FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Earth Celebrations launches ECOLOGICAL CITY, a community-based arts and environmental action project to celebrate climate resiliency and ecological sustainability solutions throughout the gardens, neighborhood and waterfront on Manhattan's Lower East Side, connecting local initiatives to city and global climate challenges.

Ecological Arts Workshops - February 24 - May 9

Ecological City Pageant - Saturday May 12, 2018

The Ecological City Pageant on Saturday May 12th is the culmination of 6 months of partnership building and 3 months of creative engagement and ecological arts workshops. Gardeners, river-based groups, community centers, schools, youth and residents collaborate through bi-weekly Ecological Art Workshops from February 24th - May 9th at the Loisaida Inc. Center led by Artists-in-Residence, Michele Brody and Lucrecia Novoa. Puppet & Costume Workshops Wednesdays 6-9pm and Saturdays 12-4pm are offered free of cost. (Participants can to register at www.earthcelebrations.com). Participants, in collaboration with artists and guidance from environmental experts, will develop visual arts and performance projects exploring the neighborhood’s climate resiliency and ecological sustainability solutions being designed, implemented and proposed throughout neighborhood sites, including gardens, rooftops and the waterfront at East River Park.
Ecological City applies Earth Celebrations' pioneering creative strategies, of creative collaboration and environmental action, to highlight the Lower East Side's inspiring array of climate resiliency and ecological sustainability solutions. The spectacular 6-hour procession of visual art, giant puppets, mobile sculptures and costumes with 15 site performances of dance, music, theater and poetry are presented along the route visiting gardens, neighborhood and waterfront sites. The artistic works explore these sites and their myriad climate resiliency and ecological sustainability solutions to mitigate carbon, pollution run-off and flooding due to storm surges and sea level rise, being designed and implemented throughout the neighborhood as an urban model for a sustainable future.

Visionary green infrastructure projects throughout the neighborhood include bio-swales, rain and pollinator gardens, solar gazebos, permeable sidewalks, vertical farming, green roofs and urban farming. On the waterfront, oyster planting, wetlands, kayak launches and a rolling hillside sea-wall berm are proposed plans. The cultural pageant engages residents and over 50 partner groups to explore these sites and solutions for a sustainable future, connecting local efforts to city and global climate challenges.

ECOLOGICAL CITY is directed by Earth Celebrations, a non-profit organization on the Lower East Side since 1991, engaging communities to generate ecological and social change through the arts. The workshops and pageant are produced in partnership with Loisaida Inc. Center, LUNGS (Loisaida United Neighborhood Gardens – representing 48 Lower East Side community gardens), over 50 partner groups and hundreds of gardeners, artists and residents.


This project is supported by: New York Community Trust, Fund for the City of New York, Con Edison, Howard Bayne Fund, private Foundations and individual support.

FREE- ECOLOGICAL CITY – ART & ECOLOGY / PUPPET & COSTUME WORKSHOPS
– for Adults & Teens
FEBRUARY 24 – MAY 9
Create Spectacular Costumes and Puppets for the Ecological City Pageant

Wednesdays 6-9pm: Costume Workshops with artist Michele Brody
Saturdays 12-4pm: Puppet Workshops with artist Lucrecia Novoa

Workshops take place @ Loisaida Inc. Center - 710 East 9th Street. btw Aves. C & D on the Lower East Side

For more information mail@earthcelebrations.com  www.earthcelebrations.com (212) 777-7969
Ecological City and New York City's Commitment to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement

Whether we are keeping the flood at bay or absorbing surging waters through the gardens, a new vision of an Ecological City is emerging. With Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo announcing their commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement and counter the Trump administration's withdrawal, the community gardens and innovative sustainability projects have now proven themselves as a boon to the goals of the Mayor's Office of Sustainability to reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2050 and keeping a global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius. The gardens provide solutions with a natural system of permeable earth to absorb floodwater and trees to filter air, transforming carbon pollution to oxygen. They also provide a direct visceral connection for residents and children in the city to environmental issues, sustainability, the natural world and the importance of mitigating impacts of climate change, connecting local efforts to global climate challenges.

Ecological City applies Earth Celebrations' pioneering creative strategies developed over the past 27 years of community-based collaborative arts and activism to generate ecological, policy and social change. Earth Celebrations is a non-profit organization founded by Felicia Young in 1991 on the Lower East Side of New York City to engage communities through the arts to generate ecological and social change.

Earth Celebrations grew out of the Save Our Gardens project (1991-2005), which Felicia Young initiated and directed for 15 years. She engaged the Lower East Side community and over 50 partner and garden groups to create and enact an annual theatrical pageant, a 10-hour procession with 45 garden-site performances, to mobilize an effort for the preservation of the gardens that were slated for destruction by proposed development plans. The project was successful in building a local and citywide grassroots coalition effort, which led to the preservation of hundreds of gardens, including the transfer of gardens to the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation in 2002 where they remain temporarily protected. Earth Celebrations has since applied its cultural engagement strategies to the restoration efforts of the New York City's estuary with the Hudson River Pageant 2009-2012 in the downtown section of the Hudson River Park, as well as an international project to restore the polluted sacred Vaigai River in Madurai, South India, 2014-2016.

Now, 27 years since the first Procession to Save Our Gardens, Felicia Young and Earth Celebrations aim to bring the community of gardeners, river-based groups, artists, activists, community centers, schools, youth and residents to collaborate on visual art and performances for this epic Ecological City pageant, from the gardens and roof-top farms to the East River Park on the Lower East Side, mobilizing creative engagement on climate solutions, new ecological city models and policies for a sustainable future.
Earth Celebrations Press:

Interview - Felicia Young-Earth Celebrations in Cultural Organizing at the intersection of art, activism, education and culture:

http://culturalorganizing.org/art-is-a-basic-human-need-an-interview-with-felicia-young/

Interview - Felicia Young-Earth Celebrations - Center For Artistic Activism: http://artisticactivism.org/2016/09/felicia-young/

Earth Celebrations Website: http://www.earthcelebrations.com


If you would like more information or to schedule an interview contact: Christian Tandazo: (212) 777-7969    WWW.EARTHCELEBRATIONS.COM
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