this mural, 17 Ditmas I.S. 62 middle school students participating in an intensive Cultural Afterschool Adventures (CASA) Program worked with Lead Artist Marc Evan and Assistant Artist Rafal Pisarczyk to research, design, and fabricate this mural at 525 East 7th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218.

Ditmas I.S. 62 is a community, not just a school. To begin the mural design process, youth artists researched the many communities represented within the school, which is located within one of the most ethnically diverse zip codes in the nation. The students learned more about the history of the neighborhood and the many immigrant populations who call it home today. They then identified common interests, concerns, and values which have the power to bring these diverse groups together. Finally, they explored their own personal stories, using the creation of personal mythologies as a framework. Throughout the process, they deepened their understanding of the role of civics within contemporary society.

“Through the Cultural Afterschool Adventures (CASA) program, I am delighted to have provided talented young people in my district with a meaningful afterschool artmaking opportunity,” said Councilmember Dr. Mathieu Eugene. “Not only have these young people developed critical 21st century skills through this project, but they have contributed to the beautification of their community through the creation of this beautiful public artwork.”

“I am so proud today to commend these students for their hard work and dedication,” said Principal Barry Kevorkian. “Through this public artwork, they have extended the civic learning they engage in in the classroom and shared it with our broader community.”

“At Groundswell, we believe that art creates community and community creates change,” said Groundswell Executive Director Amy Sananman. “Through the creation of this beautiful public artwork, installed at a highly visible location within the local neighborhood, Groundswell has been proud to be a part of the diverse and vibrant Ditmas I.S. 62 community.

“Unlock Your Dreams” is made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the New York City Council. Special thanks to New York City Councilmember Dr. Mathieu Eugene.

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 Ditmas I.S. 62

Ditmas I.S. 62’s mission is to provide all students with an equitable education which allows each child the opportunity to achieve excellence and become a productive citizen - ready to participate in a democratic society. Through an exploration of the arts, law & service to the community, Ditmas I.S. 62 aims to foster a love of learning to last a lifetime. www.ditmasis62.webs.com

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