



2023 Voices of Multiplicity (VoM) Residency Program

Final Report

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1. VoM Mission

The Voices of Multiplicity (VoM) Artist Residency program was established in 2022. The program provides opportunities for artists who identify themselves as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and who experience lack of access to resources and barriers to entry into the art world.

VoM enables artists to gain cross-disciplinary competencies in social practice, implement their collaborative projects in communities, and sustain their practice through art education and mentorship.



2. About VoM

VoM I (2022) – a professional development program comprised of a series of workshops centered around Restorative Justice, Wellness Justice, and Environmental Justice. The partnering BIPOC artists engaged in weekly specialized workshops, curatorial visits, and field trips designed to enhance artists’ practice and strengthen artistic identity. The culminating event presented roundtable discussions with Columbia University graduate teaching artists attending the Community Arts specialization within the Art Educational Program. Selected artists included – Trasonia Abbott, Adalky Capellán, Marissa Gutierrez–Vicario, and Ibtisam Tasnim Zaman.

VoM II (2023) enabled artists access to art world resources, including studio space on Governors Island, materials, exhibition opportunities, art education curriculum, and collaborations with other artists and partners. VoM II provided artists a platform to engage with community members, collaborate with stakeholders, and support creative efforts to build community cohesion in culturally diverse areas in NYC. The Bi-weekly workshops were designed to implement artists’ knowledge and skill sets, and strengthen artistic multidisciplinary practices in the field with an emphasis on art research. These workshops supplied communities with access to art resources and teaching artists, implementing art engagements and mentorship to local artists in underserved communities. In addition, artists identified community priorities, integrated untold narratives and identified additional gaps in access to resources.

Selected artists – Kelly Huang, Niambi Murray, Xavier Robles, Andrea Orellana are NYC artists and art educators who identify as Bipoc, whose creative practices connect to community engagement and social justice activism. Voices of Multiplicity (VoM) is curated by RU Guest Curator Ayelet Danielle Aldouby.

VoM II is managed in collaboration with Brooklyn Public Library head of Satellite Services Robert Weinstein and Columbia University Teachers College with research led by Dr.Sarah Van Den Gerth.

3. VoM II *Social Practice Field implementation*

VoM II was selected by the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) Incubator program to launch a creative initiative and participate in an entrepreneurial professional development program. VoM partnered with BPL's Satellite Services, which extends library resources to communities, to launch the ARTmobile, a mobile artists residency. The ARTmobile utilizes the BPL mobile fleet for various indoor and outdoor art-making workshops in underserved and gap neighborhoods. VoM designed an annual program, conducting 15 art workshops and mentoring sessions in the Brooklyn neighborhood, and five engagements in Governors Island.

VoM artists facilitate workshops exploring cultural histories and attitudes through multimedia art, literature, and reflective dialogue. Artists cultivate the cultural identities of their workshop participants and explore art's potential impact on individual and collective well-being. The ARTmobile program engaged diverse voices using various visual and performing arts strategies to recover cultural memories and foster expressive voices.

VoM artistic engagements were implemented in three sites:

- Art workshops for the Sunset Park community with a research component
- Art engagements on Governors Island with a culminating exhibition
- Art workshops in Red Hook with neighborhood artists

3. Artists Bios



Niambi A. Murray

Founder of the Dancing Canvas and NYC educator. A lover of arts and harnessing discovery, she is finishing her EdM in Art and Art Education at Teachers College. She received her first MsED from Sarah Lawrence College in Early Childhood and Childhood Education.



Kelly Huang

Artist, graphic designer, and museum educator originating from China who is now based in New York. Kelly received her BFA from Pratt Institute and her EdM from Teachers College, Columbia University. She focuses on sustainable development and younger generations in community practices, and she aspires to create artwork that connects people all over the world.

3. Artists Bios



Xavier Robles Armas (b.1991 Zacatecas, Mexico) artist and curator, based in Queens, NY via Santa Ana, CA. He is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute, where he studied photography. With a background in Architectural Studies he is informed by Mexican-American practices of leisure, play and place-making he investigates the alchemy of becoming post-human and a landscape of memory. He has exhibited nationally and internationally. Most recently he was an artist-in-residence at Wave Hill Gardens in the Bronx and was awarded a NYFA City Corps Grant. He's also held fellowships at the Bronx Museum and Queens Museum in NYC.



Andrea Orellana
First Gen Mestizx immigrant from Central America. She is a dancer, singer, weaver, photographer, makeup artist, and practitioner of kitchen magic.

3. Artists Bios **Visiting VoM artist**



Josefina Palma

Chilean designer currently pursuing her MFA in Art and Art Education at Columbia University in New York. Her work bridges strategic design, art, and education, focusing on personal and cultural identity, with a special focus on Latin American traditions. Through the lens of documentary photography and community engagement, she explores the richness of diverse cultures and their impact on individuals.



Tina Mukherjee

She first became interested in clay as a girl as she observed artisans who would come to her home to make sculptures during the summer. As an early childhood educator, of more than 20 years, Tina has taken her interest into a



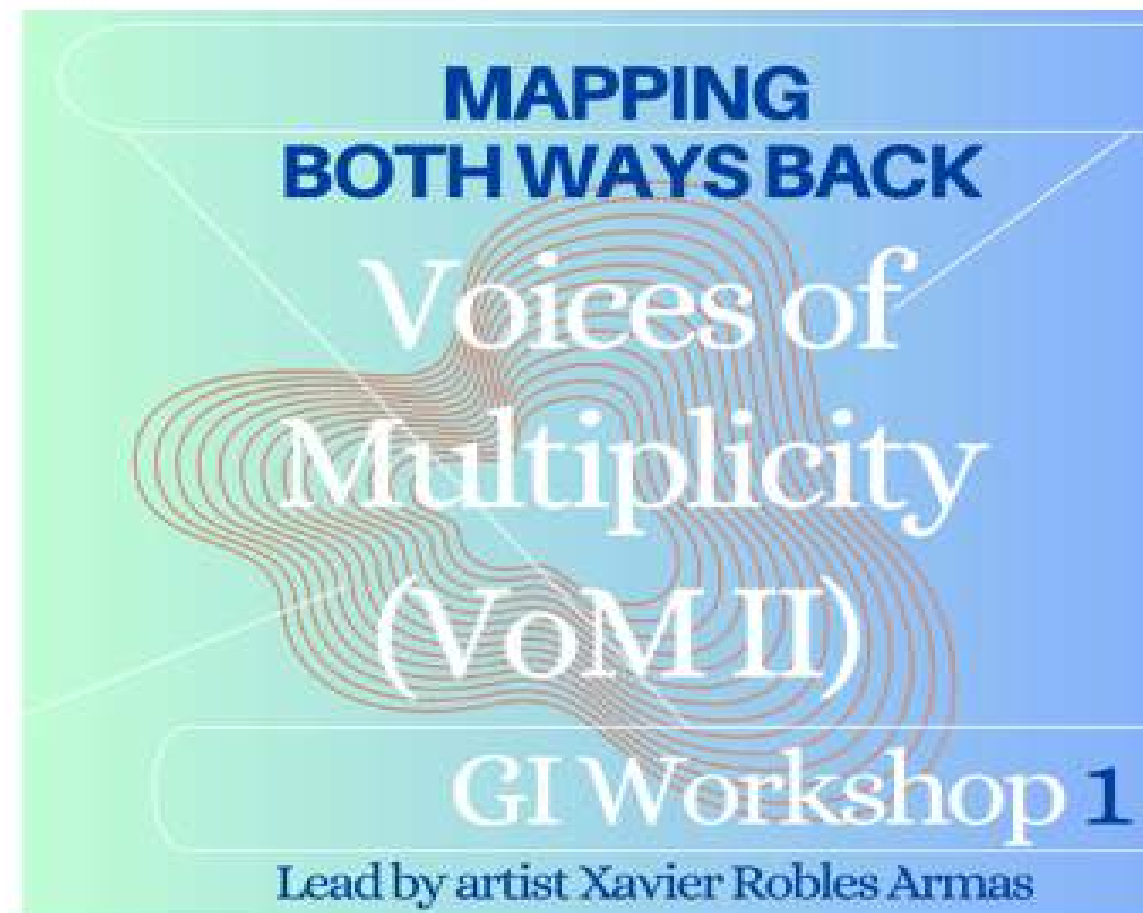
Brook Li

Nature Educator whos workshop explore the integration of nature-based mindfulness into ARTmobile

5.Sites

- 5.1 Governors Island
- 5.2 Sunset Park
- 5.3 Red Hook

5.1 Sites Governors Island



May 21, 2023

Transient visitors were welcomed to respond to a series of prompts that related to orienting themselves in space, particularly when considering how they arrived to and departed from their residences on Governors Island. A curated selection of books centered on maps, wayfinding, and belonging was made available for people to draw inspiration from and respond to, resulting in facilitated and unfacilitated art-making and map-making experiences.

“Having the opportunity to be VoM artist in residence at RU allowed me to better understand the framework of my artistic practice in the context of the public and my peers. It gave me insight into how my practice could be taught to others and how to grow curatorially. It inspired new forms of thinking and collaboration. It was really a beautiful experience for others to share their experiences with themes around counter/mapping and way-finding in the real world”

-Xavier Robles

5.1 Sites Governors Island



June 24, 2023

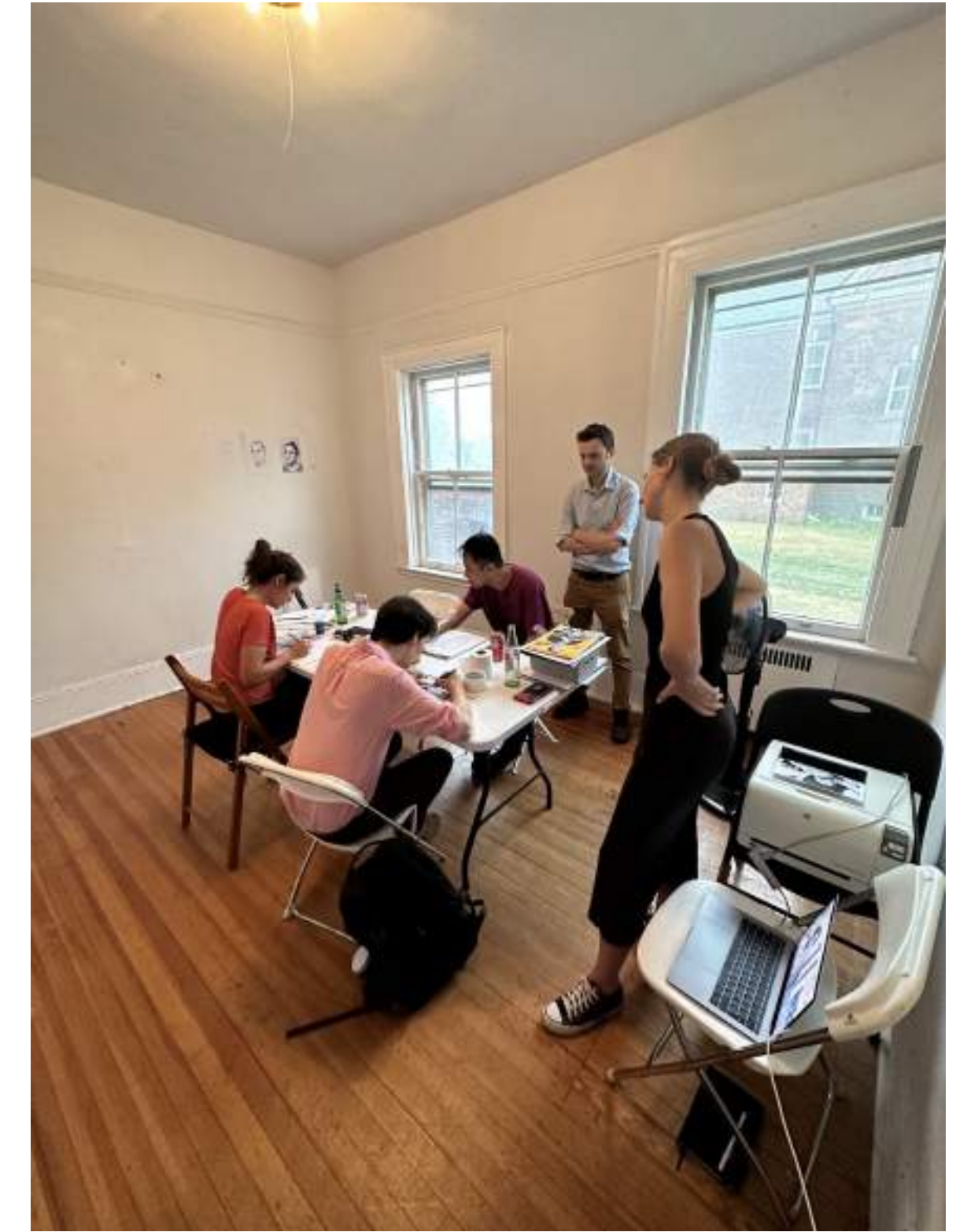
Transient visitors were welcomed to respond to a series of art workshops:

- Niambi Murray conducted a Literacy Arts Workshop in collaboration with the ARTmobile, merging literacy development with artistic storytelling to create personal books.
- Andrea Orellana offered a Paper Beads Making workshop using recycled paper and an exploration of emotional connections to places through art, incorporating AI platforms for art creation.

5.1 Sites Governors Island

July 2nd, 2023

The "Exploring the Art of Portraiture" Workshop, a collaboration between artists Josefina Palma and RU artist Gabriele Groner, provided an opportunity for participants to enhance their artistic skills through realistic drawing techniques and photography. It encouraged participants to an inclusive atmosphere and was open to individuals of all backgrounds and ages.



"The workshop gave us the opportunity to push the boundaries of our own creative practices while helping others discover their artistic potential"

-Josefina Palma

5.1 Sites Governors Island



July 15th, 2023

In collaboration with Tina Mukherjee and Niambi Murray, the Creative Clay Workshop explored multifaceted interactions with clay, emphasizing play. It focused on the "Anatomy of Artistic Translation," allowing participants to express themselves through various creative stages.



CLAY

- **Fine Motor Skills**
 - Develops Muscles and Builds Strength through Kneading and Molding
- **Imaginative Play**
 - Promotes Imagination through Experimentation on Undefined Shapes that can be transformed to real-life or imagined objects
 - Experiencing connections with real life as they name their creations based on real-life objects
- **Emotional Development**
 - Promotes Cognitive Development through Exploratory Activities, such as squeezing, pinching, pounding or rolling
 - Develops Understanding of Cause and Effect
 - Allows Expression of Strong Feelings and Emotions through Pounding
 - Allows Expression of Calmness through Squeezing and Smoothing



The workshop comprised two main parts. "Life in Creation" encouraged collaboration among participants, while "Mini Sculpture Making" involved translating artistic ideas into terra cotta clay mini sculptures. This workshop fostered creativity and collaboration, offering an embodied artistic experience.

5.1 Sites Governors Island

August 19th, 2023

During Andrea Orellana's "Experiments with Paper" workshop on Governor's Island. She suggested that Artist Residents could explore site-specific themes and historical narratives, forming the basis for collaborative island-wide projects. Additionally, Andrea proposed the idea of educational field trips to the island for young adults during the school year.



September 16th, 2023

Artists Xavier Robles Armas and Niambi Murray led a workshop titled "Paper Quilling Landscapes" during their residency. In this workshop, participants utilized various types of paper and adhesive to craft intricate 3D landscapes. They engaged in folding, twisting, bending, crumpling, and gluing paper to create a diverse array of forms, exploring the limitless possibilities of paper artistry.

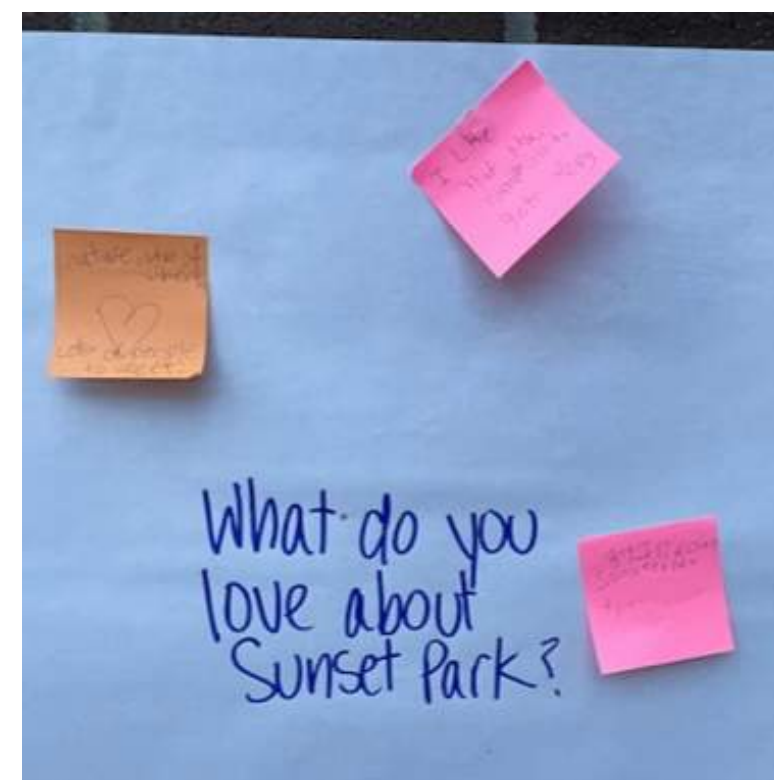


5.2 Sites Sunset Park Research Component



To assess community needs and the success of its workshops, ARTmobile integrated an Arts-based action research and curriculum design.

VoM II benefited from a research team led by Dr. Sarah Van Den Berg and assisted by Josefina Palma. They administered surveys to artists and audiences to expand the understanding of local culture, needs, and knowledge of the community.



The preparation, procedures, and outcomes will be documented in detail. Data collection included artifacts, quotes, interviews, research-practitioner relationship observation, expression, and evaluation forms.

5.2 Sites Sunset Park

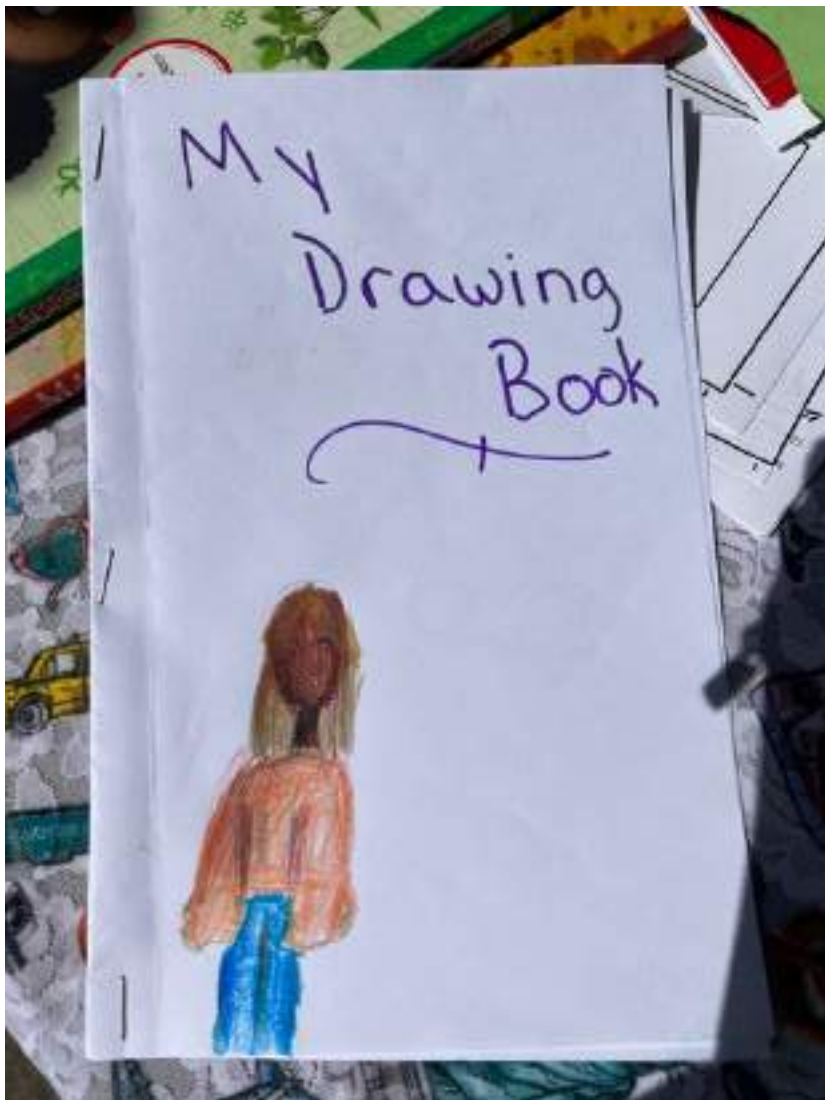
The survey results revealed that a majority of children reported feeling happy, creative, and tranquil during the art workshops.



“One of the biggest advantages was getting to know the local way of life through art-making and conversation with local families and children. Additionally, it enabled an opportunity to see the impact of my artistic practice, and acknowledge the contributions of community members”
-Kelly Huang



5.2 Sites Sunset Park



“Sunset Park has proven to be an exceptional venue for public artistic engagements, fostering robust intergenerational interactions within the creative process. Caregivers have actively embraced the creative activities, to become participants themselves. Furthermore, we've witnessed substantial growth in partnerships and collaborations involving the local community, artists, and patrons of the public library. This synergy has strengthened our connections with the neighborhood, helped us build trust with the community and enriched the VoM artists' experience”

–Ayelet Danielle Aldouby

5.2 Sites Sunset Park



5.2 Sites Sunset Park

In entering my arts engagements, I prep for the activities and leave room for wonder. When I exit an arts engagement, I always exchange the ideas they have brought forward and discuss reflections on what was created. With this knowledge, I'm able to further strategize the specific things discussed that can be incorporated into the following activities.

The VOM residency experience was one where that allowed me to explore various modalities of arts based community engagement that provided a means for integrating literacy. The clay workshop opened up an opportunity for participants to discuss how they have come to use the modality as they shaped it into different creations. Also in the book making sessions children discussed their favorite things to eat watch, play and make. In many cases they began to observe each other's creations and share ideas. What has come forward the most through these series of projects and installations is how much people of all ages grow strong in knowledge through communally based arts and literacy engagements. Including the day session of movement and art ideas with Jason Watson, there is always a thread of storytelling in the process of innovating new ideas, be it with children or adults. Such dynamics are informative and invigorating.

As an artist with a basis of community engagement and education this experience has provided a means for me to sharpen my lens as to how the leveraging of assets and talents of participants further enriches arts programming.

My practice has expanded beyond a focus on movement arts to the multi tiered nature of arts education that is participant centered. The same way I leverage emergent curriculum as per progressive education is useful in community engagement.

I have always been one who saw the importance of material. This experience has reinforced more deeply the usage of materials. As a facilitator, I explore how to appropriately match and adequately provide these, to allow participants to shape their work more deeply and inspire discussion. Having, BPL books that are culturally relevant also supports the imagination and connection of the children in their art-making. Having quality clay and beautiful and easy to use art materials supports every age group more deeply for meaningful creative process.

-Niambi Murray



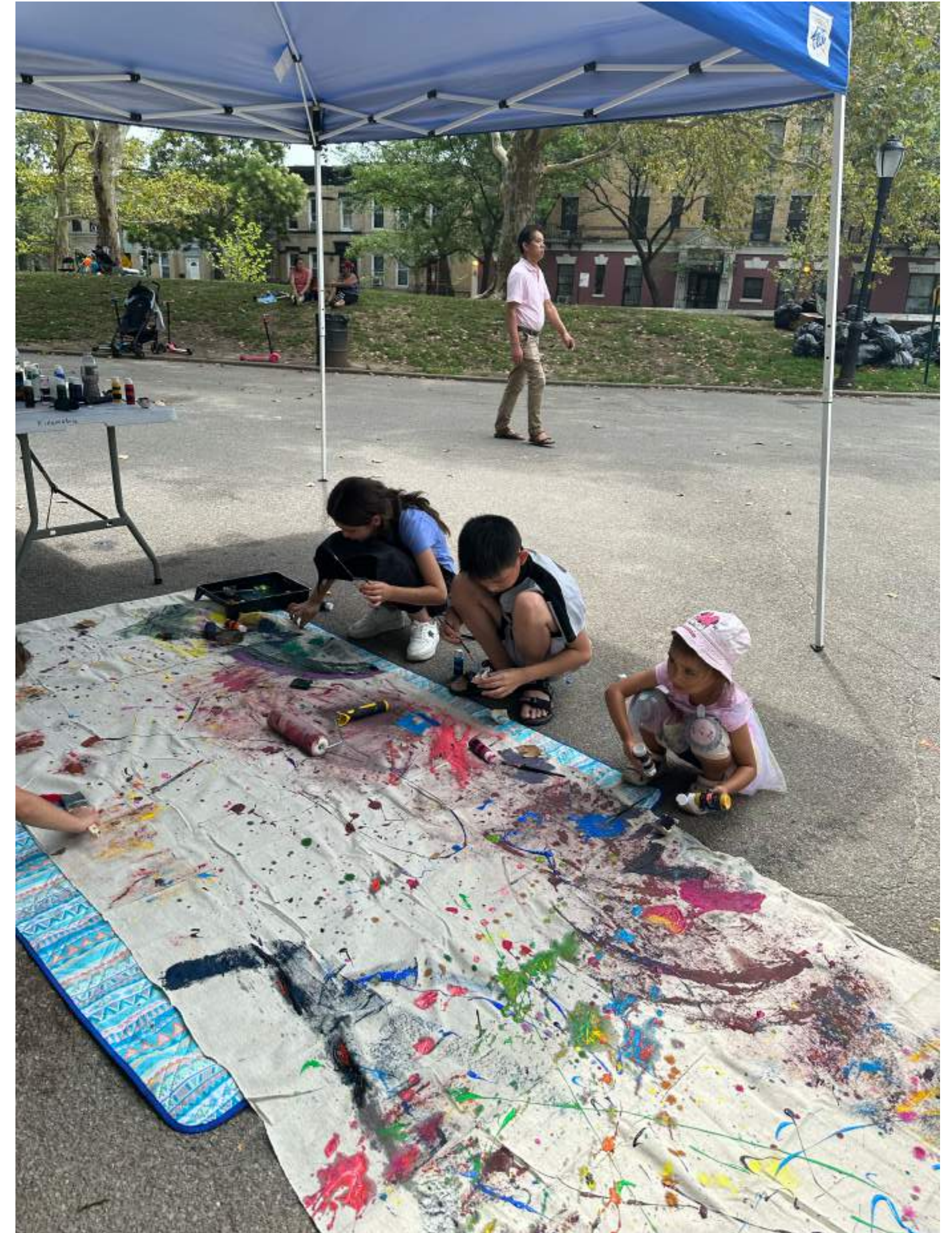
5.2 Sites Sunset Park

Mentorship

An open call was made to invite local artists, craftspeople, and creatives to bring their innovative vision to the community through participatory art workshops



Local Artist: Giovanna Sun
Employs acrylic and oil paint in conjunction with digital prints, incorporating various styles such as drip, hand-drawn, and abstract techniques.



5.2 Sites Sunset Park

Mentorship: Curriculum Design Workshop

The workshop aimed to assist participants in sharing their art or skill with others by equipping them with the knowledge and tools to create meaningful learning experiences. It focused on translating one's creative process into an engaging learning by crafting a "big idea" or "essential question" and employing curriculum design principles like "planning backwards and forwards" to develop an art workshop.



5.3 Sites Red Hook

Art Workshops at Coffey Park in Red Hook fostered community memories, bringing together local artists and residents in an intergenerational creative journey guided by community leaders.



5.3 Sites Red Hook

Mentorship



Local Artists: Cynthia Colone and Valerie Hill



Community leaders Cynthia and Valerie led artistic engagements to encourage community members to capture their individual and collective memories through a photograph to be included and exhibited on the community globe to be showcased at the library.

5.3 Sites Red Hook

About the impact on the community:

Free arts programming has always been a fixture of the library, but ARTmobile expanded on that by offering a more interactive and facilitated experience to the public. Not only did we work with local artists and community partners to curate projects based on community needs, but we were able to interview participants during our outings to help them elicit meaningful outcomes from their art work.

-Robert Weinstein

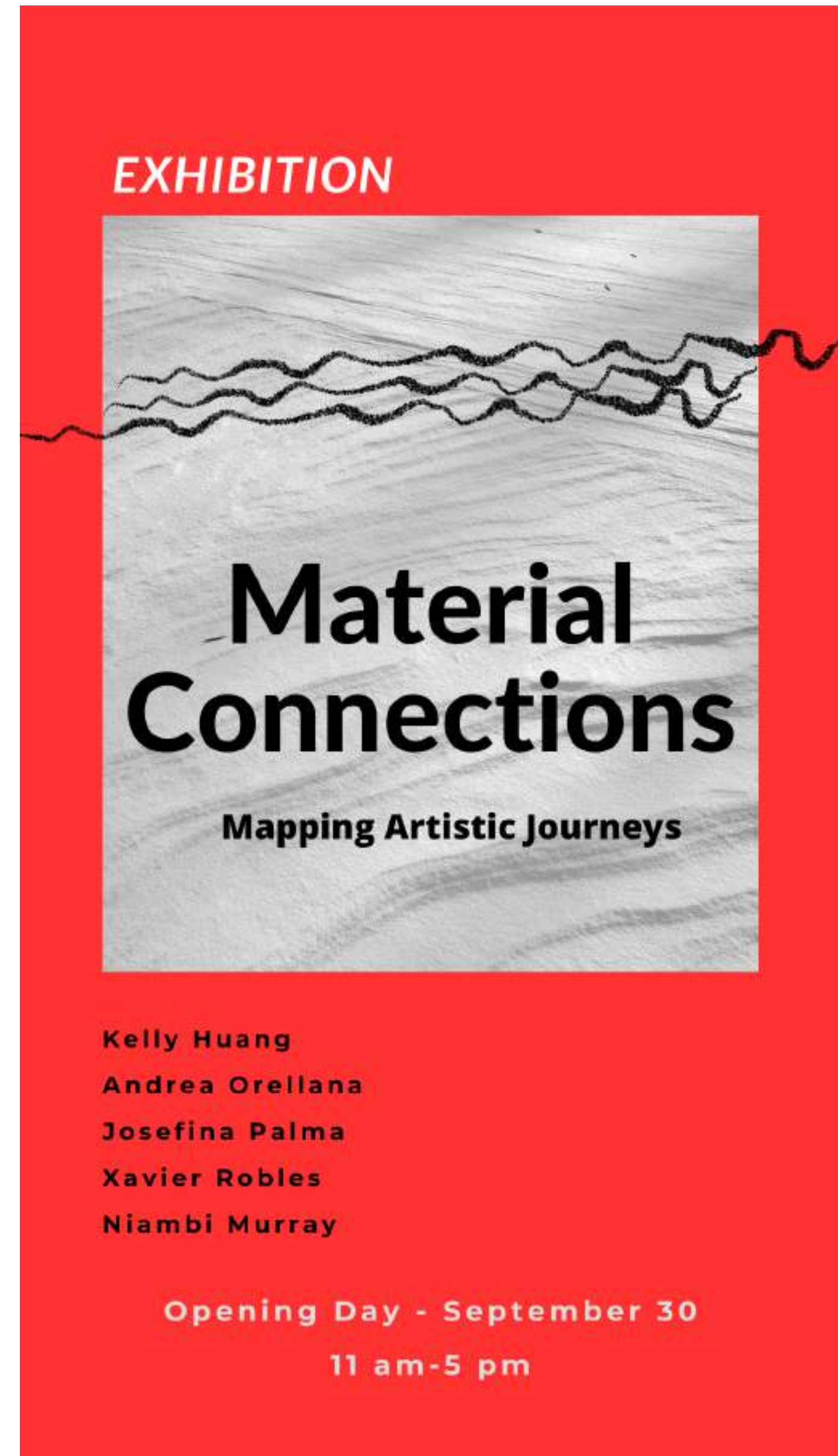


6. Culminating Exhibit

September 29 – October 8, 2023

“Material Connections” exhibit celebrated the creative journeys of teaching artists, including Xavier Robles, Andrea Orellana, Josefina Palma, Niambi A. Murray, and Kelly Huang.

The artists explored the concept of mapping during their residency on Governors Island, resulting in diverse artworks. The exhibition emphasizes both individual and collective creative processes, encouraging artistic discovery and fostering connections between artists, audiences, cultures, and the environment.



6. Culminating Exhibit



Exhibition in RU House, Governors Island

6. Culminating Exhibit



Exhibition in RU House, Governors Island



7. VoM II Collaborators

Ayelet Danielle Aldouby – Voices Of Multiplicity (VoM) founder and curator is RU’s social practice curator focused on art, education, and wellness. Doctoral candidate and instructor of the Community Arts Field class at the Art & Art education program whose research focuses on *Ethics of Care in Participatory Arts Engagements* and Dialogic Reflections. Aldouby led the NEA Our Town grants in 2014 for RU and in 2015 and 2016 for IDEAS xLab working at the intersection of Art and wellness. Aldouby curated “Re:Construction” public art projects for Alliance for Downtown NY and the International Artists’ Museum at the 51st & 52nd Venice Biennales and Documenta. Aldouby served as the president of the National Art Education Association Community Art Caucus (CAC) and instructs socially engaged art and community engagement at Columbia University, Teachers College. Recent publications include the 2023 book *Silent Fall; Devenir oiseau; Becoming Bird; Natchez: Inclusion & Soaps in Concinnitas: The Journal of the Institute of Arts of the University of Rio; Seeing the Unseen in Trends* – Texas Art Education Journal.

Aldouby organized the symposium Shaping Priorities at Columbia University with presentations including Bridging Social Practice & Community Art and Social Practice & Teaching at NAEA 2021 Convention.

Dr. Sarah Gerth van den Berg – Educator and curriculum designer focused on research in curriculum theory and design. Program Manager of the Black Paint Curriculum Lab at Teachers College, Co-Director of the Creative Community Care Artist Residency at Walls–Ortiz Gallery, and Director of the City Learning Ecology at City Seminary of New York. Her research focuses on the significance of affect, senses, and materiality in curriculum design and learning.

7. VoM II Collaborators

Organizational partners:

- **Brooklyn Public Library**

Robert Weinstein – BPL Satellite Coordinator and oversees the Library’s Mobile Fleet and Satellite Services to provide resources to underserved and gap communities throughout Brooklyn. Robert's work focuses on placing BPL resources in alternative spaces in underserved and "gap" communities – areas between BPL branches – throughout the Borough. This is done by creating community connections through Bookmobile, Techmobile, and Kidsmobile outings as well as outreach efforts in collaboration between BPL staff and Community Based Organizations. These collaborations create arts, business, education, and technology-based programs for patrons of all ages while improving the ways the Library provides resources to our communities.



- **Center for Family Life**

Kristie Mancell is the Center for Family Life (CFL) Program Director at Sunset Park High School
Jhodessa Reimer is a multi-site program supervisor at CFL.



7. VoM II Collaborators

Advisor:

Dr. Judith Burton – Macy Professor of Art & Art Education at Columbia University, Teachers College who oversees the Community Engagement specialization. Dr. Burton also serves as advisor to the VoM residency program. Dr. Judith M. Burton holds the Macy Chair of Education at Columbia University Teachers College (TC); she is also a Professor of Art & Art Education. Before coming to TC she was Chair of Art Education at Boston University and taught at the Massachusetts College of Art. Burton received her Ed. D. from Harvard University in 1980. Her research focuses on the artistic-aesthetic development of children, adolescents and young adults and the implications this has for teaching and learning and the culture in general. In 1995 she co-founded the Center for Research in Arts Education at Teachers College, and in 1996 founded the Heritage School – a comprehensive high school featuring the arts – located in Harlem, NYC. Her book *Conversations in Art: The Dialectics of Teaching and Learning* co-edited with Dr. Mary Hafeli was published in 2012. She is author of numerous articles and chapters and currently has two books in process of publication: She received the Manuel Barkan Award for excellence in research writing, the Lowenfeld Award for lifetime achievement in art education from National Art Education Association (NAEA) and the Ziegfeld Award for services to international art education from the International Society for Education Through Art (INSEA). Dr. Burton is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts in Great Britain, a Distinguished Fellow of the NAEA, and serves as Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts Beijing, and the South China Normal University, Guangzhou. She holds an honorary doctorate from the Beaconhouse University, Lahore, Pakistan. She is a trustee of the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, MD, USA and a former trustee of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Maine, USA. She is the NAEA Eisner Lifetime Achievement honoree for 2015, in recognition of her services to the profession both nationally and globally.

7. VoM II Collaborators

- **Residency Unlimited**

Nathalie Anglès is the Executive Director and co-founder of Residency Unlimited (RU). Founded in 2009, RU is a Brooklyn based non-profit organization that promotes exchange and diversity through its customized residency program and year-round public programs for US based and international artists and curators. A history and political science major, Nathalie is also a graduate from The École du MAGASIN curatorial studies program in Grenoble, (Le Magasin – Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble France). Her extensive experience in the field of artist residencies in the US and Europe began managing the residency program for US based artists at the Frank Gehry designed American Center in Paris followed by the position of Director of Location One's International Residency program in New York (2000–2008). Nathalie worked in a curatorial and administrative capacity in institutions such as École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts (ENSBA) and Union centrale des Arts décoratifs (UCAD) in Paris as well as Sotheby's London in the Impressionist and Modern art department. In 2008, Nathalie was awarded the French government distinction Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Mariko Takashima is an arts-administrator with a strong interest to effectively merge the arts and the public in meaningful ways through site specific works that inspire dialogue around environmental issues, sustainability and community revitalization. Mariko holds a Master's degree in Visual Arts Administration from New York University, and has extensive experience working and interning at various arts organizations across the city. A former intern at Residency Unlimited working on Project H.E.A.L. with an Artist + Entrepreneur Co-Innovation Accelerator in Louisville, Kentucky (funded by an NEA Our Town grant), Mariko is excited to rejoin RU as Communications Manager.