

The New York Times

Spare Times for May 11-17

By ANNE MANCUSO
Published: May 10, 2012

Hudson River Pageant (Saturday) The entertainment will be on land and in the water during this annual festival that calls attention to the life forms that thrive in the river and the conservation projects to protect them. The pageant, sponsored by Earth Celebrations, begins at 1 p.m. at the Irish Hunger Memorial in Battery Park City where costumed marchers will make their way along the river, with stops for site-specific performances of music and dance. It ends at 4:30 p.m., with a boat dance at Hudson River Park, at Horatio Street, between the Gansevoort Street Pier and the Water Playground at Jane Street. For a schedule of activities: earthcelebrations.com, 290 Vesey Street and North End Avenue, (212) 777-7969; free.

DOWNTOWN EXPRESS

Hudson River pageant showcases costumes, talent

May 16, 2012 | Filed under: Community | Posted by: admin

[media-credit name="Downtown Express photos by TERESE LOEB KREUZER" align="aligncenter" width="600"]



[media-credit]The 315-mile-long Hudson River harbors some interesting creatures as it flows from Lake Tear of the Clouds in the Adirondack Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, but none as dazzling as those who came to honor it on May 12 in the annual Hudson River Pageant.



In a swirl of imaginative costumes and vivid colors, participants paraded along the waterfront in Battery Park City and Greenwich Village, stopping every few blocks for dancing, music and poetry readings. At the Christopher Street pier, there was an oyster planting ceremony and dance. At Charles Street, fish were released into the river. The parade ended at Horatio Street with a boat dance and harmonic chant concert.



The pageant is an amalgamation of exuberant artistic invention and rituals, music and incantations borrowed from many cultures. The community and scientific groups who study and tend the river and its inhabitants exhorted the audience to be aware of how politics and economics have affected the river and to be its voice when needed.

Pageant director Felicia Young founded the not-for-profit Earth Celebrations in 1991 to engage artists and the arts in the service of ecological awareness. She first staged the Hudson River Pageant in 2009 to call attention to the native species and habitats of the Hudson River and to address climate change.

In preparing costumes and puppets for the pageant, Young and her team hold workshops for adults and also work with students who will be the stewards of the river in the future.



— Terese Loeb Kreuzer

THE **TRIBECA TRIB**

Vol. 18 No. 9

www.tribecatrib.com

MAY 2012



RACHEL ELKIND

The Hudson River Pageant, day of poetry, music, dance, history talks, oyster planting and fish releasing and a parade of giant puppets, is on Saturday, May 12 (rain date May 13) All events are free. For more information and a detailed schedule go to earthcelebrations.com.

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OUR TOWN downtown

Hudson River Pageant Brings a Community Together

Parade is one of many Earth Celebrations outreach efforts

BY DOUG STRASSLER

Looking for something to do in the coming months? Earth Celebrations has an idea to combat spring fever.

Founded in 1991, Earth Celebrations is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering ecological awareness through the arts. Felicia Young, founder and executive director of Earth Celebrations, has established environmental arts programs, creative advocacy projects and theatrical pageants—she is a theatrical pageant director—to help preserve community gardens throughout New York City. Three years ago, Young launched a set of new programs to help restore the species and habitats of the Hudson River and address climate change in the city.

The Hudson River Pageant is one such program. An educational environmental art workshop designed to appeal to schools, community centers and local youth and adults alike, the pageant is the culmination of a series of workshops running from March 3 through May 9. The outdoor pageant will take place May 12 in the Downtown section of Hudson River Park.

In the workshops, participants work with resident artists Soule Golden and Lecrecia Novia to create puppets and costumes for the parade. The free costume and puppet workshops take place at the Clemente Soto Vélaz Cultural Center and Teatro LATEA on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.



An artistic fish becomes part of the outdoor Hudson River pageant. PHOTO BY JACQUES TORCHON

The pageant will feature a cast of thousands—literally. “About 2,500 people participate in the pageant on the day,” Young said, adding, “There are at least 500 artists and performers engaged in the project and over 5,000 spectators on the pageant day.”

According to Young, all performances will highlight both the Hudson River’s history and its future restoration. The parade, which will display costumes, giant puppets, mobile sculptures and live bands and will perform 13 site-specific performances at the piers and other stops, runs from Battery Park North to Gansevoort Street. Titles of

planned performances include “Dance of the River Grass,” “Oyster Planting,” “Live Fish Release” and “Boat Dance.”

Some of the costumes and puppetry are original works created specifically for the pageant, while others are pre-existing pieces or were adapted from larger works. It isn’t too late to get involved; any artist interested in contributing or performing can apply by sending work samples or links to their work.

Young herself is a third generation New Yorker, equally passionate about her local roots and her heritage. Her inspiration for Earth Celebrations was drawn from the

civic pageants in New York City from the early part of the last century, as well as from a more personal place: the ritual theater and large-scale mythic dramas staged in her mother’s native India. Her goal was to utilize all elements of the creative and visual arts “for a common goal, addressing issues and effecting positive change.”

Earth Celebrations has received many awards, including the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Public Service Award from 1995–2005 and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council: Fund for Creative Communities Award, which it has won every year since 1996. But it is the organization’s ability to unite local youth that Young views as its main achievement.

“Earth Celebrations has empowered youth from diverse cultural backgrounds to work together creatively to raise awareness on a variety of environmental issues and has grown deep roots building a community network,” Young said.

“People get involved for many reasons,” she explained. “People feel that they are making a positive difference to address issues of habitat preservation and the future of the planet, connecting to the river and the earth on a deep level through the experience of the ceremonial pageant. They also meet other great people participating in the project who have many talents, skills and a commitment to working toward a positive future.”

Looks like it’s pretty easy being green. And fun, too.

For information about Earth Celebrations, visit www.earthcelebrations.com.

Seen & Heard: Tribeca Film Festival Tickets

February 29, 2012 • [Arts & Culture](#), [Events](#), [Restaurant/Bar News](#)



... [Earth Celebrations'](#) 4th Annual Hudson River Pageant will be on Saturday, May 12—or on May 13 if there's rain (it's Mother Nature's party and she can cry if she wants to!). Teens and adults are welcome at the free puppet and costume workshops being held Wednesdays (6-9 p.m.) and Saturdays (12-4 p.m.) from Mar. 3 to May 9 at the Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center and Teatro LATEA on the Lower East Side. The pageant is a "parade and performance art event to raise awareness for the restoration of the Hudson River and address climate change in New York City."

The New York Times

Spare Times for May 4-10

By ANNE MANCUSO
Published: May 3, 2012

Puppet and Costume Workshops (Saturday and Wednesday) The Hudson River Pageant is an annual parade and performance-art event given by Earth Celebrations to restore the Hudson River and address climate change in New York City. This year teenagers and adults can be part of the event by creating costumes and giant puppets inspired by the marine species in the Hudson at weekly workshops leading to the parade on May 12. The costume-making workshops (Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.) will be led by Irina Kruzhilina, and the puppet-making workshops (Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.) will be given by Lucrecia Novoa. Clemente Soto Vález Cultural Center, 107 Suffolk Street, Lower East Side, (212) 777-7969, earthcelebrations.com; free.

Spare Times for April 20-26

By ANNE MANCUSO
Published: April 19, 2012

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THE VILLAGER

Puppet, costume workshops prep you for Pageant

March 1, 2012 | Filed under: Arts | Posted by: admin

 Print  PDF

“Hudson River marine life makes for fine muse

BY SCOTT STIFFLER | Give a person a giant puppet shaped like a fish, and they'll march in the Hudson River Pageant for a day — but teach that person how to *make* a giant puppet shaped like a fish, and they'll march for life.

But where do you go to develop such a rarefied skill? For the next two months or so, Earth Celebrations has your back. Founded in 1991 by Felicia Young (the organization's current executive director), this nonprofit uses the arts as way to foster ecological awareness.

Taking her cue from NYC's civic pageants of the 1990s (with a dash of mythic drama from her native India), Young created a roster of music, dance and performance activities that made its way into schools, gardens, parks and community centers — and, eventually, to an annual pageant that snakes its way along the banks of the Hudson. Participants celebrate the river's diverse marine species and habitats by donning spectacular costumes and parading giant puppets.

That's where these free workshops come in. Earth Celebrations artists-in-residence Soule Golden and Lucrecia Novoa will teach teens and adults everything they need to know in order to create their own costumes and puppets. They'll display those creations at the Hudson River Pageant — on Saturday, May 12 (rain date: May 13). Besides showing off the handiwork of workshop graduates, this annual ecological parade and performance art event seeks to raise awareness for the restoration of the Hudson River and address climate change.

“Right here in New York City, where we may often feel disconnected from the natural world, we are also part of a unique ecosystem where we must curb our production of waste, pollution and environmental destruction,” Young notes. As for the function of those puppets and costumes, she says, “Art does not only have to reflect life, but can effect it too, by inspiring people's imagination and bringing them together to address crucial issues. Earth Celebrations programs engage the community to celebrate the natural world, cultivate culturally diverse arts and traditions, document and perform local history, and revive the arts at the center of community life!”

HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT PUPPET & COSTUME WORKSHOPS

Free, for adults and teens

March 3 through May 9

Wed., 6-9pm: Costume Workshop with artist Soule Golden

Sat., 12-4pm: Puppet Workshop with artist Lucrecia Novoa

At the Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center, room #201

107 Suffolk St., btw. Delancey & Rivington

For info, call 212-777-7969, visit earthcelebrations.com or send an email to mail@earthcelebrations.com



Puppet, costume workshops prep you for Pageant *Hudson River marine life makes for fine muse*

ART

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Photos by Jacques Tarchon



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Chelseanow



VOLUME 4, NUMBER 40

THE WEST SIDE'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

MARCH 7 - 20, 2012

16 March 7 - 20, 2012

Chelsea

Hudson River marine life makes for fine muse

BY SCOTT STIFFLER

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Photos by Jacques Torchon



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Earth Celebrations programs engage the community to celebrate the natural world, cultivate culturally diverse arts and traditions, document and perform local history, and revive the arts at the center of community life!"

Designed for adults and teens, Earth Celebration's weekly workshops (happening now through May 9) are free, and open to the public. The Costume Workshop takes place on Wed., 6-9pm. The Puppet Workshop takes place on Sat., 12-4pm. At the Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center, room #201 (107 Suffolk St., btw. Delancey & Rivington). For info, call 212-777-7969, visit earthcelebrations.com or send an email to mail@earthcelebrations.com.



Puppet, costume workshops prep you for Pageant

Hudson River marine life makes for fine muse

EV ART

HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT PUPPET & COSTUME WORKSHOPS

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Photos by Jacques Torchon

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FRIDAY APRIL 20 2012

Friday, April 20, 2012

Earth Celebrations Puppet & Costume Workshops at the Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center and Teatro LATEA

For Teens and Adults: Create spectacular costumes and giant puppets for the Hudson River Pageant inspired by the diverse marine species and habitats of the Hudson River.

Artists-in-Residence lead the educational ecological art Puppet & Costume Workshops every Wednesday and Saturday until the Earth Celebration's 4th Annual Hudson River Pageant, on May 18th. Free. 12-4pm. 107 Suffolk Street in the Lower East Side. For more information, contact mail@earthcelebrations.com or 212-777-7969. earthcelebrations.com

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011

SPARE**Times**

May 20-26



JACQUES TORCHON, JR.

EARTH CELEBRATIONS: HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT (Saturday) Fish will take to land on Saturday, along with crabs, sea horses and other species that inhabit the Hudson River — for an annual pageant to call attention to climate change and river restoration projects now under way in Lower Manhattan. Beginning at 1 p.m. near River Terrace and Vesey Street in Battery Park City, a procession of large puppets and marchers dressed for an aquatic-theme costume party will head north along the waterfront, stopping for site-specific events and performances like an oyster-planting ceremony at 3 p.m. at Christopher Street and a boat dance at 4 p.m. at Horatio Street, where it will end around 5 p.m. (Above, a fish puppet will again appear in this year's pageant.) It took nine months and the collaboration of many groups to pull together this year's event, said Felicia Young, its director, who also ran two earlier river walks and similar processions to save community gardens in the East Village. Programs will be handed out along the route, and a schedule of events can be found on the Web site earthcelebrations.com. The rain date is Sunday. It's all free, and you don't even have to know how to swim. (Anne Mancuso)

THE **TRIBECA TRIB**

Vol. 17 No. 9

www.tribecatrib.com

MAY 2011



JACQUES TOROCHON JR.

THE HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT, a performance art event that brings attention to the ecology of Hudson River and climate change, takes place on Saturday, May 21, from 1-5 p.m. (raindate: Sunday, May 22). The parade of elaborate river species costumes and giant puppets, to be led by Manhattan Samba, the Afro-Cuban La Timba de Ayer, and a conch shell chorus, begins at the Irish Hunger Memorial in Battery Park City and proceeds along the river, pausing for 13 site-specific performances along the way. For a schedule, go to earthcelebrations.com

downtown express

CHEF MARC FOIGIONE, ON THE SPOT, P. 11



VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2

THE NEWSPAPER OF LOWER MANHATTAN

MAY 25 - 31, 2011



Photos courtesy of Rachel Etkins



Three years of blessing the Hudson River

Serendipity could be to thank for the parade and pageant that took over Hudson River Park on Sat., May 21. There is no other word to describe how Felicia Young managed to pull the idea together three years ago and how she managed to keep it going every year since.

Young is the founder and director of Earth Celebrations, a nonprofit with a full-time staff of one — herself. Young does however have a dedicated group of volunteers that helped her in her mission to create an art form combining elements like dance and design in order to address issues affecting the city.

Prior to the Hudson River Pageant, Young spent over a decade organizing a similar pageant and parade dedicat-

ed to saving community gardens in the East Village. But when Mayor Michael Bloomberg, in 2002, transferred control of a number of community gardens from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to the Parks Department, she felt her mission had been accomplished.

Then came the birth of her daughter in 2004. Young said she spent a lot of time at parks along the Hudson River with her daughter. And then came the vision.

"Literally, right where we do the boat dance, I saw it all happening in my head," said Young.

That is how the Hudson River Pageant came into existence.

— John Bayles

downtown express

VOLUME 23 | THE NEWSPAPER OF LOWER MANHATTAN YOUTH ACTIVITIES | MARCH 30 - APRIL 5, 2011



photo by Carl Saylor

Take them to the river

The Hudson River Park Pageant is currently gearing up for its third year. Workshops to create the pageant's giant puppets and costumes started this month and are ongoing in the Church Street for Music and Art, at 74 Warren St., through the date of the pageant, Sat., May 21. Costume workshops are on Wednesdays, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with artist Soule Golden. Puppet workshops are on Saturdays, 12 noon to 4 p.m. with artist Lucrecia Novoa. The pageant and its performers bring attention to the restoration of the Hudson River's native species and habitats, and address climate change in New York City. For more information, call 212-777-7969 or e-mail to mail@earthcelebrations.com.

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/51916854/DOWNTOWN-EX-PRESS-3-31-11>

THE BROADSTREET DAILY

March 2, 2011

Calling All Mermaids...

Puppet and Costume Workshops Being Now for Hudson River Pageant in May



photo by Robert Simko

Starting today and continuing through mid-May, the Church Street School for Music and Art (located at 74 Warren Street) will host weekly workshops in puppetry and costume-making, that will culminate in a May 21 gala parade through Hudson River Park, as part of the Hudson River Pageant. The parade will include giant puppets and spectacular costumes inspired by the diverse marine species and habitats of the Hudson River. Music, dance, songs and poetry highlighting the river's ecology will add to the festivities.

Led by artists-in-residence Soule Golden and Lucrecia Novoa, the Costume Workshops will be held tonight, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The Puppet Workshops will be take place on Saturdays, from noon to 4:00 pm. These events are free and open to teens and adults. Volunteers are also sought for both behind-the-scenes and public roles: the Pageant needs Hudson River Costume Spirits, Puppet Volunteers, and Parade Marshals. The public are also invited to participate along the parade route as musicians, poets or dancers. And children of all ages are welcome to join the pageant as mermaids and river creatures. For more information call 212-777-7969 or [click here](#).

Activism and the arts are a powerful combination, and in that spirit Earth Celebrations, the organization behind the Hudson River Pageant, is dedicated to fostering community-based environmental and arts programs. Through theatrical pageants, exhibitions and performances they promote ecological awareness of issues that are especially pertinent to communities along the river-front: climate change, river species and habitat restoration, as well as the preservation of community gardens and parks.

Caroling Press

http://web.me.com/broadsheet/Broadsheet/Home/Entries/2011/3/2_March_2_2011.html

March 2011

The Hudson River Pageant Needs Your Helping Hands



Volunteers made a giant puppet face for last year's Earth Celebration's Hudson River Pageant. The free workshops, open to teens and adults, begin this month.

The Hudson River Pageant is a wild extravaganza-part parade, part performance art-whose participants wear spectacular costumes and carry gigantic puppets inspired by the marine life of the Hudson River.

The Volunteers who create those wonderful outfits and masks will begin their work this month at a series of puppet and costume workshops at Church Street School for Music and Art, 74 Warren St.

Led by professional puppeteers and artists Soule Golden and Lucrecia Nova, the costume workshop meets on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and the puppet workshops meet on Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m.

The workshops, which are free and open to adults and teens, run from March 2 to May 18. No previous experience is necessary and participants do not have to register.

Billed as an ecological parade, the pageant's goal is to call attention to the need to restore animal life in the Hudson River and address climate change. The parade, which includes performances, dance, poetry, and music along the piers and other sites in Downtown's Hudson River Park, will take place on Saturday, May 21 (rain date, May 23).

For more information, go to earthcelebrations.com.

March 2011

Felicia Young



Earth Celebrations

Executive Director

The third annual Earth Celebrations' Hudson River Pageant is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2011 (raindate: May 22) from 1-6pm. The Pageant supports the restoration of the Hudson River and brings attention to the potential impacts of global climate change on New York City.

The Pageant is directed by Felicia Young, Founder / Executive Director of Earth Celebrations, and will feature a parade of giant 15-foot river species puppets, spectacular costumes and music, dance, performances, songs, and poetry presented along the parade route on land, and includes on-the-river boat choreography featuring costumed kayaks, rowboats, and paddle boards and an over-the-river harmonic chant concert, from Battery Park City-North to Gansevoort Street in Hudson River Park.

"Volunteers are needed to help with ecological art and theatrical pageant puppet and costume workshops, as well as office work, fundraising, web and graphic design, photography, video, and community outreach and organizing activities," said Young. "Interested volunteers can contact our website to help create costumes and puppets for the Pageant."

From March through May the educational environmental art workshops creating the Pageant puppets and costumes will be based at the Church Street School for Music and Art, every Wednesday 6-9pm and every Saturday 12-4pm.

Young founded Earth Celebrations in 1991 to foster ecological awareness and revive the arts at the center of community life. She launched the Hudson River Pageant in 2009, now in its' third year, engaging the participation of numerous organizations, schools, community centers, artists, performers and youth groups to reconnect with the river and our urban estuarine sanctuary.

Documentaries of previous Hudson River Pageants on YouTube can be seen online.

Adult and teen volunteers are needed as Pageant participants and in the free March, April and May workshops.

Please volunteer today.

Felicia Young photo © Ines Garcia

<https://sna.etapestry.com/prod/viewEmailAsPage.do?databaseId=FriendsofHudsonRiverPark&shareMedium=label.facebook&etapCacheBuster=1300322>

The New York Times

Spare Time for March 18-24

March 17, 2011

By ANNE MANCUSO and JOHN OTIS

Published: March 17, 2011

Puppet and Costume Workshops (Saturdays and Wednesdays) The Earth Celebrations' Third Annual Hudson River Pageant is months away, but volunteers are needed now to help make the giant puppets and costumes for the procession on May 21. Artists will lead free workshops for adults and teenagers on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. through May 18. Church Street School for Music and Art, 74 Warren Street, near West Broadway, TriBeCa , (212) 777-7969, earthcelebrations.com.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/18/arts/spare-times-for-march-18-24.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=spare%20times%20hudson%20river&st=cse



Photos by Michele Lombard and Jacques L. Torchon

LEFT: The Paddle Board Dance. RIGHT: The River Dance.

Oysters and Oil Make for Surprising Pageant

BY Helaina N. Hovitz

Who knew seahorses, oysters, and other unlikely creatures swim amid the assorted garbage floating along the Hudson River? Many residents of Battery Park City don't, which is why on Saturday, May 22, it was time for those creatures to take human form.

Hundreds of volunteers put finishing touches on their costumes and posed for pictures outside of the Winter Garden as they waited patiently to launch Earth Celebrations' second annual Hudson River Pageant.

The highly ecological event brought attention to the recent restoration of the Hudson River with only one rehearsal under their belt.

"City people need as much information as possible about the environment and the infrastructure of the world," said Katherine Freygang, who is based in New York as an artist and works as an energy consultant in Connecticut and painted the decorative robes she and her friends wore.

The elaborate costumes and enormous puppets were created in free workshops run by artists-in-residence Michele Brody and Lucrecia Novoa. The workshops took place twice a week in the World Financial Center over the course of three months, but some costumes were created by students at P.S. 89 and the Henry St. Settlement. Among the costumed marchers were 15-foot tall

puppets, musicians, and a couple of menacing "Trash Tricksters," who wore capes reading "Oil Spill" and carried oil slicks made from black bags. The pageant, which had its first run last year, took on another dimension this year in lieu of the recent disaster.

"We shouldn't just be talking about the Hudson River, but about protecting and restoring ecosystems and waterways everywhere," said pageant director Felicia Young, who organized 2,500 volunteers and dozens of community organizations to make the event possible.

Young's motivation for the theatrical pageant was to bring art, music, poetry, dance, theatre, ceremony and ritual together in a community context and address the issues in a participatory way.

"Last year I got a composer to compose a fish symphony that incorporated the sounds of actual fish," said Young. "They were doing it in a scientific way, so we took that and turned it into something public that would then let the community know what was happening."

Some onlookers, like Philip Munday, stumbled upon the pageant by accident. Only in the country for three weeks to work on a boat in the marina outside of the Winter Garden, he was surprised and impressed.

"I can respect the cause, especially because we just saw the oil spill," Munday said. "The creatures look great, and it's for a good cause."

Kids and adults alike sprang from their seats at P.J. Clarke's and Southwest N.Y., taking photos and waving as the parade circled around the marina. The procession continued up the Hudson River Park promenade until pageant coordinator Paula Uppal yelled from 100 feet back, "You went too far! The Irish Hunger Memorial is back this way!" The people composing the giant fish that led the parade had to momentarily disassemble into five fast-moving fish pieces in order to catch up with the group. The sea creatures posed for pictures and wiggled around for the little ones as Abby Fischer, dressed as a river maiden, got ready to sing at the top of the structure.

Ashie Sinha, 2, ran giddily from one costumed person to the next. The toddler and her family just moved to Battery Park from Midtown two months earlier, and her father Pulack made it a point to bring her to the pageant. "She needs to learn about where she's living. The river provides us with so much," he said as he smiled at his daughter's growing enthusiasm.

She wasn't the only little one mesmerized by the marchers. "Matais is so excited. He loves the colors," said Downtown

resident Karina Steiner of her ten-month-old son. She and her daughter Maia, 3, saw the crowd of people gathering outside of their 2 River Terrace window and stopped by to check it out. "This was a beautiful surprise," said Steiner, "like a mini-parade for Battery Park City."

As the pageant continued down the River, the Trash Tricksters "attacked" and taunted the costumed river species. Luckily, all of the creatures were saved at the end of the parade route by the heroic Recyclers.

A crowd of at least two hundred gathered to watch the River Maiden dance, choreographed by Rina Rinkewich, including two student volunteers dressed as Oysters hailing from the Bronx.

"At my school, there is a heavy emphasis on health...pollution affects everyone, especially people with asthma. We need to create awareness," said Stefany Maria, 17.

The youngest members of the dance troupe, Rafaella Spielberg, 8, and Zoe MacIntyre, 7, were nervous from start to finish, but quite proud of themselves once the dance was over. "I liked being water. You get to move and flow more," said Spielberg.

Young commissioned Michele Brody, who does museum installations around the world and literally grows her artwork from grass seeds, to create living grass costumes for the dancers in the Dance of the River Grass. The Church Street School of Music & Art Choir performed the Choir River Song on Pier 32 shortly after. Further along at Pier 40, paddle boarders and windsurfers performed a Boat House Dance followed by a live fish release at the Charles Street. Pier.

After a year of confirming the participation of river organizations such as the Hudson River Park Trust, all of which were immediately receptive to the idea, Young was able to work with individual programs to formulate the pageant's many creative elements.

"When I met with the River Project, they told me about the oyster planting program, so we designed an oyster planting ceremony in honor of that," explained Young. The ceremony, complete with song and dance, began around 3 p.m. at the Christopher St. Pier. Oyster planting regularly takes place off of the nearby Water Taxi docks. Also close by is the bow notch on 10th St., which was specifically designed for the Hudson River Park Trust to remove the debris.

Valerie Sessa brought her two daughters over from Hoboken just to see the pageant. Both Ally, 6, and Caitie, 3, thought the pageant was really, really fun.

"The River Dance was my favorite part," chimed Ally.

"The garbage men [Trash Tricksters] are silly," added her little sister, Caitie.

The closing ceremony, compiled of a boat dance and harmonic chant concert, took place at 4 p.m. by Horatio Street, and combined 30-foot rowboats covered in marine-life sculptures and costumed kayaks to create dance movement on the water. Rob Buchanan, corresponding secretary and former president of the Village River Project, did more than just steer the lead boat; he played a large part in organizing the grand finale, and was quite happy with the way it played out.

"Some of the wilder aspects like the hats didn't seem quite as weird this [second] time around," said Buchanan.

Some people's dedication to the cause is almost staggering. David Hykes of the harmonic choir, also part of the performance, agreed to fly in from his home in Paris two years in a row just to perform.

The pageant was not without its unexpected surprises, especially during the grand finale. During the boat dance, a massive Norwegian Cruise Line ship appeared southbound on the Hudson, and a sailboat appeared going north, likely bewildering most, if not all, of their passengers.

"As the sea creatures were making a river dance, a big cruise ship passed by as a background. A perfect reality check," said costumed performer Cynthia Gale. "The riverboat drama was fun theatre...I was happy to join in with loud 'booos,' because that's just what I am feeling with BP's oil spill," said Gale. "That was a great emotional anger outlet!"

Felicia Young founded the non-profit environmental arts organization Earth Celebrations, which is dedicated to creating ecological awareness and reviving the arts in many New York communities. She founded the first Ecofest event for the New York City Parks Department, and is the creator of the Procession to Save Our Gardens, which ran in the East Village for 15 years. The Garden Pageants visited 45 community gardens en route from Grand St. to 13th St. over the course of ten hours, saving hundreds of gardens along the way.

Young had waited for new inspiration to come after the last Garden Pageant commenced in 2005. It came several years later, in the form of a boat dance as she looked out onto the water while playing with daughter Chloe in the park.

The Hudson River Pageant turnout was twice as big this year, which Young attributed to good weather and free advertising.

“It’s always a challenge because we don’t have a budget for advertising, it was all free listings, e-mails, and handing out postcards,” said Young. “I know other parents and was able to get word out at P.S. 41 and all of the different schools down here.”

Young did not initially plan to run the pageant again this year, but last year all of the organizations asked to be counted in almost immediately after the pageant was over. She said she “caught the bug” and couldn’t say no.

“It’s hard to walk away from it, especially when there is so much energy and enthusiasm from all of the organizations involved, as well as the community,” said Young

Young received the same enthusiastic response once the pageant ended on Saturday, but this time she cannot guarantee that the event will commence again next year. The process, from coordinating to fundraising, is exhausting, but the main reason for her uncertainty is the time it takes away from her daughter, who will turn six years old this week.

However, the sacrifice may well be worth it, based on what Chloe told her mother as soon as she returned home Saturday evening.

“Mommy, I’m so glad you did the pageant. I’m going to remember it for the rest of my life. I’ll remember it even when I die.”

www.downtownexpress.com/de_370/oysters.html

The Villager

VOLUME 79, NUMBER 50 | MAY 19 -25, 2010 | WEST AND EAST VILLAGE, CHELSEA, SOHO,
NOHO, LITTLE ITALY, CHINATOWN AND LOWER EAST SIDE, SINCE 1933



Villager photo by Tequila Minsky

Scene

With festive costumes and 13 site-specific, environmentally themed performance-art pieces, the Hudson River Pageant wended its way along the Lower West Side waterfront Saturday. Events included a live-fish release, oyster planting, river cleansing and a “dance” of kayaks and Whitehall rowboats with a harmonic chant. The pageant’s goal is to restore the river’s endangered species and habitats and to address climate change.

www.thevillager.com/villager_370/scene.html

Annual Hudson River Pageant A Sight to Behold Downtown

BY Carl Glassman

“Who’s Wetlands?” Michele Brody called to the sea of colorfully costumed creatures surrounding her on the World Financial Center Plaza. “Turtle Fish? Turtle Fish?”

Brody needed Turtle Fish Spirit, Wetlands and Water all together and right away. “You three are always behind the Recyclers,” she reminded them, “because you guys are the water people.”

Turtle Fish, American Eel, Seahorse, Diamondback Terrapin Turtle, even the alternative energies—Solar, Tidal Wave, Wind and Thermal—all fell properly into line as the magnificent Earth Celebrations: The Hudson River Pageant prepared to step off from the plaza on May 22.

Brody, the artist and costume designer behind many of the eye-popping outfits, pointed to the “living” river grass skirts she had designed—grass replanted on Earth Day and now worn by four dancers warming up nearby. “It’s the real thing,” she said proudly. “You can smell it.”

Such details could easily be lost in the visual feast of 15-foot river species puppets, the many costumed personifications of nature, the bands, the performers and more. But the meaning of this annual event, now in its second year—to raise awareness of the need to restore the Hudson’s native species and habitats and address climate change—was not lost on the 2,500 participants, many of them volunteers who created the costumes in workshops over the past three months.

“I love puppetry and I love the environment,” said Kate Fauteaux, made up all in black and wearing Brody’s stylized interpretation of a seahorse. “The pageant connects people who are interested in the hard-fact science of conserving the rivers with people who are interested in the beauty of costumes and artistry and the children seeing it.”

Eric Dahl (aka Earth Spirit, accompanied by elements Water, Air and Fire) was appropriately painted in earth tones, with vest and skirt to match. But the transformation, he said, was not just on the outside.

“Putting on all the paint and everything, I feel like I actually change into the Earth Spirit,” Dahl said. “I try to bring that



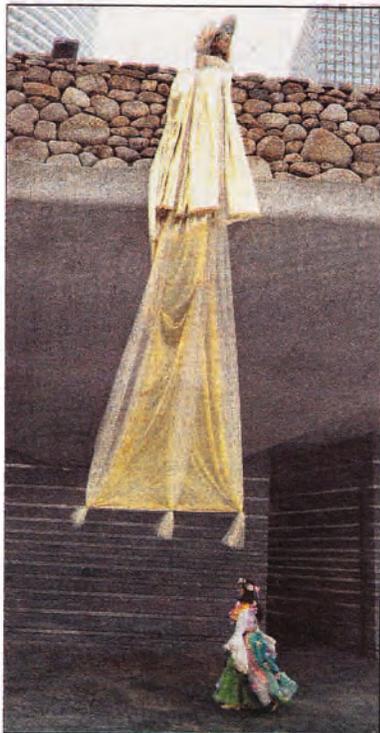
spirit to the event and the people I interact with the whole day.”

Making its way along the Hudson River to the Charles Street pier, the pageant made 13 stops for a variety of performances. Atop the Irish Hunger Memorial, Abby Fischer sang “River Aria.”

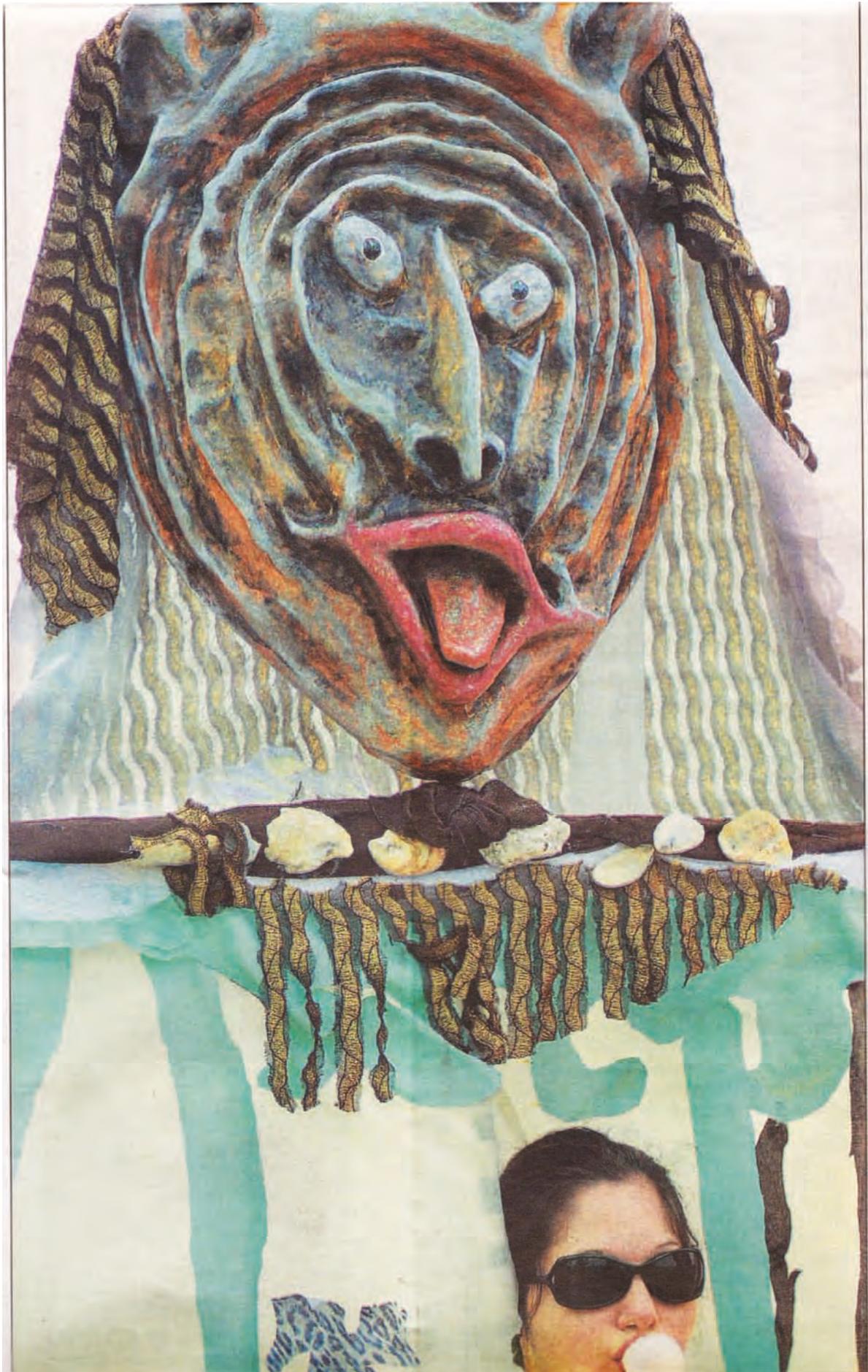
In the Tribeca section of Hudson River Park, Mike Romanos of Poets House read a river poem and the Noyes dancers entertained. The dancers in grass skirts performed in the park around Laight Street and a few blocks north, children from the Church Street School of Music and Art led onlookers in song. And that was just the beginning.

“All these many talented people from incredibly different backgrounds come together because they want to express something positive and in a communal way,” said Felicia Young, founder of Earth Celebrations, a non-profit group that from 1991 to 2005 created processions and pageants to save community gardens on the Lower East Side and elsewhere in the city. “That’s the thing that touches me the most.”

www.tribecatrib.com/news/2010/may/628_annual-hudson-river-pageant-was-a-sight-to-behold-downtown.html



Clockwise from top left: A member of Inbred Hybrid Collective as Tree Warrior; Lillian Riviero blows a puff of air. As Wind, she marched with fellow alternative power sources Solar Energy, Tidal Wave and Thermal Energy; Nataile Mangui, Katherine Issel and Dragon Lieu as Wetlands, Sky Goddess and Turtle Fish Spirit; Shirley Chan as Rainbow; and atop the Irish Hunger Memorial, opera singer Abby Fischer prepares to perform as part of a presentation by the Mercy Corps Action Center, located across the street.



The Villager

VOLUME 79, NUMBER 43 | MARCH 31 - APRIL 6, 2010 | WEST AND EAST VILLAGE,
CHELSEA, SOHO, NOHO, LITTLE ITALY, CHINATOWN AND LOWER EAST SIDE,
SINCE 1933



Villager photo by Elisabeth Robert

Take Me to the River: Pageant Puppets in the Works

Gearing up for its second annual Hudson River Pageant on May 22, Earth Celebrations is holding free puppet and costume workshops for teens and adults to create the pageant's spectacular costumes, masks and giant puppets, all inspired by the Hudson's diverse marine species. The workshops are at the World Financial Center, 220 Vesey St., courtyard gallery (second level, above the food court, near the Winter Garden, just off the Hudson River), Wednesdays, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., for costumes, and Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m., for puppets. For more information, including on children's workshops, contact Earth Celebrations at 212-777-7969 or mail@earthcelebrations.com or visit www.earthcelebrations.com.

www.thevillager.com/villager_361/takemetotheriver.html

The Villager

VOLUME 79, NUMBER 49 | MAY 12 - 18, 2010 | WEST AND EAST VILLAGE,
CHELSEA, SOHO, NOHO, LITTLE ITALY, CHINATOWN AND LOWER EAST SIDE,
SINCE 1933



Photo by Carl Saylor

Saving the Earth is more fun when costumes and makeup are involved.

ARTS, THE A-LIST, EVENTS, HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT
People are still talking about an event last year at which all manner of artists, activists and curious/concerned citizens gathered along the Hudson to contemplate the Earth — with the help of funky costumes, parades and mind-blowing giant puppets. The second annual “Earth Celebrations: Hudson River Pageant” means to restore Hudson River species and habitat while raising awareness about climate change. It does so through oyster garden planting, live fish releases, river cleansing and “a magnificent dance of costumed kayaks and 30 foot rowboats!” As with so many things in New York, this one must be seen to be believed. Sat., May 22nd, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm, at the Downtown section of Hudson River Park (rain date, May 23rd). For information on the 13 site-specific performances and the absurdly packed lineup of talent, visit www.earthcelebrations.com.

www.thevillager.com/villager_368/thealist.html

The New York Times

ARTS, SPARE TIMES, AROUND TOWN
BY ANNE MANCUSO AND NIDA NAJAR
PUBLISHED: MAY 20, 2010

EARTH CELEBRATIONS: HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT
Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m., the Hudson River Pageant to address climate change in New York City and restore the Hudson River. The parade and performance-art event begins at the World Financial Center Plaza and makes its way along the waterfront to Hudson River Park. Rain date is Sunday. (212) 777-7969, earthcelebrations.com.

www.nytimes.com/2010/05/21/arts/21spare.html

The New York Times

ARTS, SPARE TIMES, AROUND TOWN
BY ANNE MANCUSO
PUBLISHED: FEBRUARY 25, 2010

EARTH CELEBRATIONS' PUPPET AND COSTUME
WORKSHOPS Wednesdays and Saturdays through May 19, workshops in making items for the annual Hudson River Pageant, which takes place on May 22. Wednesdays, 6 to 9 p.m., costume workshops; Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m., puppet workshops; World Financial Center, Courtyard Gallery, West Street, south of Vesey Street, Lower Manhattan, (212) 777-7969, earthcelebrations.com; free.

www.nytimes.com/2010/02/26/arts/26spare.html

THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ABOVE AND BEYOND
HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT

HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT This second annual parade and performance-art event featuring fifteen-foot-tall puppets of oysters, blue crabs, fish, and other living things found in the Hudson River, dances its way along the West Side of Manhattan, from the World Financial Center Plaza at North Cove to Horatio Street on May 22, starting at 1. The afternoon includes an oyster-planting ceremony, the release of live fish, and a closing dance performance involving rowboats. (For more information, visit earthcelebrations.com.)

www.newyorker.com/arts/events/above/hudson-river-pageant-earth-celebrations



CALENDAR OF ONGOING EXHIBITS AND EVENTS



HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT: In preparation for Earth Celebrations' Hudson River Pageant on May 22, volunteers are creating puppets and costumes at free workshops led by Artists-in Residence, Michele Brody and Lucrecia Novoa, in the World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery. The Hudson River Pageant is a parade of elaborate river species costumes and giant puppets that starts from the World Financial Center Plaza / North Cove Marina and wends its way along the waterfront to Horatio Street in Hudson River Park. The purpose is to draw attention to the restoration of the Hudson River and to climate change. Costume construction takes place Wednesdays 6 p.m.-9 p.m.; Saturdays 12 p.m.-4 p.m. at the WFC Courtyard Gallery, World Financial Center. 212-945-0505. www.artsworldfinancialcenter.com. (Photo: David Chmura)

EARTH CELEBRATIONS WORKSHOPS AT THE WINTER GARDEN COURTYARD GALLERY

As part of arts>World Financial Center's ambitious roster of residencies, artists-in-residence Michele Brody and Lucrecia Novoa will lead Puppet & Costume Workshops at the World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery from March 3-May 19, allowing the community to create the costumes and puppets featured in the pageant. The Hudson River Pageant on May 22 is an ecological parade and performance art event, directed by theatrical pageant director Felicia Young, featuring a magnificent parade of giant 15-foot river species puppets, spectacular costumes representing sea life, and music, dance, performances, songs, and poetry. Wednesdays 6 p.m.-9 p.m.; Saturdays 12 p.m.-4 p.m. Free. WFC Courtyard Gallery, World Financial Center. 212-945-0505.

www.artsworldfinancialcenter.com

http://web.me.com/broadsheet/Broadsheet/Home/Entries/2010/4/21_TuesdayApril_21,_2010.html



THINGS TO DO | SPRING FAIRS AND FESTIVALS FOR NYC KIDS |
GET OUT THERE AND ENJOY THE SEASON AT THESE FREE ALFRESCO
FETES. BY MARY SQUILLACE



FREE Hudson River Pageant

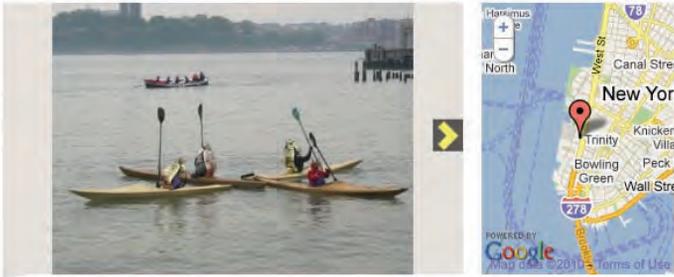
Sat May 22 at 1pm. Various downtown locations along the Hudson River (212-777-7969, earthcelebrations.com).

This parade of puppets, costumes, music, dance and performances celebrates the Hudson River's plant and animal life, history and future. The pageant starts at the World Financial Center, and other events will take place along the Hudson River (check website for details). All ages.

<http://newyorkkids.timeout.com/articles/things-to-do/85038/nyc-spring-fairs-and-festivals/10.html>



PARADES: HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT
DAILY 05/22/10



World Financial Center
New York, NY
212.777.7969
<http://www.earthcelebrations.com>

Ages: All Ages
Time: 1pm-5pm
Cost: Free

Description: Earth Celebrations, in partnership with Manhattan Youth, presents an ecological parade and performance art event to raise awareness for the restoration of the Hudson River as a vital urban estuarine sanctuary and address the future effects of climate change on the river and the New York City shoreline.

The parade features giant puppets, spectacular costumes, music, dance, performances, songs, and poetry highlighting the river and issues.

Performances are presented at various piers and significant sites along the parade route, from the World Financial Center Plaza/North Cove Harbor (outside the Winter Garden), moving north along the waterfront to Horatio Street, in the downtown section of Hudson River Park.

Volunteers of all ages are needed, including children who can join the pageant as mermaids and river creatures.

Rain date is May 23. Phone or email for further information.

[Photo credits: Carl Saylor & Isabel Cheng]

<http://gocitykids.parentsconnect.com/events/tribeca-manhattan-new-york-ny-usa/Hudson-River-Pageant-Downtown-Community-Center/640058>



TOP 5 NYC KIDS FREE WEEKEND THINGS TO DO MAY 22, 23 2010
BY KIDCITY ON MAY 17, 2010
IN NYC TOP UPCOMING EVENTS



WHY: Kids will release live fish into the Hudson River, see 15 foot puppets, and can come dressed as their favorite mermaid or sea creature.

WHEN: Saturday May 22, 2010; 1pm- 5pm

WHERE: Hudson River Park (see site for full list of sites)

COST: FREE

AGES: All

DETAILS: "The Hudson River Pageant is an ecological parade and performance art event featuring a magnificent parade of giant 15-foot puppets, spectacular river species costumes, and 13 site specific performances. Music, dance, performances, songs, and poetry, including an Oyster Planting, Live Fish Release, River Cleansing, and a Boat Dance, highlight the river, and its' species, habitats, and issues. Performances are presented at the various piers and significant sites along the parade route, from the World Financial Center Plaza/ Marina, moving north to Gansevoort Street, in the downtown portion of the Hudson River Park from 1-5pm."

<http://www.kidcityny.com/nyc-kids-free-activities-top-5-nyc-kids-free-weekend-things-to-do-may-22-23-2010/>

downtown express

Volume 22, Number 01 | The Newspaper of Lower Manhattan | May
15 - 21, 2009



Downtown Express photo by Elisabeth Robert

RIVER DANCE

Costumed performers blanketed the Tribeca section of Hudson River Park Saturday afternoon for the Dance of the River Grasses, above, as part of Earth Celebrations' Hudson River Pageant.

The five-hour pageant started at the Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center and paraded through the park up to Gansevoort St. with 15-foot puppets of river species, stopping along the way for performance art pieces, a live fish release and a river cleansing ceremony. Felicia Young, founder of Earth Celebrations, launched the lavish pageant to restore the Hudson River and draw attention to climate change, particularly during the 400-year anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of the river.

Dozens of local organizations volunteered and helped fund the event, and hundreds turned out to sing, dance and plant oysters. The festivities culminated in a flotilla of decorated rowboats and kayaks doing a dance in the Hudson choreographed to a river chant.

http://www.downtownexpress.com/de_316/riverdance.html

The Villager

Volume 78 - Number 47 / April 29 - May 5 , 2009 West and East Village, Chelsea, Soho, Noho, Little Italy, Chinatown and Lower East Side, Since 1933

RIVER PAGEANT WILL OVERFLOW WITH SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

By Rita Wu

For 15 years Felicia Young, founder and director of Earth Celebrations, organized the Rites of Spring and Rites of Winter pageants. Part parade, part performance art, the pageants highlighted the need to save the gardens of the East Village and Lower East Side and community gardens throughout New York. The Hudson River Pageant is her new project that also addresses environmental issues through the arts.

In partnership with Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center, the event is dedicated to raising awareness about the restoration of the Hudson River and to address climate change in New York City. The pageant is also celebrating the history of the Hudson River, since this year marks the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's and Samuel de Champlain's exploratory journeys of the great waterway.

The Hudson River Pageant will be held Sat., May 9, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. (rain date May 10). The procession will travel along the Lower Manhattan waterfront from Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center in Tribeca, at 120 Warren St. at Greenwich St., to Gansevoort St. in the Greenwich Village section of Hudson River Park.

Young worked to save the gardens of the Lower East Side by bringing people together, by connecting the community to the gardens through celebration and art. Her goal was always, she said, "trying to create context for art that was social, political and real, and engage people beyond the art world."

"So that was the quest that got me into thinking that pageantry — which was to me a combination of all the arts, music, dance, sculpture, puppetry and painting — you know, all of that, could be brought together; and it could be professional artists, nonprofessionals, community, and then try to address issues and maybe even change things.

"It's not just a performance, and then it's over," she stressed. "We build these alliances, and those alliances are real. The



Making puppets and costumes at the Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center for the upcoming Hudson River Pageant on Sat., May 9.

people who are connected stay connected and do things together, and that's how we were able to save the gardens." Young wants to apply this method to restoring the Hudson River. She wants to connect the people by "not just saying 'Save the River' but to feel that connection to that space."

One way Young is building alliances is by offering free puppet- and costume-making workshops through May 6 for teens and adults at the Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center. All the designs created will be used for the pageant. Wednesday workshops are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and focus on making costumes that represent the species and habitats of the river. On Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. the workshops concentrate on creating giant 15-foot puppets.

Workshops for children are being offered at P.S. 89, P.S. 234, P.S. 150, the Henry Street Settlement and the Boys and Girls Republic, at E. Sixth St. and Avenue D. By the end, a total of 100 workshops will have been held to educate people about the Hudson River while engaging them in the pageant through making costumes and puppets.

When Young first started planning the Hudson River Pageant she didn't know what it would consist of until she met with each of the organizations that agreed to be involved.

"I have to sit down and meet with each of you and discover what it is that you do and then try to design something based on that," she explained. This was her approach to all of the pageant's elements.

Through the River Project she learned that oysters were an abundant natural species in the river 100 years ago, and also function like trees do for the air, in that they filter the water of its toxins. Young designed an oyster garden-planting ceremony that will involve seeding the river with live oysters.

“We want to have them actually in oyster costumes doing the planting,” Young noted. “To really involve the people who are doing this, to embellish, to theatricalize reality, and sort of turn what they normally do into something that is performative.”

The River Project has also been recording fish sounds from the Hudson that have been turned into a Fish Sound Symphony by Gergori Czerkinsky to be used during the final performance.

Another highlight of the pageant will be the river cleansing ceremony. This component was inspired by the Hudson River Park Trust, which has a clean sanctuary campaign in which volunteers clean and pick up trash along the river’s shoreline, such as around the rocky Gansevoort Peninsula. The Trust also has a live fish catch-and-release educational program for children, which will be included in the pageant.

The Dance of the River Grass will feature music and movement performances by the Human Kinetic Arts Dancers with Pook the Percussion Orchestra of Kingston, N.Y. The dancers will be wearing living river grass skirts created by Michelle Brody. These skirts are now in an installation at the World Financial Center Winter Garden.

“Instead of just having it as a museum piece within an exhibition — you know, for maybe a select group of people who go to museums — this was some way that she could basically have her artwork in a living way, part of a whole ceremony, part of a whole ritual, part of a whole performance piece,” said Young. By the time of the pageant, the skirts will be fully grown and ready to wear.

The pageant’s last performance piece — a collaboration of community groups, artists, schools and river organizations — encompasses song, cleansing of the Hudson and a dance of boats. Alice Farley will choreograph kayakers decked out in gold costumes and 30-foot-long rowboats festooned with marine sculptures. David Hykes, a world pioneer

in overtone singing, will perform as a choreographed movement and river cleansing simultaneously take place.

Throughout the procession, there will be songs and poems by artists, students and community groups focusing on the river’s various species. The issue of climate change and promotion of alternative energies also will be woven into the pageant.

Young said she hopes the pageant “brings attention to the fact that the community and this large gathering of people are joyously demanding, supporting our needs to move toward a clean-energy future and protection of our natural resources in New York. And, hopefully,” she said, “you convey that, and I think by doing these public displays it seeps into the consciousness.

“You start with a group, and then it grows and grows and grows,” she said. “I kind of call it ‘joyous resistance.’ It’s an explosion-of-joy celebration in doing, that can make a change.”

For the full schedule and times of performances for the Hudson River Pageant or to find out more about workshops and volunteering call 212-777-7969 or e-mail mail@earthcelebrations.com

http://www.thevillager.com/villager_313/riverpageantwill.html

The Villager

Volume 78 - Number 40 / March 11 -17, 2009
West and East Village, Chelsea, Soho, Noho, Little Italy,
Chinatown and Lower East Side, Since 1933



A scene from the 2005 Rites of Spring procession on the Lower East Side.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTRAVAGANZA'S NEW M.O.: 'TAKE ME TO THE RIVER'

For the last 15 years, Earth Celebrations has been known for its Rites of Spring and Rites of Winter colorful costumed parades through the East Village and Lower East Side community gardens. But now that the gardens are mostly safe, Earth Celebrations is moving its focus west, to the Hudson River.

Through May 6, the nonprofit environmental and arts group is holding free workshops for teenagers and adults to create elaborate costumes, masks and giant puppets — inspired by the diverse marine species of the Hudson River — for the upcoming Hudson River Pageant on Sat. May 9, rain date Sun., May 10.

The pageant will be “an ecological and historical parade and performance-art event to raise awareness for the restoration of the Hudson River and address climate change in New York City,” according to Earth Celebrations.

This year is also the quadricentennial, or 400th anniversary, of Henry Hudson’s and Samuel de Champlain’s exploratory journeys in 1609, which will be featured as part of the pageant’s celebration of the Hudson River’s history.

The procession of extra-large puppets, costumed marchers and musical bands will stop at the various piers and significant sites along the parade route for performances, songs, dance, poetry and ceremonies, highlighting the river and issues, wending its way from Manhattan Youth in Tribeca to Gansevoort St. in the Village, in the Hudson River Park’s Downtown section.

Workshops are being held at Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center, 120 Warren St., between Greenwich and West Sts., one block south of Chambers St. Costume workshops are Wednesdays, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with artists Michele Brody and Chris Rumery. Puppet workshops are Saturdays, from noon to 4 p.m., with artist Lucrecia Novoa and Spica Wobbe.

For more information contact Earth Celebrations by phone at 212-777-7969, by e-mail at mail@earthcelebrations.com or visit their Web site at <http://www.earthcelebrations.com>.

The Hudson River Park Trust is a sponsor in the effort, and among the participating partners are the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, River Project, Friends of Hudson River Park, P3 (Pier Park and Playground Association), P.S. 234, P.S. 89 and P.S. 150, Stuyvesant High School, Riverkeeper and Clearwater.

http://www.thevillager.com/villager_306/environmentalextravaganza.html

The Villager

Volume 78 - Number 49 / May 13 - 19 , 2009
West and East Village, Chelsea, Soho, Noho, Little
Italy, Chinatown and Lower East Side, Since 1933



Villager photo by Elisabeth Robert

A troupe of women performed the “Dance of the River Grasses” at the first Hudson River Pageant along the Lower West Side waterfront last Saturday.

http://www.thevillager.com/villager_315/scene.html

THE TRIBECA TRIB

Vol. 15 No. 10

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JUNE 2009

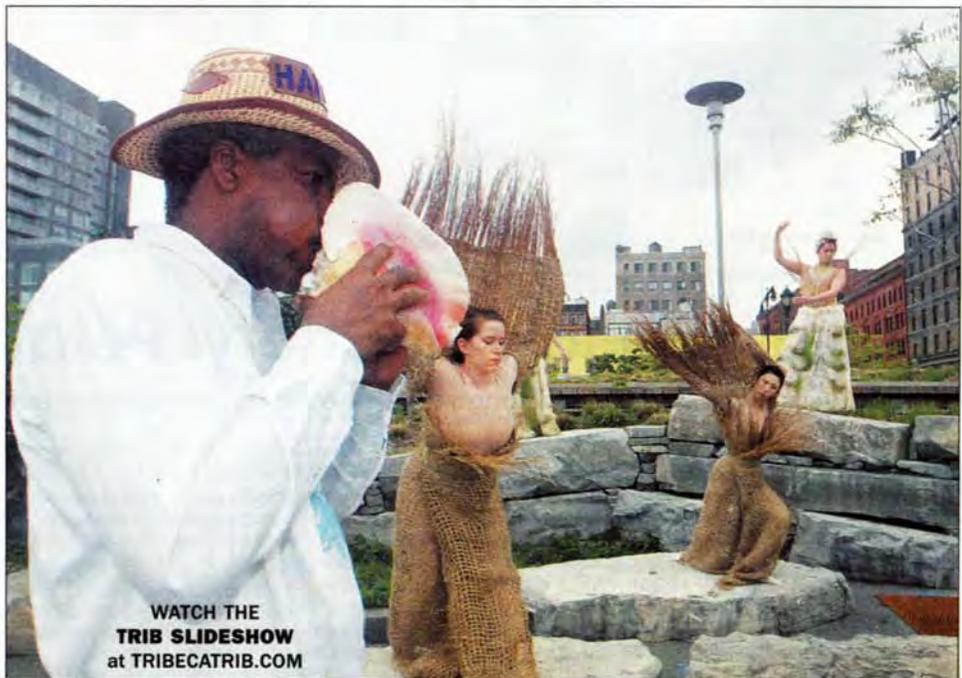
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ARTS, ETC.

THE TRIBECA TRIB | JUNE 2009

RIVER PAGEANT

A colorful show of ecological splendor—and warning—sets off from Tribeca.



WATCH THE
TRIB SLIDESHOW
at TRIBECATRIB.COM

PHOTOS BY CARL GLASSMAN

The pageant featured extravagant costumes and makeup, with a variety of performances along the way. Above, "Dance of the River Grass" is performed in Hudson River Park.

“We are, as you can see, polluted with trash,” said Devlin Goldberg, marching up Greenwich Street among a throng of costumed pageanteers, towering puppets and musicians that were the Hudson River Pageant. Goldberg, wearing a costume adorned with minnows and sea creatures, plus nasty river flotsam, was one of the parade’s “water maidens.”

“We’re hoping that someone can remove our trash today and we can be happy river maidens,” she declared.

The mood that Saturday afternoon, May 9, was playful, but purposeful. Its target: River pollution and climate change.

The five-hour ecological extravagan-

za moved from Warren Street in Tribeca (the costumes were made at the Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center) and up the Hudson River Park to the Gansevoort Street Pier.

Under the direction of Felicia Young,

whose organization Earth Celebrations has been staging ecological pageants since 1991, the parade was the product of a partnership with dozens of organizations and the work of hundreds of artists of every kind. (Even kids in Manhattan

Youth’s after-school programs got into the act, making masks.)

“It’s a years worth of work, ruminating, imagining, stressing,” said Young. “So when it starts moving it’s a major relief—and it feels great.”



Far left: The pageant proceeds along Vestry Street to the river. Left: With a puppet carrier waiting for the parade to begin, The Hungry March Band plays a piece written especially for the event.



A scene from the 2005 Rites of Spring procession on the Lower East Side.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTRAVAGANZA'S NEW M.O.: 'TAKE ME TO THE RIVER'

For the last 15 years, Earth Celebrations has been known for its Rites of Spring and Rites of Winter colorful costumed parades through the East Village and Lower East Side community gardens. But now that the gardens are mostly safe, Earth Celebrations is moving its focus west, to the Hudson River.

Through May 6, the nonprofit environmental and arts group is holding free workshops for teenagers and adults to create elaborate costumes, masks and giant puppets — inspired by the diverse marine species of the Hudson River — for the upcoming Hudson River Pageant on Sat. May 9, rain date Sun., May 10.

This year is also the quadricentennial, or 400th anniversary, of Henry Hudson's and Samuel de Champlain's exploratory journeys in 1609, which will be featured as part of the pageant's celebration of the Hudson River's history.

The procession of extra-large puppets, costumed marchers and musical bands will stop at the various piers and significant sites along the parade route for performances, songs, dance, poetry and ceremonies, highlighting the river and issues, wending its way from Manhattan Youth in Tribeca to Gansevoort St. in the Village, in the Hudson River Park's Downtown section.

Workshops are being held at Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center, 120 Warren St., between Greenwich and West Sts., one block south of Chambers St. Costume workshops are Wednesdays, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with artists Michele Brody and Chris Rumery. Puppet workshops are Saturdays, from noon to 4 p.m., with artist Lucrecia Novoa and Spica Wobbe.

For more information contact Earth Celebrations by phone at 212-777-7969, by e-mail at mail@earthcelebrations.com or visit their Web site at <http://www.earthcelebrations.com>.

The Hudson River Park Trust is a sponsor in the effort, and among the participating partners are the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, River Project, Friends of Hudson River Park, P3 (Pier Park and Playground Association), P.S. 234, P.S. 89 and P.S. 150, Stuyvesant High School, Riverkeeper and Clearwater.

[http://www.downtownexpress.com/de_307/
environmental.html](http://www.downtownexpress.com/de_307/environmental.html)



PUPPETRY IN NEW YORK IS MORE THAN KIDDIE SHOWS AND TRIUMPH THE INSULT COMIC DOG. By Luciana Giangrandi
 I, New York
 Time Out New York / Issue 707 : Apr 16–22, 2009
 You asked for it
 Puppeteering

CLASSES

Better your puppet-making skills and the planet with free workshops from Earth Celebrations (120 Warren St at Chambers St; 212-777-7969, earthcelebrations.com). They take place every Saturday through May 2, then on May 9 the giant papier-mâché puppets become part of the Hudson River Pageant, an ecological-awareness festival. The Lone Wolf Tribe’s workshops incorporate the company’s foam rubber techniques, and participants leave with the puppet heads they sculpt; the next \$50 class is May 17.

<http://newyork.timeout.com/articles/i-new-york/73454/puppeteering-in-new-york-city>



EARTH CELEBRATIONS HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT

Downtown Community Center
 120 Warren St (between Greenwich and West Sts) Tribeca
 212-777-7969
 Subway: 2, 3, C, E to Chambers St | Directions
<http://www.earthcelebrations.com>
 Prices Tickets: Free

DESCRIPTION

Giant puppets lead this eco-inspired procession from the DCC to Gansevoort Street, in the downtown portion of the Hudson River Park. Along the way, they can enjoy live music, dance shows and art workshops at various piers on the parade route. Kids are encouraged to come in costumes representing their favorite animal. Rain date: Sunday May 10. All ages.
 When: May 9 2pm–5pm

<http://newyorkkids.timeout.com/events/around-town/274506/hudson-river-pageant>



**EVENTS
 EARTH CELEBRATIONS’ HUDSON RIVER PAGEANT**

Arts / Spare Times
 By THE NEW YORK TIMES
 Published: May 7, 2009

Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m., an ecological celebration with a procession of puppets and performances along the parade route, beginning on Warren Street, between Greenwich Street and the Hudson River, Lower Manhattan; there will also be readings, theater pieces and other events in Hudson River Park. earthcelebrations.com; free.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/08/arts/08spare.html?_r=1



EVENT

Michele Brody: River Grass Skirts
 Gallery, Installations
 From 04/13/09 to 05/09/09
 World Financial Center and Winter Garden
 Lower Manhattan
 220 Vesey St.
 New York, NY 10281
 (212) 945-0505

In conjunction with Earth Day, site-specific artist Michele Brody has constructed five grass-sprouting skirts for display in the Winter Garden. Each living, lace garment hangs individually off armatures made from recycled copper piping that will support the growth of Native Purple Love grass, indigenous to the Hudson River waterfront. By interweaving manmade, natural and living materials Brody attempts to create an experience where viewers develop a new sense of awareness of the tenuous relationship between themselves, nature and the urban environment. On Saturday, May 9, the skirts will be worn and featured at the Hudson River Pageant: Art & Ecology Project whose mission is to raise awareness for the restoration of the Hudson River and address climate change in New York City.

<http://events.nytimes.com/gst/nycguide.html?detail=events&id=3193348&d=9>



OWN THIS CITY

Your Perfect Saturday: Bicycle fetishists, redistributed wealth, and a Halloween bash?

Posted in Own This City by Lindsay Pasarin on May 9th, 2009 at 12:00 am



Whether you're lacking protein in your diet or have a meat addition, kick-off your Saturday with Mitchell Davis and Bonnie Stern's Challah and Brisket Workshop. Then hit up the eco-friendly Hudson River Pageant featuring a "fish symphony" by Gregori Czerkinsky and a Water Dance choreographed by Alice Farley.

Continue the bike month festivities with yet another cycling party at City Reliquary's fifth annual Bicycle Fetish Day block party. If shopping is more your style look for the Junk Show at BKLYN Yard where you can pick through New Yorkers' closets or trade your own useless valuables at this wealth redistribution festival.

Wind down with pop-oriented art show Manifesto where avant-garde artists present their work and one-of-a-kind collaborations. End the night with an equally bizarre but always fun party thrown by HiChristina featuring a Halloween theme. Hint: start costume shopping and catching up on Michael Jackson's dance moves in "Thriller."

<http://www3.timeoutny.com/newyork/tonyblog/tag/ HUDSON-RIVER-PAGEANT/>



OWN THIS CITY

Time Out New York / Issue 708 : Apr 23-29, 2009

Earth Day turns 39

Seeing green? Check out our top ten eco-friendly events.

By Amy Plitt

10. A "fish symphony" by Gregori Czerkinsky and a special Water Dance choreographed by Alice Farley are the highlights of the inaugural Hudson River Pageant, a collaboration between eco-awareness organization Earth Celebrations and community groups like the Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center. The festival also features a big-ass parade and yet another puppet show. We're starting to think that if we can't save the planet, giant puppets surely can. FREE Hudson River Park between Ganesvoort and Warren Sts (earthcelebrations.com). May 9 1-6pm.

<http://newyork.timeout.com/articles/own-this-city/73726/the-best-earth-day-events-in-nyc>

EVENTS FOR MAY 9-10, 2009 IN NEW YORK

Check out the Hudson River Pageant in Hudson River Park. The eco-chic parade, created to bring attention to climate change and the health of the Hudson River, showcases fanciful costumes, giant puppets, and performance art, including artist Michele Brody's five elaborate grass-grown skirts recently displayed at the World Financial Center's Winter Garden. Saturday. 1-6 p.m.; free admission. 120 Warren St. For more information, go to: www.earthcelebrations.com

Read more: http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/arts/2009/05/09/2009-05-09_events_for_may_910_2009_in_new_york.html#ixzz0I9xZymNy&C

http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/arts/2009/05/09/2009-05-09_events_for_may_910_2009_in_new_york.html

THE TRIBECA TRIB

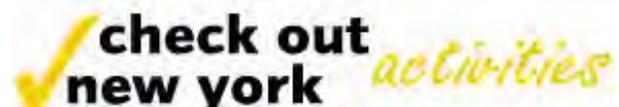
KIDS CALENDAR: MAY 2009

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Hudson River Pageant Sat, 5/9, 1-6 pm

Celebrate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's exploratory voyage on the Hudson River with music, art, dance, poetry and a parade of 15-foot high puppets and costumed characters. Parade starts at 120 Warren St. bet. Greenwich Street and the Hudson River. Free. Hudson River Park between Chambers St. and Gansevoort St., Go to earthcelebrations.com for complete schedule.

http://www.tribecatrib.com/news/2009/march/137_kids-calendar-may-2009.html



HUDSON RIVER PARK

Date: 05/09/09

Address: 120 Warren St.

Description: On Saturday, May 9, 2009 (raindate: Sunday, May 10), Earth Celebrations, in partnership with Manhattan Youth Downtown Community Center, launches its new Hudson River Pageant: to restore the Hudson River and address climate change in New York City. 2009, is also the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's and Samuel de Champlain's, exploratory voyage in 1609, which will be featured as part of the pageant's celebration of the Hudson River's history. This ecological parade and performance art event is directed by Felicia Young, the Founder/Director of Earth Celebrations and the creator of the Rites of Spring: Procession to Save Our Gardens for 15 years in the East Village. The new Hudson River Pageant features a magnificent parade of giant 15-foot river species puppets, spectacular costumes representing oysters, seahorses, blue crabs, wetlands, river grasses, and over 70 species of local fish. The river species will dance their way from Tribeca through Greenwich Village along the waterfront lead by African-Caribbean parade bands Hungry March Band, Kalunga Neg Mawon, and a conch shell chorus. Music, dance, performances, songs, and poetry, including an Oyster Garden Planting Ceremony, Live Fish Release, River Cleansing Ceremony, and a Water Dance of Boats, highlighting the river, and its species, habitats, and issues, are presented at the various piers and significant sites along the parade route, from Manhattan Youth on Warren Street to Gansevoort Street, in the downtown portion of the Hudson River Park from 1-6pm. For more information: www.earthcelebrations.com

<http://www.checkoutnyactivities.com/eventinfo.cfm?id=37263>

For Immediate Release Please

World Financial Center **Grows Its Own --**
Skirts, That Is

Site-specific Artist Michele Brody Constructs **Five Grass-sprouting Skirts**
Growing in World Financial Center Winter Garden April 13 thru May 9

NEW YORK - Debra Simon, Artistic Director of arts > World Financial Center knows well that her arts programming grows on people and has documented the crowds to prove it, but this is the first time that a site-specific public art project actually *grows* and will eventually be *worn* by someone! For a month, five copper armatures will support an indigenous, Hudson River water front grass growing in the shape of skirts.

The exhibition, entitled ***River Grass Skirts***, consists of five grass-sprouting skirts by site-specific artist **Michele Brody** that will be *on display and growing* in the World Financial Center Winter Garden, 220 Vesey Street April 13 through May 9. It's free.

Presented by arts>World Financial Center in partnership with Earth Celebrations, their artist-in-residence Ms. Brody creates five ***living, lace garments***. Each garment hangs from skirt-shaped armatures made from recycled copper piping on which grow a grass indigenous to the Hudson River water front, Native Purple Love.

By interweaving manmade, natural and living materials, Ms. Brody creates an experience where viewers develop a new awareness of the tenuous relationship between themselves, nature and the urban environment.

On Saturday, May 9, the skirts will be worn and featured in Earth Celebrations' Hudson River Pageant, an ecological parade and performance art event to raise awareness for the restoration of the Hudson River and address climate change in New York City.



Site-specific artist Michele Brody has grown skirts before.