



OFFICE OF THE

# MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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[www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

February 9, 2023

Tsipi Ben-Haim and CITYarts Board of Directors  
CITYarts, Inc.  
77 Bleecker St, Suite C2-18  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Ms. Ben-Haim and the CITYarts Board of Directors,

I am writing in support of CITYarts' many upcoming public art projects, which will beautify our neighborhoods, unite communities, and empower youth.

Part of your *Global HeARTwarming* program, *Always in Bloom* will ask the students of the Urban Assembly School for Green Careers how they can help slow the speed of climate change. It's my pleasure to support a mural project that will be created in collaboration with UAGC students, as well as the community, conceptualizing and creating a large-scale mural to raise awareness about the speed of climate change and draw attention to sustainability.

Similarly, I support the sustainability-oriented mural project *It's Up To You/Us* in the Murray Hill Academy lobby. Helping to create the mural will educate students about the climate crisis and motivate them to agitate for a more sustainable future. The mural's prominent placement at the school will give participating students a sense of pride in their hard work and determination throughout the mural process.

I also support your restoration of the *Alice on the Wall* mural at Stuyvesant High School. Originally created after 9/11 to encourage students at Stuyvesant to return to school, the importance of this mural has stood the test of time with new students taking it upon themselves to reinvigorate the mural every few years. Part of your *Community Identity* program, *Alice on the Wall* has provided hundreds of Stuy High youth and community members the opportunity to celebrate their city, a tradition that deserves to be continued in its full glory.

I'm delighted to extend my support to another *Community Identity* project, this one with Columbia University's Raising Educational Achievement Coalition of Harlem (REACH) and Frederick Douglass Academy II. This portable mural project creates space for students and the community to celebrate the diversity of their backgrounds. With the exhibition that will come at the end of this project, you will give the entire community an opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the students. The youth will have their chance to shine as their families, friends, teachers, and neighbors view all the artwork they created.

I welcome CITYarts' proposed continuation of the *Our Voices* mural at 141st St. Created with community members, the 200-foot outdoor mural showcases their ideas and provides them with the opportunity to develop aspirations for their futures and a sense of responsibility for their schools and communities. In the first year of the project, *Our Voices* provided hundreds of youth and community members the opportunity to celebrate their city and develop a better relationship with the NYPD.

I am pleased that you intend to restore the *Mosaic Rolling Bench* at the General Grant National Memorial. By restoring this bench in collaboration with community members, you are bringing light and color to an otherwise somber space. The project will continue community involvement with a new generation of neighborhood families, schools, and volunteers, laying the groundwork for generations to come.

CITYarts has a long history of creating art with youth members, and I know that these projects will exemplify your mission. The way CITYarts prioritizes including children on projects empowers them to realize their creative potential, transform their neighborhood, and build bridges across differences. Your commitment to celebrating the New York community is unmatched and invaluable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Levine" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Levine  
Manhattan Borough President

CITY HALL OFFICE  
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1821  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
TEL: 929-595-4573

OFFICE HOURS  
MON - FRI: 9 AM - 7 PM  
SAT: 9 AM - 1 PM  
181 W 135<sup>TH</sup> St  
NEW YORK, NY 10037  
TEL: 332-209-8959



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**KRISTIN RICHARDSON JORDAN**  
COUNCILWOMAN, 9<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, HARLEM

COMMITTEES  
AGING  
CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
SANITATION  
VETERANS  
WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY  
YOUTH SERVICES

February 6th, 2023

Dear Ms. Ben-Haim and the CITYarts Board of Directors,

I am writing in support of CITYarts' project with Columbia University's Raising Educational Achievement Coalition of Harlem (REACH) and Frederick Douglass Academy II. Part of your Community Identity program, this project will give the student a chance to celebrate their diverse backgrounds and community. It's my pleasure to support a mural project that will be created in collaboration with FDA II students, as well as the community, conceptualizing, and creating a portable mural to celebrate the shared communities and various cultures.

CITYarts has a long history of creating art with youth members; the way that CITYarts prioritizes including children on projects empowers them to realize their creative potential, transform their neighborhood, and build bridges across differences. CITYarts is committed to celebrating the New York community, which will serve as the guide for the REACH project. Due to the reasons stated above, I am in support of CITYart's project with Columbia University's Raising Educational Achievement Coalition of Harlem and will hope you will support in your capacity as well.

As elected official of Harlem district 9, I ran on the platform H.A.R.L.E.M. The M stands for meaningful change. This includes supporting all constituents in various engagements to nurture personal and community growth.

*I will be following the progress of this situation. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me at the information below.*

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kristin Richardson Jordan in cursive script, underlined.

Councilwoman Kristin Richardson Jordan  
New York City Council District 9  
163 Lenox Avenue, New York, NY, 10027; Office of Operations  
646 960 1344



**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT VANESSA L. GIBSON**

January 26, 2023

To whom it may concern:

As Bronx Borough President, I am proud to support the work of CITYarts to produce public art across our city. Their work to engage, empower, and educate our youth enables young people to realize their potential and make a difference in their communities.

As a New York City Council member, I helped fund CITYarts to produce a mural in Highbridge between Shakespeare and Anderson Avenues. The project will engage neighborhood youth to help them transform their community and give them a greater sense of ownership in the place where they live. It will also empower young people and help build connections between community members. This project is still ongoing, and I look forward to seeing the final product later this year.

Arts programs are essential to building our young people's confidence and connections to their communities. These projects help to make our neighborhoods more inviting places to live and help ground residents in the history of their communities. I strongly support CITYarts projects in The Bronx and across our city and urge total funding for these efforts.

Sincerely,

Vanessa L. Gibson

Bronx Borough President

**EAST HARLEM OFFICE**  
105 EAST 116<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10029  
**TEL:** (212) 828-9800  
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**BRONX OFFICE**  
214 ST. ANN'S AVENUE  
BRONX, NY 10454  
**TEL:** (347) 297-4922  
**FAX:** (347) 270-1213

**LEGISLATIVE OFFICE**  
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1763  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
**TEL:** (212) 482-6673  
**FAX:** (646) 596-8603



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**OFFICE OF DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**DIANA AYALA**

COUNCIL MEMBER  
8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN & BRONX

**CHAIR**  
COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

---

**COMMITTEES**

FINANCE  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
PUBLIC HOUSING  
MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES  
AND ADDICTIONS

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

COVID RECOVERY  
AND RESILIECNY

January 24, 2023  
Tsipi Ben-Haim and CITYarts Board of Directors  
CITYarts, Inc.  
77 Bleecker St, Suite C2-18  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Ms. Ben-Haim and the CITYarts Board of Directors,

I am excited to support CITYarts proposed mural on the stairs connecting Anderson Avenue and Shakespeare Avenue in the Highbridge Bronx community. The Shakespeare Stairs mural will allow the Bronx community to reclaim a vital part of their neighborhood. The project will highlight the history and culture of the Bronx, while its creation will foster an environment of collaboration between our local schools and youth.

The introduction of a new public art mural on the Shakespeare Stairs will provide youth with the opportunity to utilize their creative ability; celebrate their diversity; and create a mural that is informed by their shared experience. They will bear the responsibility of a common task that beautifies and transforms a part of their neighborhood. The recent elevation of the site to an icon of urban infrastructure through the Joker movie, presents an opportunity for community involvement and larger cultural awareness and pride. By adding fliers and QR codes at the mural site, you will educate viewers and pedestrians about the Bronx neighborhood and give them the opportunity to donate to schools and local organizations.

CITYarts has a long history of creating public art; they are widely credited as the pioneering force in the creation of the contemporary community mural movement in New York City. CITYarts prioritizes including children on projects that empower them to realize their creative potential; transform their neighborhood; and build bridges across differences. CITYarts is committed to a more beautiful, connected New York, which aligns with the ethos of reclaiming the Shakespeare Stairs mural.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Ayala".

Diana Ayala  
New York City Council Deputy Speaker



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Mark D. Levine, Borough President

December 14, 2022

Tsipi Ben-Haim and CITYarts Board of Directors  
CITYarts, Inc.  
77 Bleecker St, Suite C2-18  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Ms. Ben-Haim and the CITYarts Board of Directors,

I am writing in support of CITYarts' proposed mural on the exterior of 138 Grand bordering the new Rapkin-Gayle Plaza, known as the SoHo Artists Mural. Part of the *SoHo Artists History Walk and Online Exhibition* project under your *Community Identity* program, the SoHo Artists Mural will honor the creatives who have imbued SoHo with a vibrant, culturally rich spirit for decades. It's my pleasure to support a mural project will focus on the history, highlights, and culture of the SoHo neighborhood and will be created in collaboration with youth from local, conceptualizing and creating a large-scale mural in celebration of their shared community and culture.

This mural is the perfect complement to the CITYarts-created Storyboards that will be installed throughout the neighborhood featuring artists who have lived and worked in the SoHo community, including some who still reside there. This will foster an awareness of SoHo's rich cultural heritage that extends beyond the flagship stores and luxury apartments the area is predominantly known for today. Each board, and the tour as a whole, will give visitors an enriched cultural experience when exploring SoHo.

CITYarts has a long history of creating public art and is widely credited as the pioneering force in the creation of the contemporary community mural movement in New York City, having created more than 350 murals across the city. Additionally, the way that CITYarts prioritizes including children on projects empowers them to realize their creative potential, transform their neighborhood, and build bridges across differences. CITYarts is committed to a more beautiful, connected New York, which aligns with the ethos of the SoHo Artists Mural.

Sincerely,

Mark Levine  
Manhattan Borough President



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Mark D. Levine, Borough President

September 7, 2022

To Whom This May Concern,

For almost 50 years, the Prince Street Mural has been a shining example of SoHo's creativity and the artists who call the neighborhood home. Recently, the mural has faded and been layered with graffiti, obscuring the original artistry. That is why I am writing in support of CITYarts's efforts to restore this mural.

CITYarts has a long history of creating public art and is widely credited as the pioneering force in the creation of the contemporary community mural movement in New York City. To date, they have painted more than 330 murals across New York. Additionally, CITYarts prioritizes including children on projects, empowering them to realize their creative potential, transform their neighborhood, and build bridges across differences. CITYarts is committed to a more beautiful, connected New York, which aligns with the ethos of the Prince Street Mural. For these reasons, I am confident that CITYarts will be fantastic stewards of this piece of SoHo history and give it a second lease on life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Levine".

Mark Levine  
Manhattan Borough President

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
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THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 41<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

**CHAIR**  
PUBLIC HOUSING  
**COMMITTEE**  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
EDUCATION  
FINANCE  
HEALTH  
MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES,  
AND ADDICTION  
VETERANS

July 26, 2021

Tsipi Ben-Haim  
CITYarts  
77 Bleecker Street, Suite C2-18  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Tsipi Ben-Haim,

thank you!

I want to personally thank you for your taking the time out to meet with our Chief of Staff, Jennifer Joseph and our Scheduler/Assistant, Takirra Jackson.

We love the work you are doing with CITYarts and look forward to building even stronger partnerships to ensure the 41st Council District is exposed to the wonderful work and services that you provide for our community.

Again, I truly appreciate your warm gratitude that you and your organization have shown me and my District and I am honored to be a partner in service with you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicka Ampry-Samuel'.

Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Council Member, District 41



**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
563 COLUMBUS AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10024  
(212) 873-0282

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
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HRosenthal@council.nyc.gov  
www.council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**HELEN ROSENTHAL**

COUNCIL MEMBER  
6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

**CHAIR**  
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

---

**COMMITTEES**  
CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
CONTRACTS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE  
HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

---

CO-CHAIR MANHATTAN  
DELEGATION

February 25, 2019

CITYarts Inc.  
77 Bleecker Street, Suite C2-18  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Friends,

Since 1989, CITYarts has undertaken the task of enriching our community and empowering the lives of our youth. Since its founding, over 200,000 New Yorkers have participated in CITYarts' projects with the mission to beautify their neighborhoods and schools. These collaborative artworks have had a positive impact on the lives of the students that worked on them, and on the people who pass them every day. They have allowed young people to explore issues of civic and social matters and given a voice to those most silenced. CITYarts has various projects planned for our community on the Upper West Side: *Always in Bloom*, a project that will revitalize the public community garden on West 84 Street and Amsterdam Ave., in collaboration with Urban Assembly School for Green Careers, professional artists, and the local community; *Doors to a Better Future*, a painted mural on the doors to MLK High School by the students to allow them to express their visions of hope and produce a more welcoming entrance to their learning environment; and *Past Forward*, a project that will engage youth and senior citizens in artistic creation that will allow them to learn both about themselves and their community.

I wish CITYarts continued success in their work in our community.

Sincerely,

*Helen Rosenthal*

Helen Rosenthal



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 27 January 2019

To: CITYarts Pieces for Peace

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support of CITYarts Inc and its artistic and social initiatives. It is with great delight that we were informed that the latest exhibition, *Pieces for Peace* is being held in Chania Crete, Greece.

We are deeply convinced that CITYarts initiatives have played and are playing an important role in modern societies particularly in cities, promoting community revitalization, giving youth the opportunity and the means to take a constructive and useful way in designing their future, building bridges of cultural and social understanding and addressing, broadly speaking, various social and cultural issues.

Peaceful, social, artistic and creative contribution of young artists engaged with CITYarts constitute, among others, a strong hope for a better, cooperative and tolerant community, characterized by cohesion, collaborative spirit, positive energy, a more beautiful neighborhood, enhanced solidarity, consolidated social justice and peace and a better future for us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kalamvrezos', written over a faint circular stamp.

Dionyssios Kalamvrezos  
Ambassador  
Deputy Permanent Representative

*L. Fernandez, Asst. Principal*

*DOREEN CONWELL, Principal*  
*T. Muscolino, Asst. Principal*

*Y. Valit, Asst. Principal*

**December 21, 2018**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am writing to express our commitment to CITYarts and the continuation of our school-wide beautification project- creating murals that depict hope, a vision of positive change, and provide for a productive avenue for the expression of student voice. As a public artwork, murals are visually appealing and make an impact on the neighborhood. A new mural in our building will create a space that is more attractive, uplifting and reflect the creative energy and output of our student artists.

Our working relationship and partnership with CITYarts has been ongoing since the 2015 school year. In that time, students, volunteers, fellow staff, and artists have collaborated in an artistic endeavor that has concluded in multi-hall murals that are beautiful and inspirational, depicting messages of positive change. In that time we have witnessed mentor-mentee relationships blossom, increased student engagement, improved attendance numbers as well as a sense of pride and self-worth from the student-artists. Student-artists have learned brainstorming, research, sketching, and painting skills, as well as learning how to work as a team, take direction, and participate in large projects. Student-artists had time to research, talk about and process very difficult issues facing our world today. We invoked their emotions, ideas and concepts to create walls that provide a positive avenue for creative expression. It has been truly transformational for many young artists as they experienced the power of art to transform.

In conjunction with the 2018-2109 school year initiative to encourage more campus wide activities and create a more cohesive community, as well as to continue a school-wide beautification project, we are proposing a mural to be painted in the main entrance of the school building. As a public school facing a deficit and ongoing budget loss, we are grateful for how CITYarts and their generous donors have been willing to provide much needed resources. These projects are life-changing and inspirational to our young student-artists. Our student artists thrive under the knowledge of creating a legacy that is thoughtful, beautiful and inspirational. We strive to encourage our student-artists to be positive members in their communities by creating a beautiful work of art that will inspire others. These artists will leave our school knowing they had an impact that will inspire future generations of students and staff all while improving the look of the neighborhood.

Again, we thank CITYArts and their generous donors for bringing a meaningful art experience to our school and our community.

Sincerely,

Ms. D. Conwell, Principal  
Ms. E. Yonks, Art Teacher  
H.S. for Law, Advocacy & Community Justice



NYC Parks

**Jennifer Lantzas**  
Deputy Director of Public Art

T 212.360.8163  
F 212.360.1329

E [Jennifer.Lantzas@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Lantzas@parks.nyc.gov)

**City of New York  
Parks & Recreation**

The Arsenal  
Central Park  
New York, NY 10065  
[www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks)

February 14, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

As Deputy Director of Public Art for NYC Parks, I oversee all exhibitions on New York City parkland. We collaborated with CITYarts on *Following in the Footsteps of Alexander Hamilton*, a mural measuring 80 feet tall by 25 feet wide at Alexander Hamilton Playground in Harlem. This project started in April 2017 and was completed in October 2017, but NYC Parks has had the pleasure of working with CITYarts on many projects across the city over several decades.

CITYarts engages youth and professional artists in the creation of public art, including murals and mosaics. Through this creative process, CITYarts empowers, educates, and connects youth and children locally and around the world to become active participants in realizing their potential and transforming communities.

Our project with CITYarts engaged local youth in the creation of a public mural at Alexander Hamilton Playground. The mural provided a platform for the community to positively transform their neighborhood. The mural was designed with ideas developed by local youth and the community in the neighborhood. They started with the topic of exploring their neighborhood's history and developed imagery of native trees, plants, birds, and animals.

CITYarts provides youth not just an opportunity to paint a public mural, but they also encourage them to seek out education, explore their potential, develop lasting bonds, and move towards their goals in a positive way. CITYarts rounds out their youth engagement by creating opportunities to visit local cultural institutions such as The Met, The Intrepid, and The Studio Museum of Harlem. They also bring in guest lecturers, corporate volunteer groups, and local elected officials.

*Following in the Footsteps of Alexander Hamilton* had a budget of \$75,000, and CITYarts created the public mural with the help of students, teachers, and community members, CITYarts interns, and CITYarts staff. The project was supported by NYC Parks, Council Member Mark Levine, and the local community. This is CITYarts first mural project at Alexander Hamilton Playground and they plan to do two more murals with the local community in that playground over the next two years.

Working with CITYarts has been a wonderful experience and our partnership with them has been an asset to the NYC Parks Art in the Parks program.

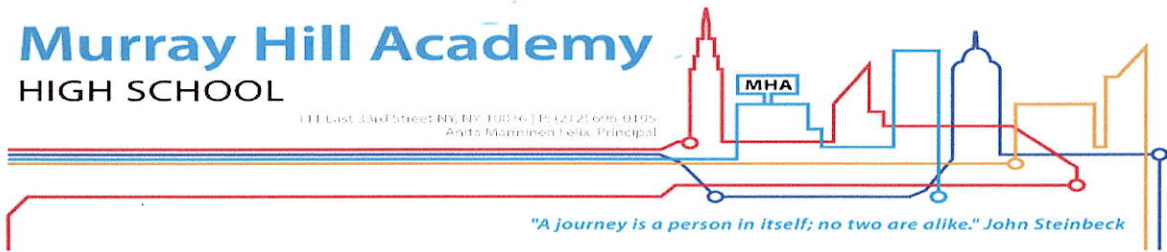
Sincerely,

Jennifer Lantzas

# Murray Hill Academy

## HIGH SCHOOL

111 East 33rd Street NY, NY 10016 | P: (212) 695-0195  
Anto Mamminen, Ed.S. Principal



2/14/2018

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Daniel Gieck, and I am the High School Art Teacher at Murray Hill Academy who is working on the CITYarts project *Paint it Forward* at our high school in Murray Hill, Manhattan. This project started in December 2017 and will be completed in June 2018. This project engages students in the creation of a public mural project in their school and helps build a positive transformation within our school community. The mural is being designed with the ideas developed by the students that attend Murray Hill Academy. We started with a mural on the doors of the school, and we will now move on to murals created on movable panels that will be on display in the school hallways.

CITYarts engages youth and professional artists in the creation of public art, including murals and mosaics. Through this creative process, CITYarts empowers, educates, and connects youth and children, locally and around the world, to become active participants in realizing their potential and transforming communities.

The project started off with design workshops where I lead the participating students in a discussion on the mural's topic. We wanted to explore the ideas of success and soon developed images of what are the keys to success and how do we achieve it. CITYarts provides youth with not just an opportunity to paint a public mural, but they also encourage youth to seek out education, explore their potential, develop lasting bonds, and move forward towards their goals in a positive way.

The project has a budget of \$35,000 to \$40,000 and we created the public mural with the help of students, teachers, and community members, CITYarts interns, and CITYart's staff.

It has been a pleasure to work with CITYarts, and I encourage all schools and other organizations to take advantage of an opportunity to engage in this work with CITYarts if given the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dan Gieck  
Art Teacher  
Murray Hill Academy  
dangieck@gmail.com



Comité des activités culturelles

Cultural Activities Committee

CITYarts - Youth Transforming Communities  
77 Bleecker St. Suite C2-18  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Ms. Tsipi Ben-Haim

The Cultural Activities Committee of the United Nations Office at Geneva is pleased to welcome the "Pieces for Peace" exhibit as part of its cultural programme in 2017. The exhibit, which is organised by UNOG and UNESCO in cooperation with CITYarts, is scheduled to take place in the Salle des Pas Perdus in the Palais des Nations from 4-22 December.

We are pleased to note that the CITYarts International "Pieces for Peace" Traveling Exhibition promises to include 300 original artworks from youth around the world, as well as photographs of the youth as they participate in the creative process of workshops and creation of the Peace Walls, and a documentary video.

It is indeed encouraging that the CITYarts "Young Minds Build Bridges" programme is an impactful intercultural program that invites youth to take responsibility by playing an active role in shaping their futures. The exhibit will allow the youth of Geneva the unique opportunity to recognize intercultural perspectives and engage in a global dialogue around peace.

We would be delighted if this proposed exhibition could provide CITYarts with the opportunity to showcase those stories to the world, and we would therefore like to present CITYarts with an invitation to participate in this wonderful project.

The United Nations requests that exhibition projects are self-funded. It is therefore necessary to raise sufficient funds from both private and public entities, whose objectives and activities do not contradict United Nations' ideals and values, to support the realisation of this unique opportunity.

We wish you the best success to find appropriate funding to make this project happen.

Kind regards,

Thomas Kryger

Cultural Activities Coordinator  
Cultural Diplomacy & Outreach Section  
United Nations Office at Geneva Library  
tkryger@unog.ch  
Tel.: +41 (0)22 917 4183



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**Gale A. Brewer, Borough President**

October 2, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am writing to commend CITYarts on nearly 50 years of contributions to the City of New York.

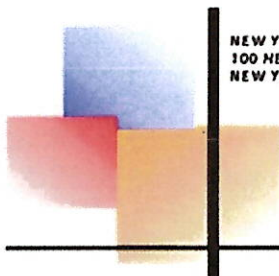
Since 1968, you have connected young people with professional artists to design public art that explores social issues. CITYarts has truly changed communities with more than 300 projects, which have brought the arts to 100,000 young people.

Public art is vital to our city's culture, and your organization is making a real difference in our communities.

On behalf of the Borough of Manhattan, I thank you for all you have done to enrich our city and wish you much success in the future.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
100 NESTER STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10002

## Emma Lazarus High School for English Language Scholars

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of CITYarts, whom we have partnered with, in the process of developing a mural for our school and garden, Emma Lazarus High School for English Language Scholars (ELHS). Our school is unique in that we serve students from over 20 different countries who have recently arrived to the United States and are currently working toward earning a high school diploma. All students are learning English, engaged in extracurricular activities, and uniquely representative of New York City.

In Emma Lazarus' poem, New Colossus, the Mother of Exiles proclaims, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" This is the sentiment that our school embodies. We have a staff of teachers, staff, and advisors that work tirelessly to help students and families build their sense of community. Our staff reflect our student population and are diverse in their backgrounds and educational experiences. Every staff member speaks at least one other language in addition to English which allows for strong connections. Many students and families have no other connection to New York, or even the United States when they first begin studying with us. Our school is the initial anchor that gives them a sense of home. We are their gateway to the United States of America, to New York City, and to a future full of opportunities and success. We believe our school is uniquely serving this population and our proof is in the relationships that are maintained well past graduation. Alumni come back regularly to visit the staff that helped them develop into young scholars. Staff members are invited to weddings, baby showers, and funerals. Families name newborns Emma after our school.

The academic impact that Emma Lazarus has on English Language Learners (ELL) can not be denied. Based on [data collected from 2017 graduates](#), 102 English Language Learners (ELL) in New York State graduated with an Advanced Regents Diploma. Of those, more than half were students from Emma Lazarus High School. These are students that come to our school overaged and speaking little to no English and they are able to graduate from our school college-ready within an average of 3 years. In 2019, we graduated 26 students in January, 39 in June, and 2 in August totalling 67 students. Of those 67 students, 62 (93%) enrolled in college, including LaGuardia Community College, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Cobleskill, Hunter College, Baruch College, Queens College, SUNY Stonybrook, and Brooklyn College, to name a few. Alumni regularly come back to express their appreciation for the rigor of the courses they took at Emma Lazarus and how we have prepared them for college level standards.

CITYarts is the perfect partner organization to help us manifest our dream of a mural. By engaging youth in the creation of public art, CITYarts empowers, educates, and connects youth and children locally and around the world to become active participants in realizing their potential and transforming communities. This is directly related to our mission here at Emma Lazarus as we want our students to be able to be future change makers



and leaders. We understand the power in harnessing the creativity of students, and this project is perfectly aligned with the creative process in which we encourage our students to participate.

The project we will be collaborating on is a mural which will be a place where people can gather and where the history and importance of the immigrant population can be celebrated and reflected upon. The past four years, we have grown a community garden which has given back to the community in many ways. Vegetables grown in the garden are given to local soup kitchens, students learn the importance of horticulture, food waste, and clean air, and all community members benefit from a beautiful space where they can gather. A mural in the garden would be a meaningful addition and put the finishing touches on an already beautiful space within the Chinatown community. In a time where gentrification cannot be ignored, a mural would recognize the community and obstacles that immigrants overcome to develop a sense of community and unity in NYC. Emma Lazarus has become a safe space for immigrant students and families throughout NYC and a mural would properly pay homage to the population served at our school.

In conclusion, we are excited about the prospect of working with CITYarts and we believe that our missions are closely-aligned. Our students are creative, driven, and motivated and will greatly enjoy this process of creating a mural that will showcase their talents while honoring our community.

Joel Heckethorn, Ed.D.

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND  
NEW YORK



UNITED STATES SENATOR

May 9, 2017

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings to all those attending CITYarts' Annual Benefit: Making a Difference Through the Arts. I am delighted to congratulate tonight's honorees - Joyce Kozloff, Erica Yonks, and Robert Friedman.

Since 1968, CITYarts has brought art to the communities, here and around the world, that need it most. By bringing together young people and professional artists to create large-scale murals and mosaics, CITYarts helps empower our young citizens to make their communities safer and more beautiful and their futures brighter.

I commend tonight's honorees for their leadership and congratulate the people of CITYarts for all you do to make our world a more beautiful place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand".

Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
500 WEST 141ST STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10031  
(212) 928-6814  
FAX: (646) 582-1408

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
250 BROADWAY, RM. 1816  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
(212) 788-7007  
FAX: (646) 582-1408

district7@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**MARK D. LEVINE**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

**CHAIR**  
PARKS AND RECREATION

**COMMITTEES**  
EDUCATION

FINANCE  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

HOUSING AND BUILDINGS  
RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

March 2, 2017

Council Member Mark Levine

500 W 141st St,  
New York, NY 10031  
T: 212-928-6814

To Whom It May Concern,

It is our pleasure to support CITYarts in the creation of murals on the walls of Alexander Hamilton Playground. We believe it will reinvigorate the community by bringing color, light, and a new life to the park's activities. We understand that CITYarts will be bringing together youth from the neighboring schools, district residents, professional artists and volunteers, we will give them all the assistance we can provide. We are especially excited about this opportunity since Council Member Mark Levine is the Chair for Parks and Recreation.

*We respect and support the CITYarts mission of CITYarts engages youth and professional artists in the creation of public art, including murals and mosaic. Through this creative process, CITYarts empowers, educates, and connects youth and children locally and around the world to become active participants in realizing their potential and transforming communities.*

We are looking forward to a very successful collaboration that will energize the community and beautify the park in a very meaningful way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Levine".

Mark Levine  
NYC Council Member, District 7

January 16, 2017

NYC & Company Foundation  
810 Seventh Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10019

**Re: SoHo Artist History Walking Tour**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The SoHo Broadway Initiative is the not for profit that manages the business improvement district along SoHo's Broadway. While our focus is on keeping Broadway clean and safe, I'm excited to write to you in support of the proposed SoHo Artist History Walking Tour that will celebrate the long standing artist community that grew up and can still be found in SoHo.

The SoHo Walking Tour will connect thousands of visitors with the rich and dynamic artist community of yesterday and today. Through strong partnerships with the art, retail, real estate and tourism communities, CITYArts in collaboration with The SoHo Memory Project and the SoHo Broadway Initiative, will deliver a robust and visually compelling history of the artist community the developed and lives on today in SoHo. The NYC & Co. Manhattan Cultural Tourism Grant will help establish the tour which can then be relaunched annually with a new theme and focus, while introducing the history of SoHo to the thousands of visitors who come to SoHo each day.

On behalf of the SoHo Broadway Initiative, I am delighted to provide our enthusiastic support for this project and CITYArts grant application.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Dicus  
Executive Director



April 10, 2015

Tsipi Ben-Haim  
Executive and Creative Director  
525 Broadway, Suite 602  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Ms. Ben-Haim:

Hamilton Grange Middle School is pleased to support CITYarts and its vital efforts to bring young people and professional artists together to create public art.

We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with CITYarts this year and beyond. Our previous collaborations with CITYarts have been well received by our students and the community. Our students have participated in *Pieces for Peace* workshops led by CITYarts educators and have collaborated with CITYarts artists, educators, and the larger community in creating a mural to adorn the hallways of our new school in this, our first year in existence.

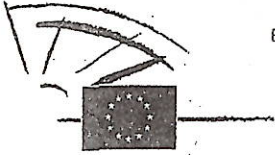
As we look forward to our future collaborations with CITYarts, both in this school year and the next, we aim to complete the mural in our hallways, restore the CITYarts mosaic "Peace Wall" in Jacob Schiff Park, and conduct programs beginning in the fall of 2015 that will include workshops for our students and culminate in the creation of a new, large scale mural within our school or in the community. Our students will also benefit from guest speakers as a result of this partnership, including professors from the City College of New York, and CITYarts mentors from local high schools and colleges. These relationships will then allow for more in-school programming as well, specifically *Pieces for Peace* workshops with incoming classes of Hamilton Grange students where new mural projects will be developed.

Through our collaboration with CITYarts, our students are learning concrete skills, discussing important issues that affect them and their communities, and are learning to work together while being provided with a creative outlet to express themselves and better their community. This creative process furthers our mission of working to instill in our students the "Hamilton Habits" that we attempt to support daily at our school: tenacity, compassion, service, and unity while simultaneously supporting CITYarts' mission to empower youth and connect children locally and around the world to become active participants in transforming communities.

I am looking forward to our continued collaboration.

In Unity,

Benjamin Lev



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET  
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA HEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS  
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT  
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN  
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

The President

205249 13.12.2012

Ms Tsipi Ben-Haim  
Executive and Creative Director  
CITYarts  
525 Broadway, Suite 602  
New York, NY 10012  
United States of America

Dear Ms Ben-Haim,

As President of the European Parliament, I very much welcome CITYarts' latest project for a Fifth Global Peace Wall in Berlin, involving young people from different EU countries and backgrounds voicing their hope for a better future, and which is to be inaugurated in September next year. The European Parliament very much shares the vision you have of bringing young people together and facilitating dialogue among them through common work on artistic projects.

Your message is all the more timely since I was in Norway earlier this week to receive, on behalf of the 500 million citizens of the EU, the Nobel Peace Prize together with the Presidents of the Commission and the European Council. This prize should serve as a *timely reminder of the spirit of the European Union, that is the spirit of States and Nations who decided to create across borders common institutions to ensure that our bloody history would never be repeated. Peace, respect, mutual understanding and solidarity and key values which we must defend and promote with renewed vigour.*

I take this opportunity to wish you much success with your initiative.

Yours sincerely,

  
Martin Schulz

**The Polo Grounds Towers Community Center**

**2965 8th Avenue  
Harlem, NY 10039  
(212) 491-6127**

April 18, 2012

Tsipi Ben- Haim  
Executive and Creative Director  
CITYarts  
525 Broadway, Suite 602  
New York, NY 10012

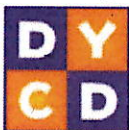
Dear Ms. Haim:

Children's Village fully supports CITYarts in the development and implementation of the creative arts and mural designs for youth and young adults living in New York City and throughout the world. Our collaboration has been instrumental in bringing attention to the need for art education in New York City schools and after school programs, like our own. The mural created by our youth with assistance from the teaching artist has instantly become a neighborhood focal point for inspirational art and has shed light on the importance of youth development in the arts.

CITYarts multifaceted approach to assist young people in telling their stories through the arts has been instrumental in the growth of our participants as well as enhanced the physical space of our Community Center. Prior to CITYarts, the wall was a drab blank canvas with no clear distinction that there were two youth programs operating side by side. Today, there stands an amazing mural that represents the self portraits of our participants and drawings of the things that are most important to them like love, peace and community.

The teaching artist, Ms. Tova Snyder, was extremely cognizant of prevailing issues in the Harlem community that surround family struggles, peer pressure, and community development. She was tactful in getting youth to open up about these sensitive topics and implemented questionnaires, sketches and conducted interviews, which helped measure what topics the youth were passionate about. This also shed light that there was a great need for additional art programs at our center.

The most amazing thing about working in collaboration with CITYarts has been your organization's ability to promote youth leadership and development through mural painting. We had over 100 youth ranging in age from 5- 19 years old participate in the sketching, designing and painting of the mural. In addition, CITYarts recognized that parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children and involved them in the learning process for planning of the mural.



NYC Department of  
Youth & Community Development



Learn more about our life changing work at [www.childrensvillage.org](http://www.childrensvillage.org)

**The Polo Grounds Towers Community Center**

**2965 8th Avenue  
Harlem, NY 10039  
(212) 491-6127**

The mural has given our youth and the community a sense of ownership and pride in their neighborhood. The mural has been preserved and not desecrated in any way since being painted in September 2011.

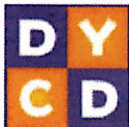
Children's Village will continue to work in partnership with CITYarts to support the educational, emotional and artistic needs of Central Harlem youth and young adults. We look forward to an ongoing partnership and assisting in the implementation of the CITYarts programs for the participants of Children's Village at our new Community Center.

Sincerely Yours,



Nikeya Stuart  
Assistant Director

Funded By



NYC Department of  
Youth & Community Development



Learn more about our life changing work at [www.childrensvillage.org](http://www.childrensvillage.org)





## The Urban Assembly

December 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Urban Assembly, I am writing this letter in support of the partnership between The Urban Assembly (UA) and CITYarts to fuel our students' imaginations through the creation of art that addresses peace and global warming. The Urban Assembly is a non-profit organization that creates and manages a community of New York City public schools dedicated to preparing students from under-resourced neighborhoods for success in four-year colleges. Our schools are distinguished by small class size, hands-on learning, mentorships, internships, and other special opportunities provided by our wide network of partners in the arts and business communities.

CITYarts empowers children and youth by bringing them together with professional artists to create public art that addresses civic and social issues, impacts their lives, and transforms their communities. Thinking globally and acting locally, CITYarts' projects build bridges of cultural understanding, giving youth the opportunity to take an active role in shaping their own future.

Since 1968, CITYarts has created over 270 projects that have transformed communities and impacted the lives of over 100,000 kids, collaborated with more than 500 artists, partnered with over 1,500 sponsors, and engaged over 500,000 volunteers in the process. Their projects foster community revitalization by galvanizing businesses, schools, and community organizations into developing youth programs and constructing playgrounds and gardens.

Partnerships are integral to all UA schools and we are delighted to collaborate with CITYarts to bring *Global HeART Warming* and *Pieces for Peace* projects to our network of 21 schools. Given the financial strain that many of our schools are facing the CITYarts partnership comes at a vital time for our schools and students. The generous offer that Tsipi Ben-Haim and the CITYarts team have made, allow our schools to continue to bring quality arts and civic engagement opportunities to students.

All of the Urban Assembly community is very appreciative of the CITYarts commitment of allocating dynamic arts programs at no cost to our schools. I have every confidence that our two organizations will work together seamlessly in order to bring innovative and rewarding opportunities to students that engage their minds and explore their talents. I am delighted to give this project my full support.

Sincerely,

Richard Kahan  
Founder and CEO

A Family of Schools

The Bronx School for Law,  
Government and Justice  
Founded 1997

The Urban Assembly School  
for Careers in Sports  
Founded 2002

The Bronx Academy of Letters  
Founded 2003

The Urban Assembly  
New York Harbor School  
Founded 2003

The Urban Assembly Academy  
of History and Citizenship  
for Young Men  
Founded 2004

The Urban Assembly School  
for Applied Math and Science  
Founded 2004

The Urban Assembly  
Media High School  
Founded 2004

The Urban Assembly School  
for Law and Justice  
Founded 2004

The Urban Assembly School  
of Design and Construction  
Founded 2004

The Urban Assembly School  
of Music & Art  
Founded 2005

The Urban Assembly Academy  
of Government & Law  
Founded 2005

The Urban Assembly School  
of Business for Young Women  
Founded 2005

The Urban Assembly School  
for the Urban Environment  
Founded 2005

The Urban Assembly School  
for the Performing Arts  
Founded 2006

The Urban Assembly Academy  
of Arts and Letters  
Founded 2006

The Urban Assembly Institute  
of Math and Science  
for Young Women  
Founded 2006

The Urban Assembly School  
for Criminal Justice  
for Young Women  
Founded 2007

The Urban Assembly School  
for Wildlife Conservation  
Founded 2007

The Urban Assembly Academy  
of Civic Engagement  
Founded 2007

The Urban Assembly  
Bronx Studio School  
for Writers and Artists  
at Casita Maria  
Joined 2008

The Urban Assembly School  
for Green Careers  
Founded 2009

The Urban Assembly School  
for New Technologies  
Founded 2009

90 Broad Street  
Suite 2101  
New York, NY 10004

212 867 3060  
212 867 8141 Fax  
[www.urbanassembly.org](http://www.urbanassembly.org)



August 29, 2008

Ms. Tsipi Ben-Haim  
CITYarts, Inc.  
525 Broadway, Suite 700  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Tsipi,

We continue to enjoy the beautiful Doors of Hope that CITYarts leadership organized and created through the many talented and caring citizens of New York. Thank you so much for reaching us with the possibility of hosting them and for sending them here.

The Doors serve as a powerful backdrop to the premier space in the Museum, centrally located in our three story atrium. They continually draw attention as visitors pause to read the messages and admire the diverse art. The feelings that New Yorkers have experienced are so similar to those of our New Orleans and Louisiana residents that it proves to be very comforting to connect with people so many miles away in this country, but joined through experiences of loss.

Today is the three year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and our original plans were to highlight the Doors of Hope through a fully scheduled Days of Hope – complete with programming around storytelling, creative writing, music, art, fabulous exhibitions, and much more. The Doors of Hope helped to inspire our planning for this event. Unfortunately, we have had to postpone these exciting plans as there is yet another hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico threatening to head our way, and much of the three year anniversary activities have given way to disaster preparedness planning!

I am happy to report that your Doors have graced many important events, including the White House Office for Faith Based and Community Initiatives conference earlier this summer. We are proud to be the original recipients of this lovely and creative gift of resiliency, and enormously appreciate your thoughtfulness and wishes of HOPE!

Sincerely,

Julia Bland  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Children's Museum



# Disney Publishing Worldwide, Inc.

Deborah Dugan  
President

March 19, 2002

The Arts and Business Council  
121 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 702  
New York, NY 10001-6207

To the Arts and Business Council,

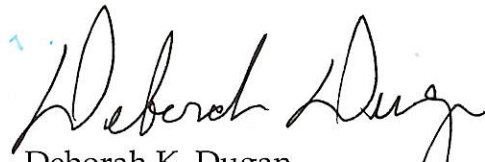
On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, lives changed. The stock market changed. The airline and travel industry changed. Retail changed. Economies changed. And the way children look at the world, especially in N.Y.C., changed. Symbols of their dreams turned into symbols of their nightmares. The tallest towers of the castle tumbled. My own son, nine-year-old Lucas, who fancies aircrafts, now looks up at the sky and worriedly asks, "Mommy, isn't that airplane flying too low?"

Their skies may have darkened but both City Arts and Disney wanted to find a way to quickly respond and keep those children's dreams alive. Downtown artists couldn't go to their studios, students couldn't go to their schools. City Arts and Disney have been collaborating for many years. When City Arts' head, Tsipi Ben-Haim, phoned me on September 13<sup>th</sup> it was a call to action. Would Disney support a project having artists and children work immediately on a mural downtown as a tribute to New York and New Yorkers? No corporate approvals, red tape or bureaucracy; the next word was "Yes". Everybody – City Arts, Disney, the artists, the children all became very busy. We were creating art – a tribute – when many were feeling helpless.

The mural speaks for itself. My employees viewed it with a sense of awe and pride. It is not enough to just do your job anymore. People turn to their work place to provide more of a sense of community, to give back.



I thank City Arts for rising to the occasion. The task before us all in this changed world is daunting. They found a way to respond and make it rewarding. Remarkably rewarding. All of us who worked on this project understood that for each moment of darkness, there are many more moments of light and hope.

  
Deborah K. Dugan  
President, Disney Publishing



**Los Angeles**

1416 North La Brea Avenue  
Hollywood, CA 90028  
Telephone 323.802.1500  
Facsimile 323.802.1825

**New York**

117 East 69th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
Telephone 212.794.2400  
Facsimile 212.570.1147

**London**

30 Oval Road, Camden Town  
London NW1 7DE  
Telephone 171.428.4000  
Facsimile 171.428.4001

[www.henson.com](http://www.henson.com)

July 26, 2000

**Tsipi Ben-Haim**  
Executive Director  
CityArts  
525 Broadway  
Suite 700  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Tsipi,

I wanted send you overdue thanks for the privilege of participating in the CityArts mentorship program. The idea of matching skilled professionals with young people of similar interests or career aspirations is one that should be recognized for its vast inherent benefits. Not only to the students, but to the mentor/teacher too.

The time I'd spent working (and learning) as a mentor in the CityArts program provided some of the most satisfying moments of my week. It's easy to become preoccupied with life and career, and simply lose sight of the value and fulfillment derived from helping others (especially motivated young people), achieve their objectives.

Now that the Taylor twins are off to college and pursuing their dreams, we continue to keep in touch through letters and phone calls that enable us to remain informed about each other's lives.

Your program has not only given me a chance to share my knowledge and experience, it has provided me with satisfying memories and treasured young friends.

Please accept my gratitude and boundless admiration for your unselfish dedication to the CityArts organization and the valuable contribution it makes to the community and to the lives of those it touches.

Sincerely,

Ed Eyth  
Director/Designer

June 27, 1997

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Through a competitive selection process, I was chosen as the artist to implement CityArts' "Kids for Justice" program in the classrooms with the aim of merging education about the legal system in our society with the creativity of making narrative and symbol art. I was immediately drawn to the program. Teaching 5th and 6th graders about a system as tight and rigid as the law and its relation to their social structure, while plugging them into an infinitely varied and expanding universe, revealed through the experience of drawing and painting was a prospect both exciting and challenging.

As an artist, working with these children has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have participated in. When I began this course, the children's inhibitions about their drawing abilities were strong. By the end of the course, these inhibitions no longer existed. Instead, they became comfortable and quite free in expressing their thoughts on paper. Each child has met the challenge of art-making and incorporated their own style: making creative choices when facing the blank paper, conceiving and building forms that reflect their physical interactions with the materials.

It has been a real pleasure to work with such a professional as the Director of CityArts, Tsipi Ben-Haim. The "Kids for Justice" program is a piece of Tsipi's art transformation program for New York City children; Who knows, with her leadership and direction it may change the world's next generation. One only has to count the number of children that Tsipi helped by bringing art into their lives to realize there's a guardian angel watching those kids. All the children were very happy to give their opinions and talk about the program when Tsipi arrived with her video camera and recorder. The kids really sense something special about her.

I believe that the "Kids for Justice" program has been a terrific success. The program was tailor-made for the kids, touching on their concerns and reacting to their needs throughout the entire process. Through the CityArts program, they are aware and confident of their image making abilities. By the end of the project, all of the students' work displayed a high level of originality and sureness of expression within their drawings and paintings; this, to the child - the artist, is a profound mind and heart expanding ladder.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Mock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "M".

Richard Mock



CARMEN FARIÑA  
*Principal*

PENNY AARONSON  
*Assistant Principal*

June, 1997

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It has been my pleasure this year to participate in a very special program, "Kids for Justice" This program has been a unique collaboration between CityArts and PS 6.

In my over thirty years of administration and many collaborations with arts agencies, this is the first time that the collaboration began before the beginning of the program, so that not only were we provided with experts to help our students, but we were part of the selection of these experts (from over twenty five resumes) and we were also able to develop our own themes as they suited our specific school personalities.

After many hours of intensive discussion as to how this program would develop, I was able to help define the role that each of us would play. I, as the curriculum expert, was asked to define the justice theme that would tie in with State mandates—we chose the Bill of Rights. This meant that teachers did not feel this was an add-on program, but an integral part of their already rich curriculum.

CityArts functioned as the broker for the selection of artists but gave us the opportunity to see their art and meet the artists, so that we might choose not only an art form that appealed to us but a personality that would work well with our children. The artist we have chosen RICHARD MOCK, has done an outstanding job, both in personal and artistic qualities, so much so that we have contracted him for an additional year outside of the existing grant.

continued.....

Page ...2...

CityArts also understood the need to bring more collaborators into the process and sought the best in technology assistance through *Future Kids*. This agency's approach to the using of technology within this theme was innovative as well as attention getting and our students have benefitted from this as well.

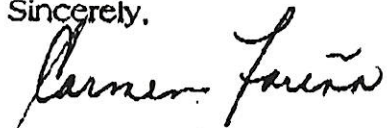
Any program is only as successful as the children's reviews. Our students and their parents have attended every evening gallery opening. This, in many cases, was a real sacrifice for working parents, but seeing their children's work hanging in public spaces was worth all the effort involved. An additional benefit has been that we are probably one of the few schools in the nation, public or private, that has a full, in-depth knowledge of the "*Bill of Rights*", both from a historical and personal perspective. My students are often too well versed in what are their Constitutional rights.

*Tsipi Ben-Haim* has been the moving force behind this program and her relationship with Judge Carol Arber has enhanced, what is to some degree, a two dimensional into a three dimensional one by allowing our students to visit the courtrooms where these rights are being practiced.

PS 6 is an outstanding school (#2 in the State) and we do not absorb any programs that do not have a higher standard of excellence. I would certainly rate CityArts as a Five Star program that more children should be able to take advantage of.

Please call me if there is any further information I could provide.

Sincerely,



Carmen Fariña  
Principal



May 9, 1997

Dear Tsipi,

Thank you for sending me an invitation "Kids for Justice". I am really sorry that I couldn't be there for the opening, especially since I was there with you in the locker room when you first thought of this project.

It would have been very exciting for me to be a participant in such a great idea. Often, we are impotent when our children complain about injustices in the world, but you took Yori's words, "It's not fair" to heart, and unlike so many of us, you did something about it! Bringing the children directly to our courts, showing them that the justice process belongs to them, and channelling their creative energy into understanding this process *through paintings, sculptures and drawings under the direction of a professional artist* was really a stroke of genius. Congratulations! Your idea has certainly come to fruition. I'm glad to hear that you will continue with this valuable community service in other boroughs of New York, and perhaps in other cities across this country.

If you are still interested in working with the puppet theatre class, you should contact Naomi Machado at (212)473-6450. She took over my class at NYU and has continued to do many community projects, especially with the elementary schools. She is a lovely person and I am sure she would be interested in working on a justice theme with the foreign students. You would enjoy working with and knowing her. Just think, your idea of helping young people understand the US justice system could spread all over the world!

I've really enjoyed my first nine months here in Genoa, but it hasn't always been easy to adjust to the new culture (I'm sure you understand about that). I'm looking forward to the summer months back in my country, and I'll certainly be in touch with you.

Love,

Margaret



**THE WILLIAM ALEXANDER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 51**  
350 FIFTH AVENUE • BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215 • (718) 330-9315

**MICHAEL A. SCHLAR**  
**PRINCIPAL**

June 14, 1989

Cityarts Workshop, Inc.  
625 Broadway  
New York, New York 10012  
Attention: Tsipi Ben-Haim, Executive Director

Dear Ms. Ben-Haim,

I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to you, your organization and especially Janet Braun-Reinitz upon the dedication ceremonies for the beautiful mural permanently on display at the school. Indeed, this was an exceptional collaborate project. The young student artists of William Alexander lived through a wonderful experience; planning the mural; working with their art teacher, Hillary Kagan and Janet Braun-Reinitz.

The mural has received extraordinary compliments from the students, staff, parents and the community. Every time I pass by the mural, I receive incredible feelings of pleasure and accomplishment.

At this time, I would like to put my 'bid' in for future collaborate projects. For example, this mural can be expanded on each year, thus, expressing the feelings of a different group of student artists. I look forward to a continued relationship with Cityarts.

Once again....congratulations and THANK YOU!

Sincerely yours,

Michael A. Schlar  
Principal  
MAS:ms

cc: Harold Solat  
Janet Braun-Reinitz  
Hillary Kagan

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 15  
BOARD OF EDUCATION - CITY OF NEW YORK



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## OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

April 1988

From my seventeen years of experience as a teacher of disadvantaged students I have found art to be an invaluable and necessary addition to their lives.

Presently my students are 12 and 13 year old 6th graders. Nearly all are below reading level and/or have not experienced success in school. Many live in a hotel for homeless families with attendant problems of disruption and family trauma.

Recently these students and I worked with a visual artist, Janet Braun-Reinitz, to create a mural for our school auditorium. Out of that month long, 40 hour art experience came many rewards. Among them were increased cooperation and respect among students and the ability to defer gratification for a greater goal. They developed a higher frustration level and have a genuine and lasting sense of accomplishment.

All art experiences foster these rewards; all classroom teachers try to offer their students art projects. But given the limitations of time, academic demands and lack of supplies, art does not show up with the powerful effect that such an extraordinary opportunity as having a professional artist work with a class would.

Art brings excitement, creativity and a strong sense of achievement, success and self image and classrooms need more of it!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria Carlson".

Gloria Carlson



NYC Parks

Kevin Jeffrey  
Borough Commissioner  
Brooklyn

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City of New York  
Parks & Recreation

Litchfield Villa  
95 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, NY 11215  
[www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks)

Dear Tsipi Ben-Haim,

NYC Parks is very pleased to support CITYarts, Inc. in its plan to produce a mural on the wall of Garden Playground in the neighborhood of Bushwick, Brooklyn. As Brooklyn Borough Parks Commissioner, I, too, strongly believe in a creative process that is based on youth participants' ideas, drawings, and full participation in the workshops and mural painting.

We understand that the creative process will include youth community members that will participate in workshops led by a professional artist, culminating in the collaborative creation of an outdoor mural at Garden Playground.

Garden Playground's wall in its current condition detracts from the community aesthetics. We wholly support CITYarts' project and anticipate that the community youth and neighbors will greatly benefit from the transformation of Garden Playground that they will help bring about. We hope that this project not only continues our very successful collaboration for the past 25 years but also plants important seeds into our collaborations in the future, which will not only enhance and revitalize New York City parks, but also give the children and communities living around our parks a very meaningful transformation in their neighborhoods.

I am eager to hear more and looking forward to advancing our collaboration as soon as possible.

Thank you so much for your continued efforts to engage youth in positive and creative projects and programs.

My best wishes for continued success,

Kevin Jeffrey  
Brooklyn Borough Parks Commissioner