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Mural Unveiling at Corona Food Bazaar

Youth Artists in Corona

Celebrate Neighborhood Diversity through Public Art

Mural Dedication Ceremony: Wednesday, May 27 at 3pm

Location: 97-27 57th Avenue, Corona, NY 11368

NEW YORK, NY – Groundswell, in partnership with Councilmember Julissa Ferreras, the High School for Arts and Business (HSAB), and Bogopa Service Corp, is pleased to announce a dedication ceremony celebrating the unveiling of a new mural, entitled “The Seed of Diversity.” Designed by a talented team of HSAB students, the mural illustrates the diversity of the neighborhood of Corona, a vibrant community which is home to multi-generational families representing a multitude of cultures, nationalities, and ethnicities.

To create this mural, 25 HSAB students participating in an intensive public artmaking program, presented with the support of Councilmember Julissa Ferreras, worked with Lead Artist Angel Garcia and Assistant Artist Victor A. Saint Hilaire to research, design, and fabricate this mural installed on the side of Food Bazaar Supermarket, 97-27 57th Avenue, Corona, NY 11368.

“The overarching focus of our mural is to celebrate the diversity of Corona,” said Lead Artist Angel Garcia. “The dedicated teen artists challenged themselves to tell this story through rich symbolism and sophisticated imagery. The variety of patterns and textiles in the mural design allude to the community’s multitude of cultures.”

The mural design is anchored by an image of an elder, knitting a quilt, illustrating the tight knit nature of the neighborhood. In the middle of the mural image is a baby designed to evoke a seed with roots emerging from it. Two large hands move to embrace the baby, representing the community taking care of its future. A dragon in the shape of a subway train gives further shape to the composition and alludes to the elevated subway trains present throughout the neighborhood.

“Through my continued partnership with Groundswell, The High School for Arts and Business is educating the future artists and business leaders of tomorrow. Today, these young people have leveraged their time and talents to visually transform our neighborhood through the creation of this monumental new public artwork,” said Councilmember Julissa Ferreras, “I am delighted to have provided an intensive afterschool art making experience to talented young people from my district.”

“This beautiful mural is installed on the side of our Corona location, a wall located on a main shopping fare in the neighborhood and frequented by thousands of our customers each week,’ said Spencer An, President of Bogopa Service Corp/Food Bazaar Supermarkets. “The Food Bazaar family is thrilled to share the work of these talented young people with our customers. Together, we are using art as a tool to beautify and enliven our community.”

“Our students welcomed the opportunity to share the hands-on artistic learning they do each day in the classroom with the broader neighborhood,” said Ana Zambrano Burakov, Principal of the High School for Arts and Business. “HSAB is grateful to our partners Councilmember Julissa Ferreras, Groundswell, and Food Bazaar for making this meaningful real world learning possible.”

“In the process of creating the mural, these talented young people not only captured the diversity present in the vibrant neighborhood of Corona,” said Groundswell Executive Director Amy Sananman, “but they added their own vibrant and diverse artistic perspectives to the visual landscape of their community.”

“The Seed of Diversity” is made possible with funds from New York City Councilmember Julissa Ferreras.

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 the High School for Arts and Business

The High School for Arts and Business offers different tracks for students. Students that are looking to be Art Majors and receive a Chancellors Endorsed Arts Diploma will have the opportunity to explore a variety of courses. These courses will give the students both a strong knowledge of fine arts as well as graphic arts. Its Entrepreneurship & Virtual Enterprise Program was recognized by the state of New York as a certified career and technical education (CTE) program of study in 2008. The sequence consists of a Business Computer Applications course which provides the baseline for success in the sequence.

About Food Bazaar Supermarket

Bogopa Service Corp. is a privately owned company that operates 18 full-service supermarkets in the Tri-State metropolitan area (NY, NJ, CT) under the name “Food Bazaar.” For more than 25 years it has been providing its communities with the flavors they love and recall from ‘back home,’ exotic and unique foods as well as basic essentials. It devotes aisles of space to international grocery and dairy/frozen items as well as a full-service fish market, a huge selection of local and international produce, a full service deli, bakery and custom butcher. With thousands of products waiting to be

explored, Food Bazaar always provides a true culinary adventure. For more information visit the Food Bazaar website at <http://www.MyFoodBazaar.com>.

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