



**For Immediate Release**

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**11th Street Bridge Park Mural Project: Creating a Healthy City**

*East and West of the River teens collaborate to create a mural*

**Washington, D.C.** – Teens from both sides of the Anacostia River are collaborating to create a 55 ft. long mural with the goal of envisioning a healthy city, community and neighborhood. The 11th Street Bridge Park, a project of the Ward 8 non-profit Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC, is proud to produce this project through its partnership with the Risa Fund, which seeks to enhance the well-being of underserved youth in Washington, D.C. through arts and improved access to mental health services. Additional program collaborators include Artolution, a community-based public arts network that facilitates community empowerment through a creative, participatory and collaborative process and ArtReach at THEARC, a year-round East of the River outreach program designed to foster D.C. youth's visual literacy, critical thinking skills and creative expression.

**Mural Art Project**

**When:** Teen mural workshop runs from August 3-14, 2015

**Who:** Local teens from both sides of the Anacostia River collaborate to create a 55 ft. mural

**Where:** THEARC, 1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20020

**Mural Exhibition Reception**

**When:** August 19, 2015; 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

**Who:** FREE and open to the public.

**Where:** THEARC, 1901 Mississippi Avenue SE, Washington DC 20020

**RSVP:** Click [here](#)

From August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, students drawn from Ward 6's Cesar Chavez Capitol Hill Public Charter High School and Ward 8's ArtReach at THEARC, will collaborate in a two week art workshop illuminating the diverse neighborhoods on both sides of the Anacostia River. International artist Max Levi Frieder, who has worked with youth to inspire public art from Jerusalem to Antarctica, will lead students to create this remarkable artwork. The underlying energy of the mural will focus on capturing the essence of neighborhoods along the Anacostia River through trans-community dialogue. "Just like the future 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park, this two week mural workshop will serve as a metaphorical bridge connecting residents on both sides of the river" said Park Director Scott Kratz. This locally designed mural will be exhibited at THEARC's ArtReach Community Gallery from August 19<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in October 2015, and then travel to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) headquarters this winter. The mural will find a space at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park when it opens to the public in 2019.

On August 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, the public is invited to celebrate this collaboration during a FREE reception at THEARC's ArtReach Community Gallery located at 1901 Mississippi Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20020. Please RSVP at [bridgepark.org/events/calendar](http://bridgepark.org/events/calendar) to attend.

### **About the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park, a project of Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC**

As the old 11<sup>th</sup> Street traffic bridges that connect Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill and historic Anacostia neighborhoods have aged out, a local non-profit Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC – and the District government are transforming this old infrastructure into the city's first elevated park: a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education and the arts.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park will be a place unlike any other in Washington, D.C. – one that supports the community's physical, environmental, cultural and economic health. After a seven-month design competition informed by more than 500 community meetings, the design team of OMA+OLIN was selected in October 2014. With the design in place, Bridge Park staff has launched a capital campaign to construct this new civic space, securing more than \$10 million to date. For more information and to see the OMA+OLIN renderings, visit [www.bridgepark.org](http://www.bridgepark.org).

The Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC) is a \$27 million, 110,000 square-foot campus located east of the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C.'s Ward 8. The mission of THEARC is to improve the quality of life for residents of Washington, D.C.'s East of the River community, a key goal of the future 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park.

### **About The Risa Fund**

The Risa Fund seeks to enhance the well-being of underserved youth in Washington, DC through arts and athletic enrichment and improved access to mental health services. The work of The Risa Fund extends beyond financial contributions. The Fund is deeply invested in the success and effectiveness of the organizations it supports. As the Fund evolves, its goal is to provide increased visibility for its grantees and to help identify and leverage sources of additional support as it works collaboratively to address the mental health and well-being of area youth. The Risa Fund is a donor advised fund of [The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region](#).

### **About ArtReach Studio**

ArtReach, a year-round museum outreach program, is designed to empower D.C. youth and families to explore and trust their own creativity within the context of art making and art history. THEARC ArtReach, was originally founded as Corcoran ArtReach in 1992. It provides free arts instruction such as family workshops, after-school and summer art classes. ArtReach makes a special effort to foster visual literacy, critical thinking skills, and creative expression among its participants while encouraging them to develop meaningful connections between art and their lives. In addition to ArtReach, oversees the

Community Gallery at THEARC, which serves as an exhibition venue for program participants, local artists, community organizations, and schools.

**About Artolution**

The Artolution is a Community Based Public Arts Network composed of over 200 collaborative canvas and wall murals painted in 12 nations around the world. This network has worked with over 60 organizations globally ranging from museums, government, schools, not profit and humanitarian aid projects. The foundation of this initiative is based on facilitating opportunities for communities to empowerment themselves through creative, participatory and collaborative public-art making.

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