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HYDE SQUARE TASK FORCE RECEIVES 2015 ARTPLACE AMERICA GRANT

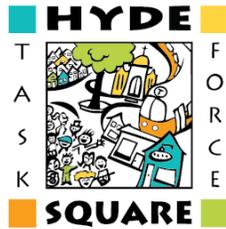
\$200,000 Grant Will Fund Artes Pa'lante in Jamaica Plain, MA

JAMAICA PLAIN, BOSTON, MA– Hyde Square Task Force announced today that it is among 38 recipients of ArtPlace America’s 2015 National Grants Program. ArtPlace, one of the nation’s largest philanthropies dedicated to creative placemaking, is investing \$200,000 in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston to further integrate arts and culture into the field of community planning and development. Hyde Square Task Force will work to partner with businesses and artists in Boston’s Latin Quarter on the Artes Pa’lante project to use the richness of Latin arts and culture to bring together people from different social, economic, racial, and cultural backgrounds, while building the small businesses’ capacity to expand their customer base and adapt to the neighborhood transition. ArtPlace selected Hyde Square Task Force from a pool of nearly 1,300 applicants.

“We see arts as a vehicle to be used to develop Boston’s Latin Quarter into the culturally- and economically-strong place that we all envision,” said Brenda Rodriguez-Andújar, Hyde Square Task Force’s Director of Arts and Cultural Programs. Located in the Hyde/Jackson Square neighborhood of Jamaica Plain, Boston’s Latin Quarter is a bustling business and cultural district where Latino immigrants from the Caribbean and Central and South America have thrived for decades. The area has more than 125 businesses including many Latin-specialty shops and restaurants. Boston’s Latin Quarter is a destination place where the lives of Boston’s residents and visitors are enhanced by enjoying the rich art, music, dance, theater, and food of Latin America.

Artes Pa’lante will ignite Boston’s Latin Quarter through planned, interactive, and spontaneous outdoor arts initiatives. Activities that connect residents, multi-generational artists and businesses include: sidewalk sales, street Salsa dancing, dominos, Afro-Latin music performances, family drum circles, theatre, and creative church development planning.

Transforming Youth, Transforming Community ▪ Transformando los Jóvenes, Transformando la Comunidad



“There are so many people that are invested in this community, from the nonprofits and youth organizations that work with our kids, such as Hyde Square Task Force, to the small business owners, and they are all invested in this community and they value their traditional roots,” said Massachusetts State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez of the project.

“Hyde Square Task Force is a leader, not only in Jamaica Plain, but throughout the city,” said Boston City Councilor Matt O’Malley. “In addition to the work and the mission statement of the organization, they are working to bring people together through the arts, from all walks of life and from all cultures, to have them come together to celebrate arts and to learn arts.”

Gerald Robins, Executive Director of Hyde Jackson Square Main Street, said of their relationship with Hyde Square Task Force on the Artes Pa’lante project, “We are excited and extremely pleased to be a part of Hyde Square Task Force’s Artes Pa’lante project to be funded by ArtPlace. Hyde Jackson Square Main Street strongly believes that future economic success of the neighborhood will be dependent on coordinated efforts to market the neighborhood and increase the skills of our merchants.”

“Investing in and supporting the arts have a profound impact on the social, physical, and economic futures of communities,” said ArtPlace Executive Director Jamie L. Bennett. “Projects like these demonstrate how imaginative and committed people are when it comes to enhancing their communities with creative interventions and thoughtful practices.”

“The National Grants Program is actively building a portfolio that touches each of the sectors and stakeholders that make up the community development field,” said ArtPlace’s Director of National Grantmaking F. Javier Torres. “Last year, ArtPlace developed a Community Development Matrix to help us better evaluate our success on this front. So, we’re thrilled that this year’s 38 grantees represent a dynamic spectrum of creative approaches and partnerships in community development that expand the dimensions of our portfolio.”

This year’s ArtPlace America grantees were selected from nearly 1,300 applicants across 48 states and the District of Columbia. Grants range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 with an average of \$265,000.

“Each one of these grants supports a geographic community: a collection of people who live, work, and play within a defined circle on a map,” continued Torres. “In each case, a community development challenge or opportunity was identified by local stakeholders; and these 38 grantees are serving as conduits for their community’s desires by leading arts-based solutions through their projects.”

To celebrate their selection as one of only 38 recipients of ArtPlace America’s 2015 National Grants Program, Hyde Square Task Force is hosting a free community celebration in Boston’s Latin Quarter, at the Blessed Sacrament Church Plaza (361 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA



02130), on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 6pm featuring live Afro-Latin music by Gian Carlo Buscaglia. Buscaglia's repertoire embodies the tradition of Latin America's New Song movement with its deep sense of poetry. The sounds of Salsa, Latin Jazz, Nueva Trova, Guaracha and Bomba resonate in his playing.

To view the complete list of 2015 ArtPlace grantees, go to www.artplaceamerica.org.

About Hyde Square Task Force

The mission of Hyde Square Task Force is to develop the skills of youth and their families so they are empowered to enhance their own lives and build a strong and vibrant urban community. Last year, HSTF served more than 1,200 young people through its leadership development, college and career exploration and preparation, arts and cultural enrichment, school-based partnerships, and youth-led community-building initiatives. To learn more about Hyde Square Task Force, please visit, www.HydeSquare.org

About ArtPlace America

ArtPlace America (ArtPlace) is a ten-year collaboration of foundations, banks, and federal agencies that exists to position art and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development in order to help strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabric of communities. Visit www.artplaceamerica.org for more information.

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