



Hester Street Collaborative

Newsletter

Winter 2005-6 Volume II Issue I

HSC FEATURED IN A MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY EXHIBITION OPENING AT THE URBAN CENTER EXHIBIT CELEBRATES EIGHT YEARS OF HSC'S AND LSS' WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

An exhibit charting the work of Hester Street Collaborative from its inception eight years ago to today and beyond, looking at the projects planned for the future, opened Wednesday 22 February 2006 at the Urban Center at 457 Madison Avenue. The exhibit will be up in the Urban Center's main gallery through April 18.

The exhibit, designed collaboratively with Leroy Street Studio (LSS), was conceived and executed in conjunction with the Citizen Design Interns, and employs the design-build processes HSC has developed, working with recycled and sustainable materials and an inclusive design approach.

PUBLICATION

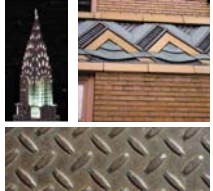
In conjunction with the exhibit, HSC and LSS have published a series of interactive cards designed to encourage awareness of and engagement with the physical surroundings. The cards' content reflects the philosophy and processes developed by Hester Street Collaborative in their work in the community.

HSC-RUN EVENTS:

Additionally, HSC has organized two events in conjunction with a current Ground Up program geared toward designing and building a new garden with the students and neighboring community at PS 134 on East Broadway and Grand Street on the Lower East Side. The first event, developed in partnership with the Project for Public Spaces will take place on March 13th at PS 134-- it will be a visioning session for local stakeholders, which will attempt to create a forum for all parties to brainstorm possibilities for the new Garden at PS 134. The second event, to be held at the Urban Center on March 23rd 2006, will be a design charrette run by HSC with garden design consultant, Pete Moss, from the Audubon Society; Landscape architect, Rachel Gleeson from Michael Van Valkenberg, Associates; Thor Snilsberg from Project for Public Spaces; and with graphic design assistance from Metropolis magazine. The design charrette will be an opportunity for local stakeholders (students, teachers and community members) to collaborate with experts to redesign their garden space.



Above: exhibition installation; below: HSC interactive cards



We're surrounded by a wide variety of surfaces and materials. These can vary in color, pattern, and texture. What patterns do you see on the buildings and streets? Stop, look, and touch--enjoy the richness of your physical environment.

USE THE CRAYON AND PAPER PROVIDED TO MAKE RUBBINGS OF SOME COMPELLING SURFACES

MAKE AN IMPRESSION

HSC TO COORDINATE STUDENT DESIGN/ BUILD PARTICIPATION ON ROBIN HOOD FOUNDATION'S LIBRARY INITIATIVE

HSC SOUGHT OUT FOR ITS EXPERTISE INTEGRATING THE COMMUNITY INTO THE DESIGN PROCESS.

The Robin Hood Foundation has approached HSC to develop and coordinate collaborative student-teacher workshops for their prestigious L!brary Initiative, currently in the design and planning stages of a cohort of twenty six new libraries. Leroy Street Studio is one of six architecture firms currently working on the design of these libraries. HSC is working with the Robin Hood organization, with school administrators and teachers, with the selected architects, with the program's graphic designers, Pentagram, and visiting artists-- to generate design education tools, lesson plans, teacher training strategies, and long-term programming. HSC has developed workshops designed to engage students and teachers in the creation of graphics and architectural elements for their library. By engaging students and teachers in the final design of their school library, HSC and Robin Hood seek to build personal investment in the well-being and future use of those spaces. For HSC this presents a unique opportunity to refine and develop their collaborative design/build strategies, working with a range of designers and students in varying contexts on a similar design problem.



Students create an alphabet for their library walls

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Hester Street Collaborative is a Design/ Build community based non-profit, created to work with New York City communities to improve their neighborhoods

HSC AND SDR PARK COALITION BAND TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP HESTER STREET PLAYGROUND DESIGN

HSC is currently working with fellow SDR Park Coalition members & Partnerships for Parks on developing a design process to integrate local community members in the redesign and reconstruction of the Hester Street Playground at SDR Park.

Sara D. Roosevelt (SDR) Coalition: BRC Senior Center, Chinatown YMCA, Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), Hester Street Collaborative, M'Finda Kalunga Garden, Partnerships For Parks

METROPOLIS MAGAZINE ONLINE FEATURES HSC'S RECENT ACTIVITIES METROPOLIS' URBAN JOURNAL SPOTLIGHTS HSC AS A NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION, "LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR MORE SENSITIVITY WITHIN A COMMUNITY'S PUBLIC SPACES."

Alec Applebaum's January 31, 2006 piece in Metropolis Magazine's online publication (see <http://www.metropolismag.com/cda/story.php?artid=1778>) profiles Hester Street Collaborative's recent work through its Citizen Design Internship Program, describing the "Step on your Neighborhood" pavers and "Bad Design darts," conceived by the Interns as a means of engaging the community in a debate and reaction to their physical environment; and the interns work developing hand-made lanterns as a means to critique and respond to their local context .

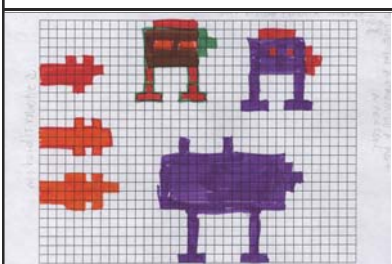


Lantern by HSC intern Toni McDonald

The article goes on to summarize HSC's approach and success in achieving its goals: **"...the interns and staff never seem to tire of listening. And the collaborative's ability to excite and dispatch students suggest that Chinatown may soon redesign itself on democratic cues."**

HSC RECEIVES FUNDING FOR ITS AVENUE OF THE IMMIGRANTS PROJECT THROUGH LMCC'S GRANTS FOR ART IN PUBLIC SPACES

HSC has received a Lower Manhattan Cultural Council grant through its 2005 Art in Public Spaces program in support of its SIGN AND PATH project. The "SIGN and PATH" project celebrates the cultural diversity of the local communities that the Avenue connects. Students participating in HSC's Ground Up program at M.S. 131 are designing and fabricating signage elements for the the Allen street medians between Grand and Broome in conjunction with local community groups. The goal is to spearhead the community-led improvement of the medians through United Neighborhoods to Revitalize Allen and Pike Streets (UNRAP).



Student "symbol-writing" produced in HSC workshops for the Robin Hood Library Initiative

The LMCC Grant award letter announced, **"Grants for Art in Public Spaces** are designed to enable the creation and presentation of art in the myriad public spaces of Lower Manhattan. The program supports projects by individual artists and arts organizations citywide to realize projects in the area south of Canal Street or in Chinatown. **The program is made possible through the generous support of the September 11th Fund."**

DONATE TO HSC

- Support design collaboration between local resident and students.
- Give children and young adults hands-on design experience.
- Encourage civic engagement through design-build education.

Contributions can be mailed to: Hester Street Collaborative, Inc., or received over the phone. See contact info below.

HSC INVITES AVENUE OF THE IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS TO NOMINATE LOCAL HONOREES

HSC is seeking nomination's for people and places to be included in the Avenue of the Immigrants installation . To make a nomination, please visit our web balloting site: www.leroystreetstudio.com/HSC

WHO is the Avenue of the Immigrants?
WHERE is the Avenue of the Immigrants?
YOU DECIDE!

*** NOMINATE *** a place or a person to be honored on the Avenue of the Immigrants

HSC WOULD LIKE TO THANK ITS SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS:

Supporters: Citizens for NYC, Friends of P.S. 134 (Daniel and Jane Och, Sharon and Scott Prince, Jody and Dean Leavitt, Joanne and Duane Fiedler, Bonnie and Peter Gatof), Noam and Geraldine Gottesman, Joseph & Sheila Gutman Family Foundation, Leroy Street Studio Architecture, Lisa Perry, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, The North Star Fund, Roy J. Zuckerberg Family Foundation
Volunteers: Matt Bauder, Rob Berry, Cristina Chang, Esy Casey, Eric Fennell, Julie Fisher, Melinda Grey, Mary Halvorson, Morgan Hare, Arom Jeon, Andrew Magnes, Edward Ozimek, Pauline Shu, Carl Smith, Lesli Stinger, Marc Turkel, Murat Uyanmis, Thomas Warnke, Shawn Watts
Interns: Jesenia Bradley, Jenny Chen, William Chung, Kate Dries, Yanelly Espinal, Dominick Freeman, Toni McDonald, Yomaris Milan, Robert Silva, Susan Zhang
 SIGN and PATH has been made possible, in part, by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council with the generous support of the September 11th fund



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