



PERSPECTIVES

a PhotoVoice
Participatory
Photography
Program

supported by
The NYC Center for
Economic Opportunity

in partnership with
The Red Hook
Community Justice
Center, The
Brooklyn Arts
Council and United
Photo Industries

photograph by
Dante Bennett

Brooklyn PhotoVoice

This summer, 18 young people from the Brooklyn neighborhood of Red Hook and surrounding communities were able to participate in PhotoVoice, a participatory photography program that teaches a documentary style of photography focused on issues related to their neighborhoods and self-exploration. The goals of this program are to empower participants, inform policy-makers, and raise awareness about issues facing these young people.

PhotoVoice is funded by the New York City Mayor's Office Center for Economic Opportunity. This project is in collaboration between four Brooklyn organizations – The Red Hook Community Justice Center, the Brownsville Community Justice Center (both projects of the Center for Court Innovation/Fund for the City of New York), the Brooklyn Arts Council and United Photo Industries.

Participatory photography gives youth the opportunity to connect in a visual dialogue that often excludes them. This project employs professional photographers to teach participants photography skills and engages students through a series of workshops, class critiques, and field trips, and culminates in a final exhibit. Teaching Artists, Brenna McLaughlin and Janay McNeill facilitated these workshops and students crafted visual stories from their own unique perspectives.

These final projects presented in this book were chosen by each student to engage the public on topics that inspire or concern them. Students have found new and different ways of voicing their perspectives and asserting themselves as experts in their individual and community needs. The funders, administrators and teaching artists of this program are extremely proud of the work the students have accomplished.

The Brooklyn Arts Council continues to be a vehicle for Brooklyn young people to engage with the larger New York City arts community. United Photo Industries invited students to visit their gallery, based in DUMBO, Brooklyn, and gave them insight into the professional artists' world. The Red Hook and Brownsville Community Justice Centers engage young people in a wide variety of strengths-based arts programming informed by Positive Youth Justice, which considers young people to be resources to their communities.

The administrators of this program and partnering organizations wish to thank the New York City Mayor's Office Center for Economic Opportunity for providing funding for PhotoVoice, the staff at the Brownsville and Red Hook Community Justice Centers and the staff at the Brooklyn Arts Council for their continued support in engaging Brooklyn students in the arts, and the United Photo Industries for inviting our students into their gallery and to be a part of Photoville. We would also like to thank Russell Frederick for talking to our class about his work, the VII Gallery, the International Center of Photography, DUGGAL Visual Solutions for donating the prints for the exhibit.

Dante Bennett

Architecture

Cranes are used to build massive buildings and bridges. Architecture is in everyday life. Anything built needed an architect to do it, from the very house you live in to the corner store in your neighborhood, architecture is very important. Without these ideas, where would we live? I find it amazing how we small people can build these giant structures. Without the help of machines we wouldn't have come as far as we are today. The crane helps build things that is too high for humans to reach. Also without cranes we would not be able to travel by bridge, or have these amazing buildings in Manhattan that people all over the world come to see. We would not be able to rebuild ground zero which is the freedom tower that represents our nation. I'm proud to present to you the importance of architecture.

about Dante

My name is Dante Bennett and I live in the Red Hook community. I'm 16 years old and I'm a junior at Acorn Community High School. My project is about architecture.



Under the Giant (Manhattan Bridge), Brooklyn, NY 2013

Shamiyah Stafford

Triptychs

My project is about me taking three personality matching body shots of people I know. I made them into one classical format called a Triptych. I chose this because it is a different way to photograph and display pictures.

about Shamiyah

My name is Shamiyah and I am 16 years old.
I go to Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies.

I like to dance, sing and be helpful to others.

My interest in photography is followed by my technique and how I go about getting the shots I want and how I want them to look.



Fatima, Brooklyn, NY 2013

Darius Courbe

In my photographs, I like to capture the beauty of certain things. I want to take that beauty and add my own little touch to it to make it a little different to invent new ways to turn a regular picture into a colorful photograph that amazes people.

about Darius

Darius is a Brooklyn resident and really enjoys taking pictures and drawing.
He sees art in everything.



Untitled, Brooklyn, NY 2013

Jonathan Sanabria

Industrial Design

Industrial machines these days take a toll on the world and how they function with humans on earth. But if it wasn't for industrial machines we wouldn't have the homes we live in, the buildings, the bridges we walk across, the roller coasters we ride on, the cars we drive and much more. The reason I chose to take photographs of this is because it stands out to me. The height they stand at, the bulkiness, the rustic color and huge outline. They sort of remind me of a transformer they way they open up and are capable of doing so much with such little effort. I would like to show people my point of view and how I see things differently when it comes to my topic because as a kid these industrial machines and objects always stood out to me.

about Jonathan

My name is Jonathan M. Sanabria and I am 18 years old.
I live in Brooklyn, New York in a pretty big neighborhood called Red Hook.
I went to the Urban Assembly School for Music and Art.
I'm a people person and out going with a huge warm heart.
I love to take pictures and I love to be in them.
My neighborhood has many great sights.



Brooklyn, NY 2013

David Palmer

Basketball Life

For my art project I've taken pictures of different basketball courts in Red Hook. I chose this topic because basketball is my favorite sport and Red Hook is a community I am from where everyone likes basketball. From any given day you can see many people playing basketball night or day. This happened to be a rainy day. It's the only time the courts are empty.

about David

My name is David Palmer and I am a photographer. I am 17 years old and I attend Broome Street Academy Charter High School. My job as a photographer is to take pictures of any topic I want. My topic is about basketball in my neighborhood. The title of my final project is "Basketball Life". I chose this because everyone in my neighborhood likes basketball.



Untitled, Brooklyn, NY 2013

Ashley Hurdle

Street Performers

Everyday we ride the trains and walk the streets of New York. We see people singing their hearts out and dancing like no one's watching. Most of us ignore them or even try to avoid these people but if we stop and watch, we'll be able to see that they have talent and goals. Being a street performer is a risky and time consuming job. Their goals are to brighten our days and put a toe tapping tune in our head. I wanted to capture the faces of just a few of the people who work hard everyday to do that and more. My interest in this topic comes from my fascination with the talent and confidence street performers have. To be able to showcase who you are and what you love to do without fear is simply inspiring to me.

about Ashley

Ashley Hurdle is an 18 year old high school graduate from Brooklyn, New York. She found her interest in photography when she got her first camera at the age of 13. Since then, she knew that it would have some type of significance in her life. Growing up, she was surrounded by people who were involved in some way with film and photography. That was when her interest grew stronger and she became more involved in that lifestyle. Ashley Hurdle's main goal is to be able to capture the world from her perspective through her lens. Mainly capturing the Glamour, Fashion and Love in the world.



One Love, Brooklyn, NY 2013

Audrey-Jane Sweeney

Happiness is art. A woman's beauty and strength can be seen through her smile. These moments are the most vulnerable states that being an artist can give you - a front row seat to be able to capture these moments. This summer I got the opportunity to travel to Ghana, Africa. Traveling there, I wanted to be able to capture beauty, love and happiness. I wanted to document and capture the most intimate moments of many of the locals. Through their smiles and eyes you can tell the story of how beautiful life truly is. Each photo gives you a look into not only the culture but into the Beauty of a smile and how smiles are connected and understood no matter where you come from.

about Audrey-Jane

Photography is my self-expression. Photos allow me to tell a story that could have gone unnoticed. Growing up in New York I've had the opportunity to travel and experience different cultures.



Ghana, 2013

About the Program Collaborators:

The Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) fights the cycle of poverty in New York City through innovative programs that build human capital and improve financial security. Launched by Mayor Bloomberg in 2006, CEO works with both City agencies and the federal government to implement successful anti-poverty initiatives in New York and partner cities across the United States.

Launched in June 2000, the Red Hook Community Justice Center is the nation's first multi-jurisdictional community court. Operating out of a refurbished Catholic school in the heart of a geographically and socially isolated neighborhood in southwest Brooklyn, the Justice Center seeks to solve neighborhood problems using a coordinated response. The courthouse is the hub for an array of unconventional programs that contribute to reducing fear and improving public trust in government.

Currently in planning, the Brownsville Community Justice Center seeks to reengineer how the justice system works in Brownsville, Brooklyn. In particular, the Justice Center is dedicated to building multiple off-ramps for young people who come into contact with the justice system. The ultimate goal is to reduce crime and the use of incarceration, while at the same restoring local faith in the justice system.

BAC's Arts in Education (AIE) program provides a wide array of educational arts experiences for students, teachers, parents, and community members in digital, literary, performing, and visual arts. Our collaborative process allows for personalized programming, enriching hands-on experiences, and enhanced depth of knowledge. We instill skills and positive attitudes about the arts that are designed to be retained for a lifetime.

The mission at United Photo Industries is to promote and showcase emerging photographers through curated exhibitions around the world. Working in partnership with local galleries and key media partners, they concentrate on producing site-specific exhibitions that explore new thematic directions in photography.



Center for Economic Opportunity

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