

Harlem Biennale

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NEW YORK, NY Feb. 15, 2010 – 8 teen rappers from a housing project north of Paris will spend two weeks in New York City and Washington D.C. as part of a special exchange program organized by The Harlem Biennale. From February 20 to March 4, the teens will explore topics including; contemporary art, influences of American music: jazz & hip-hop, urban planning, the economic crisis, immigration and the Obama presidency. They will also exhibit their talents, performing, recording and participating in workshops and collaborate with several not-for-profit organizations, schools and Universities.

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE (A FULL SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED) :

New York, NY

- Workshops at the Harlem Children's Zone and Pratt College
- Performances at Shrine (Harlem) and Columbia University
- Recording Sessions at the Hip Hop Cultural Center, Harlem and BrainMixer Studio, Brooklyn
- Urban Walks at Ground Zero and The Polo Grounds Project Housing
- Discussions/Interviews with poet Abiodun Oyewole, architect Meta Brunzema and urban planner Thomas Lunke

Washington, D.C.

- Visit to the White House
- Live performance

The visit is part of the groundbreaking program F.A.C.E. (French/American Creative Association) created by artist Monte Laster, who has committed to a long-term engagement with the community of La Cité des 4000 (La Courneuve) which is perhaps the most socially stigmatized housing project in France. This approach to bring change through the implementation of creative models is reflected in the artist's ongoing participatory practice. Laster organizes interventions that take multiple forms (urban walks, concerts, poetry readings and think tanks) and systematically engages the local population at different levels. Monte Laster and F.A.C.E operate from Laster's studio, the Fayvon Watermill at the heart of La Cité des 4000.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ARTIST MONTE LASTER BRINGS OUR BETTER ANGELS
TO NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON D.C.

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About F.A.C.E

www.association-face.com

F.A.C.E. - (French/American Creative Association) is a not-for-profit association founded in 2001 by artist Monte Laster. It is a micro-political, community-based structure, which crosses urban planning, architecture, the arts and their social implications. All events, actions, labs and think tanks are documented through photo journals, film and the archiving of information. These are supplanted by research about the urban renewal project, which has been going on in La Courneuve for 20 years and will last at least another 25.

About The Harlem Biennale

The Harlem Biennale (HB) invites projects by contemporary artists and curators that carry a commitment to showcasing Harlem's vibrant arts community and cultural legacy. "Our Better Angels" is part of a series of ongoing collaborations that will lead to HB2012, the first edition of the Harlem Biennale which will be on view to the public from May 1st to June 30th, 2012.

For more info :

www.harlemschoolofthearts.org
contact@harlembiennale.org.

Please see our video documenting a think tank to prepare for this visit, held at The Harlem School of the Arts, January 7th : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JclcEUdo7xc&>