



Hester Street Collaborative

Newsletter

Spring 2005 Volume I Issue III

HSC'S GROUND UP STUDENTS HONORED IN LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL'S GALA

On May 5th Hester Street Collaborative's Ground Up Program was recognized as one of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's (LMCC) most successful supported programs. LMCC selected two of HSC's recent alumni, Amanda Cobo (13) and Jenny Chen (13) of MS 131, to present LMCC's Leadership Award to its featured honorees, Senators Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer at the LMCC's 16th Annual benefit event, "THE DOWNTOWN DINNER," at Cipriani's Downtown. In 2003 and 2004 Hester Street Collaborative was a recipient of a \$5,000 LMCC Creative Curricula Grant.



*The Downtown Dinner, 5.05.05 photo: Stephanie Berger, 2005
Courtesy of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council*

Janis Astor del Valle, the Grants Manager for Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, selected HSC Ground Up students as exemplary of the kind of work that LMCC funds: "We at Lower Manhattan

Cultural Council are very proud of our Creative Curricula grantees, and we are particularly impressed with the stellar work achieved between the Hester Street Collaborative and M.S. 131. The benefit was a chance for us to highlight the program and honor the dedication and diligence that both Jenny and Amanda brought to the project." At the Gala, LMCC president Tom Healy introduced Jenny and Amanda to a room packed with celebrities and dignitaries, extolling their grantee's accomplishments.

Senators Chuck Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton were jointly presented LMCC's Leadership Award for their tireless work since the terrorist attacks on September 11th to help New York recover and rebuild, and for their strong support for the arts as critical to the future of Lower Manhattan. Other presenters for the evening, which also honored John and Dan Tishman of Tishman Construction and musicians Sonic Youth, included singer Suzanne Vega, and Charles Gargano, chairman of the Empire State Development Corporation. The evening's events included an art auction featuring work by artists Vito Acconci, Louise Bourgeois, Tom Sachs, Claes Oldenberg and Jenny Holzer, to help establish the Agnes Martin Fellowship Fund for Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's residency program, as well as a short film by the Neistat Brothers and performances by Daniel Bernard Roumain, Red Dive, Joseph Morant, Boys Choir of Harlem, and the Ismaily House Band.

Board of Directors

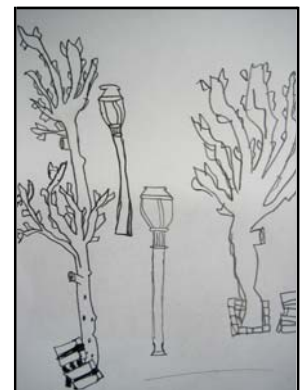
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Hester Street Collaborative is a Design/ Build community based non-profit, created to work with New York City communities to improve their neighborhoods

After the event, Amanda Cobo, still reeling from the excitement of the event, said of the experience "I felt excited and proud...I never thought I would be able to do something like that. It was cool to meet [Senators Clinton and Schumer] and shake their hands." Jenny Chen added, "Being on the stage with a lot of people paying attention... at first made me feel nervous, but also proud that I had the opportunity to present awards to such important people."



An M.S. 131 student sketches from a neighborhood walk in Chinatown.



Above: Avenue of the Immigrants Sign and Path Proposal



Left: Students research the history of immigration to the Lower East Side on a walking tour given by HSC Board Member and Lower East Side Historian Andy Meyers.

HSC has initiated a "Sign and Path" project to spearhead the improvement of the Allen and Pike street medians in conjunction with the local Chinatown coalition, United Neighborhoods to Revitalize Allen and Pike Streets (UNRAP). HSC has conceived of this project with the local nonprofit agency, and UNRAP coalition member, Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) to celebrate cultural diversity and rich social fabric that has evolved from the various cultural groups in Chinatown and the Lower East Side. As part of this project, students in HSC's Ground Up program at local schools M.S. 131 and P.S. 134 are being introduced to the neighborhood's rich cultural history and significant physical landmarks, and are encouraged to explore, observe and document their local community. Students have filled their sketchbooks with drawings, collages, photography, rubbings and mapping exercises documenting their neighborhood. HSC Board member, Urban historian and expert on lower Manhattan's cultural history, Andy Meyers, has led the students

on a walking tour highlighting the history of immigration to the Lower East Side and Chinatown, and class trips to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Lillian Wald House, St. Mary's, St. Augustine's, Bialystoker Synagogue and the Eldridge Street Synagogue have further exposed the students to their neighborhoods rich cultural heritage. Ultimately the signage project represents an opportunity for intergenerational collaboration, as the final SIGN piece will be a long-term installation conceived and fabricated by students and local residents conveying their history and diversity to the public. It will signal the initiation of a community-led effort to reclaim the Allen and Pike Street corridors.

HSC FEATURED IN NATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR INCLUSION CONFERENCE

On Saturday April 2, 2005 Hester Street Collaborative's Executive Director, Anne Frederick, was one of three panelists invited to speak on the topic of Innovative Strategies-- Alternative models of Architectural practice challenging the status quo-- at a two day fifth annual Structures for Inclusion conference held at the City College of New York. Started in 2000 by the distinguished non-profit agency, Design Corps, and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Graham Foundation, the Structures for Inclusion conferences have evolved into a preeminent forum for identifying successful alternative approaches to bringing architecture to under-served communities. This year's conference theme, "Going to Scale" addressed issues such as the expansion of the community design movement, the challenges of "institutionalizing" innovative practices, and systematic approaches to projects such as manufactured housing. Hester Street Collaborative and Leroy Street Studio were selected as a "model for growth from a for-profit practice to a successful non-profit strategy, as well as for the growth of community projects from participatory small scale work to building effective community relationships which have lead to larger scale projects." Past Structures for Inclusion conference speakers have included Design Corps' Brian Bell, Sam Mockbee of Auburn's Rural Studio, and Michael Haverland of Yale's Urban Design Workshop. HSC's fellow panelists this year included BaSIC (international community design/build) Initiative's founder Sergio Palleroni; Damir Blazevic of Platforms 9.81 (a Croatian architectural and media collective) and Russell Katz, responsible for developing Elevation 314, a state of the art eco-apartment building in Washington, D.C.

HSC WOULD LIKE TO THANK ITS SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS:



Supporters: 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), 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: Cristina Chang, Andrew Magnes, Corrie Rosen, Lesli Stinger, Adam Watson

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