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PROJECT CONTACT: Stephen Bradley, Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee, committee@baltimorerotterdam.org +1 410 455 2721

ARTIST EXCHANGE BRIDGES COMMUNITIES BETWEEN BALTIMORE, USA AND ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

BACKGROUND

HarborTraces is an ongoing artist exchange project involving two marginalized harbor communities: **Brooklyn-Curtis Bay** (also known as Baybrook) in south Baltimore, Maryland, USA and **Heijplaat** in the city of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The artists in the exchange focus on public art projects designed to engage the members of these unique, parallel communities as they examine their histories and sense of place. Brooklyn-Curtis Bay and Heijplaat are both harbor communities that have experienced a loss of industry and jobs, environmental damage, and are geographically cut off from the metropolitan area by waterways and major transportation arteries.



Heijplaat

Brooklyn-Curtis Bay

CURRENT PROJECT

During December 9-19, 2013, the Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee (BRSCC) is bringing Rotterdam artist Kathie diStefano to Baltimore for a residency, as part of the ongoing *HarborTraces* artist exchange.

Kathie diStefano employs participatory techniques and theatre art to create awareness with youth and seniors about the environment through creative strategies to recycle and make smart consumer decisions in Heijplaat in Rotterdam. During diStefano's December artist residency in Brooklyn-Curtis Bay, she will collaborate with Jason Reed, a garden educator and Open Society Institute Fellow, to conduct a series of projects and workshops for community residents, teachers, and students. Participating schools include Benjamin Franklin High School (BFHS), Baybrook Elementary School, Harborview Elementary School, and Maree Gannett Faring Elementary School.

HarborTraces is an integral part of BRSCC's mission: to promote cooperation, mutual understanding and friendship between residents of Baltimore and Rotterdam. The December 2013 artist residency:

- Gives an international community perspective to the classroom
- Helps build bridges between the similar cities so that we can learn from each other
- Aims to establish international partnerships for arts education with an emphasis on community engagement and sustainability

For more information about the artist exchange and Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee, visit harbortraces.org

Institutions supporting diStefano's December artist residency:

Masonville Cove Environmental Educational Center (MCEEC), Baltimore Aquarium and Living Classrooms, Filbert Street Community Garden, UMBC students, and the Baltimore-Rotterdam Sister City Committee. Financial support for this residency provided by the Baltimore Rotary Club.



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