My Hopes and Dreams

Art Exhibit and Reception

May 18th 2011
**My Hopes and Dreams** is a collaboration between the Institute on Urban Health Research and the Cooperative Artists Institute’s Peace Drum Project. The Peace Drum Project provides high-quality afterschool performing and visual arts instruction, thus increasing self expression and foster leadership among youth. The Institute on Urban Health Research is dedicated to improving the health of urban populations by studying how the places that people live, study and work impact their health and well-being. The Institute staff longed for creative inspiration in their office space that would reflect the passion they feel for their work. So, the Institute partnered with the Peace Drum Project Director, Susan Porter, and the project's teen artists, to create art on the theme of “My Hopes and Dreams for the Future.” The work of these 12 teen artists will be on permanent display at the Institute:

- Rafael Baez
- Denzell Beasley
- Livy Cáceres
- Steven Casiano
- Rogenzo Cruickshank
- Jasmine Dozier
- Tashia Ezell-Cuff
- Jenny Nguyen
- Joel Perea
- Ivan Richiez
- Joseph Ruiz
- Janéa Williams
Denzell Beasley
Age 17, Roxbury

“Me & Success”

This painting is about my hopes and dreams and what I plan on accomplishing.
Ivan Richiez
Age 18, Jamaica Plain

“This Life Forever”

This painting is about what my future should look like, or at least what I want it to look like.
Janéa Williams
Age 15, Roslindale

“The Evolution of Impediment”

This painting is about the obstacles that I (and others) have to face when moving towards our hopes and dreams.

There are people who build you up (blue) and others who bring you down (red.)

But, as you come closer and closer to your dreams, these obstacles come together and create an evolution of what makes you you, and your dream, your dream.
Jasmine Dozier
Age 17, Roslindale

“Dream Big”
This painting is about how everyone should always DREAM BIG in life.
Jenny Nguyen
Age 14, Roslindale

“Piece It Together”

This painting is about different challenges in life that are difficult, but you have to make it through them to get somewhere.
Joel Perea
Age 16, Roxbury

“The Paths to My Dreams”
This painting is about the many paths to my dream, but sometimes it also looks like a drawing of a bird.
Joseph Ruiz

Age 18, Dorchester

“My Hopes and My Dreams”

My painting is of a room that has a recording booth in it where I can make music.
Livy Cáceres
Age 18, Jamaica Plain

“Deep Breath, Fresh Air”

This painting is about being able to sit back and enjoy the simple things in life. I will live a very strict and disciplined life as a naval officer, but despite my career service choice I want to be able to sit back and enjoy the simple things in life.
Rafael Baez
Age 14, Roslindale
“My Future”
This painting is about the comfort of home.
Rogenzo Cruickshank
Age 18, Roxbury

“Crossroads”

This painting is about my life journey and my experience in school.
Steven Casiano
Age 17, Roslindale

“Big Sparkle”
This painting is about wonderful colors and things that glitter.
Tashia Ezell-Cuff
Age 18, Roxbury
“Fantasy”

This painting is about my future in a clean environment, living free of danger and destruction.
Reception Sponsors

Whole Foods Symphony
5 Westland Ave
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 375-1010

Trader Joe’s, Back Bay
899 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 262-6505

Flour Bakery & Café, South End
1595 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02118
(617) 267-4300

boloco -- Berklee
1080 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 369-9087
Designed to provide Boston teens with quality after-school arts programming and leadership training, **The Peace Drum Project** helps teens from different backgrounds, schools, and neighborhoods develop artistic, problem solving and critical thinking skills together. Each year, twenty Boston teens (ages 13-18) develop positive relationships with youth, while they gain mastery of a variety of performing and visual arts skills that help them tell their own stories. Through workshops given by project staff-artists and guest artists, the teens explore: acting, storytelling, drum making and playing, bookmaking, journals, banner-making and other forms of expression. Through these art making activities, the teens develop new tools for expressing their feelings, ideas and experiences in positive and meaningful ways.

The Peace Drum Project is also an arts-based community service project bringing teen participants together with senior citizens from the same Boston neighborhoods to help them tell their stories to the larger community. The teens and elders work together to learn about each other, and to create Peace Drums, which are visual stories about their own lives. Each spring, the drums, books and other creations from the project are exhibited in the community to bring families, the teens, the elders and others together to celebrate their stories and their creativity, and to build bridges across the generations.

**The Peace Drum Project is a program of the Cooperative Artists Institute.** Out of the political and social upheaval of the '60's, Cooperative Artists Institute (CAI) was founded as a think tank in 1970 by African-American performing and visual artists who understood the power of The Arts to create community. Cooperative Artists Institute's mission is to empower people to solve their individual and collective problems by applying the Arts as a catalyst for personal and institutional change. All of CAI's programs in schools, after-schools, community centers, businesses, colleges and government organizations are designed to overcome family, community and organizational fragmentation. CAI is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

For more information about The Peace Drum Project or the Cooperative Artists Institute, contact Susan Porter at 617-524-6378 or at cai@tribal-rhythms.org

**How Can Adults Support the Peace Drum Project?**

- Support the culminating Peace Drum Project event on June 3rd (e.g., help prepare awards, escort elders to the event, help set up the space, etc.).
- Make a contribution
- Donate materials or equipment (e.g., computer, printer, paper cutter)
- Tutor teens
- NEU students can do a co-op with us (e.g., art education, grant-writing)