



Contact:
Diane Testa
The Revolving Museum
978-937-2787
dtesta@revolvingmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Unveiling of Immigrant Murals by Lowell High School Students

Exclusive showcase of portable murals created by youth artists that will engage attendees with a visual representation of Lowell's diverse immigrant community!

LOWELL, MA May 13, 2010 — The Revolving Museum invites the greater Lowell community to an art event unveiling the project, ***Immigrant Murals***, on Thursday, May 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the United Teen Equality Center (UTEC), 34 Hurd Street, Lowell, MA.

For the past 4 months, students from Lowell High School have been creating 17 large-scale portable mural panels depicting Lowell's immigrant history. The panels will be viewed by the public for the first time this evening, along with additional entertainment by The Celtic Angkor, a local band that combines Irish and Cambodian musical styles; Free Verse!, Lowell's premiere spoken word artists, and Kenyan Kikuyu Musician JP Muiruri. Catering will be provided by UTEC's Fresh Roots program featuring hors d'oeuvres inspired by Lowell's ethnic cultures.

The evening will begin with refreshments and music and the speaking program will commence at 6:30pm. Student artists will be present to speak about their work and meet the audience throughout the evening. Additional performances will continue through the evening until 8:30pm. The event will conclude at 9:00PM.

UTEC is located off Central Street on 34 Hurd Street across from UMass Lowell's Inn and Conference Center in downtown Lowell. The Lower Locks Parking Garage is one block away at 90 Warren Street and street parking is available.

The Immigrant Mural Project

The City of Lowell has a long history of immigration and ethnic diversity creating a culturally rich community. This mural project embraces and celebrates this history through a series of 17 vertical, free standing panels, measuring 8.5' x 2' each. Painted by seventeen students from Lowell High School, the murals depict personal themes of immigration such as images of cultural traditions, looking for a better life, experiences of war and violence, hope for a brighter future, difficulties of assimilation, and more. Together the murals touch on the experiences of immigrants from Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, South East Asian, and Latin American.

The mural artists, ages 15-19, all connect to the immigrant experience through their own personal or family history. For many this is their first time painting on such a large scale. In addition to learning the techniques of painting and making murals, the youth have engaged in further understanding the importance of tolerance for diversity and directly promoting cultural understanding.

The mural project builds on research on 19th and 20th century immigration in Lowell funded by the Lowell National Historical Park and conducted by UMass Lowell Professors Christoph Strobel and Bob Farrant. As part of this effort thirty-five interviews were conducted with recent Lowell immigrants, with the themes from their stories as well as the stories of the mural makers integrated into the richly colorful mural on display for the first time on May 27. A book containing ten of the interviews with an historical essay by Strobel and Farrant will be published by Loom Press in late 2010.

These panels will be available for display to area organizations, schools, libraries and companies. Please contact The Revolving Museum if you would your organization would like to host some or all of the mural panels.

This project is funded in part by a University of Massachusetts President's Office Creative Economy Grant.

About The Revolving Museum

The Revolving Museum is a community arts organization that builds community through art. Located in Lowell, MA at 122 Western Avenue #217, its mission is to serve as an evolving laboratory of creative expression for people of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities who seek to experience the transformative power of art. Through public art, exhibitions, and educational programs we promote artistic exploration and appreciation; encourage community participation and growth; and provide opportunities for empowerment and social change. www.revolvingmuseum.org • 978-YES-ARTS

#