



For Immediate Release

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Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center Exhibits the 11th Street Bridge Park Mural

55 foot mural created by local teens exhibited in October

Washington, D.C. (September 8, 2015) – The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center will exhibit the 11th Street Bridge Park Mural, a giant 55 foot artwork created by local teen artists from both sides of the Anacostia River. Over two weeks, student artists from Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School (Ward 6) and ArtReach at THEARC (Ward 8) worked collaboratively to create a mural that envisions 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, produced 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 included 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.

Bridge Park Mural Exhibit

When: October 8, 2015 – October 31, 2015; 8am – 6pm

Who: FREE and open to the public.

Where: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center Atrium Gallery
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004

For two weeks in August, students drawn from Ward 6's Cesar Chavez Capitol Hill Public Charter High School and Ward 8's ArtReach at THEARC, collaborated in an 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, led students to create this remarkable artwork. The underlying energy of the mural focuses on capturing the essence of neighborhoods along the Anacostia River through trans-community dialogue. "Just like the future 11th Street Bridge Park, this two week mural workshop served as a metaphorical bridge connecting residents on both sides of the river" said Park Director Scott Kratz. This locally designed mural is exhibited at THEARC's ArtReach Community Gallery until September 30th, 2015, the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in October 2015, and then travels to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA)

headquarters this winter. The mural will find a final exhibition space at the 11th Street Bridge Park when it opens to the public in 2019.

About the 11th Street Bridge Park, a project of Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC

As the old 11th 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 11th 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.

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 11th Street Bridge Park.

About Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center is the largest structure (3.1 million square feet) in Washington, DC and is owned by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and is operated by Trade Center Management Associates (TCMA). As the first and only federal building dedicated to both government and private use, it is mandated by Congress to bring together the country's best public and private resources to create a national forum for the advancement of trade. It is also designated as the official World Trade Center Washington, DC, housing a premier conference and event center, executive office space, ample meeting and event facilities, parking, retail and dining opportunities and coordinating community-centric entertainment and programming. Visit: www.itcdc.com.

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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