



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

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**CONTACT:** [nycresiliency@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:nycresiliency@cityhall.nyc.gov)

**IN COMMEMORATION OF SANDY ANNIVERSARY, DE BLASIO ADMINISTRATION AND  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA ANNOUNCE LANDMARK CITY-FUNDED PUBLIC ART  
PROJECT ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

*\$20,000 Project with Red Hook neighborhood will be youth-led and serve to educate the city on the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, while envisioning a New York of the future*

**NEW YORK**— On the 4th Anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, the de Blasio Administration and Council Member Carlos Menchaca announced a partnership to work with Brooklyn’s Red Hook community on a new public art project. The artwork will educate and inspire residents about the challenges and opportunities for the neighborhood and the city as a result of climate change and rising sea levels. The Red Hook neighborhood saw unprecedented flooding during Hurricane Sandy, which took a heavy toll on its residents and businesses. This landmark public art project, facilitated by the Department of Cultural Affairs’ Percent for Art program, will engage Red Hook youth in the development of artwork that depicts the future of their neighborhood and city in era of vast climate change challenges.

“Art has the ability to move hearts as well as minds. As we sometimes forget, the arts are an endeavor which increases our children’s cultural intelligence, heightens our individual awareness while also deepening our collective sense of humanity,” said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “Community driven art efforts like this project can be a powerful way to engage Red Hook’s younger generation on climate change, an issue which is so important for their neighborhood, and one that is perhaps the biggest societal challenge of their lifetime.”

“This investment in community art will be guided by Red Hook’s youth who lead our neighborhood’s climate change planning. Their creative expressions are a valuable part of building a truly resilient community. Making art together is a worthy way to commemorate the anniversary of Hurricane Sandy and to shape what Red Hook will become for future generations,” said **Council Member Carlos Menchaca**.

“Adapting to climate change requires more than technical solutions – it requires stronger social infrastructure and a reimagining of our neighborhoods. Art can serve a valuable purpose in this effort as we work to build resiliency across the city,” said **Daniel Zarrilli, Senior Director of Climate Policy and Programs and Chief Resilience Officer for the NYC Mayor’s Office**. “Today’s announcement demonstrates the innovation and engagement of the residents of Red Hook to educate, inform, and empower communities—especially young people—as we work together to deliver on our commitment of creating a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient Red Hook.”

“When people come together to collaborate on public artwork, the process has the power to heal and inspire an entire community,” said **Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl**. “My agency is honored to take part in this landmark public art project, working with Red Hook youth on a project that captures the neighborhood’s unique character and remarkable vibrancy while making a statement about the urgent issues surrounding our society’s response to climate change.”

Red Hook was hit incredibly hard by Hurricane Sandy on October 29, 2012. Water flooded the neighborhood from all three sides of its coastline – from the Upper Bay, Buttermilk Channel and the Gowanus Canal. Flood waters impacted much of the neighborhood, including NYCHA’s Red Hook Houses. Properties along the Columbia Street Waterfront District also experienced significant flooding, and thousands of residents were without basic services for weeks.

### **Next steps**

In early 2017, the Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency, in partnership with Council Member Menchaca, will initiate a collaborative, inclusive process that will engage the Red Hook community in selecting an artist and site location for the artwork. The City will draw on the expertise of the Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art program to facilitate the process.

The project will be funded with a \$20,000 grant from NYC Emergency Management. This project is part of the City’s broader education efforts around climate change and sea level rise, which include the recently launched FloodHelpNY.org campaign to educate New Yorkers on their flood risk.

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