

October 7, 2011

For Immediate Release from the New Bedford Art Museum....

For Additional Information Contact:

Kate Ross, NBAM Executive Director (508) 961-3099 kater@newbedfordartmuseum.org

Sheila Duarte – Andrade (508) 496-4944 sheilad@newbedfordartmuseum.org

Playground's Palette – Children's Art from the 2011 artMOBILE

Curated by: Sheila Duarte-Andrade

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 13, 2011

(New Bedford, MA) – The 2011 fall/winter season of exhibitions at the New Bedford Art Museum includes an exciting display of the art work created by the participants of NBAM's artMOBILE program. This summer's artMOBILE theme, **Playground's Palette: Children's Art from the 2011 artMOBILE**, was specifically chosen to coincide with NBAM's summer exhibit, New Bedford Through the Lens. To correlate with NBAM's summer exhibit, the artMOBILE participants were encouraged to create art that represented New Bedford and the seacoast as seen through their young eyes.

This past summer's artMOBILE program marks the 16th year on the roads of New Bedford. Similar to a bookmobile, artMOBILE provides access to the arts for children ages 5 and up, by delivering free summer art activities to under-served city youth during the summer. Two "purple" buses, with experienced educators on board, transport art supplies to 20 sites each week, 5 days a week for 8 weeks. The artMOBILE educators recorded more than 1500 visits this summer by about 500 different children.

"I am so proud to be a part of bringing this special program to so many children throughout the city of New Bedford. The quality of work that is produced by kids of all ages is simply amazing and has lent itself towards making a spectacular show that I hope everyone will stop in to see," says Kate Ross, executive director.

Youth Education Coordinator, Sheila Duarte – Andrade asked her team of educators on the purple busses to write about one of their fond memories from the summer's artMOBILE travels.

"Nyrae – She Made My Day"

While the artMOBILE allowed me the opportunity to meet a number of wonderful, inquisitive children from all parts of the city there is one who stands out the most in my mind. I was setting up at our usual spot at Magnet Park in Temple's Landing, our usual girls had all showed up and were getting into their craft for the morning, and then this little girl with long dark hair walks over. She's not wearing shoes, her clothes are dirty, and her hair uncombed and asks if she can join. She shyly tells me her name is Nyrae and begins to color. She doesn't really talk to the other girls and seemed content to just be left alone. I walk over and tell her, "Nyrae you are doing a wonderful job coloring, that's beautiful." Well once I said that Nyrae's face just lit up and she had a smile from ear to ear. I could tell from her reaction that this little girl doesn't hear compliments often; no

one is giving her any positive reinforcement or attention. It broke my heart a little to see how happy she was to receive a simple compliment and as much as I think I made Nyrae's day, she made mine. The impression Nyrae left on me affirmed all that I and the other art educators were trying to do. – Kate Frazer

“Grandma Plays Jump Rope”

At one of our favorite sites, Monty's Park, we had 3 dedicated girls, Jessinia, Lynette and Sandra. Sandra was the funniest five year old I've ever met. She would concentrate very hard on whatever project we were doing that day for about 30 minutes before she would look up and tell us a completely unrelated story about her family. One such story occurred during finger weaving. After becoming entangled in the yarn enough times to make any child of any age frustrated, we thought she might quit. Instead, she stopped what she was doing, looked up, and told us a story about how she and her sister, Lynette, were playing jump rope one day. “Then, my grandma was there, too...and she jumped rope!” Satisfied with her moment of pause to tell her story Sandra eased back into the weaving. –Lauren deSerres

“The Kids at Roberto Clemente Park”

As an artMOBILE educator for the past 4 summers I have gotten the opportunity to know the kids at some sites very well. Roberto Clemente Park is a site I have visited each summer, and the kids come running out to greet the bus each week when they see us, a happy mix of familiar and new faces that are always friendly and cooperative with each other. This summer, some of the girls told me that normally the park is filled with rowdy teenagers who sometimes bully the younger kids (one girl told me that one of the teenagers knocked off her little brother's glasses and broke them). Their mothers usually do not let them play in the park, even though this is a place that should be safe and friendly. The girls were thrilled that they get to play in the park when we are there, because the “trouble-makers” tend to disperse or move farther away from our set-up area when they see us arrive. “You can protect us while you are here, so our Mom said we can be here with you”, one girl told us. The children at the park always ask to help us set up and put everything away and are full of delight at getting to learn new art processes and try new materials. “Painting is so fun!” they say. Many of these children do not have any art supplies at all at home, so their time with us for artMOBILE is often their only creative outlet all summer. I am no longer surprised when children tell me that they do not even have crayons or extra paper at home, because I have heard this from so many different children. At another site we visit - one child told me and the other artMOBILE teacher that we were probably her best friends because we were always nice to her and helped her have fun with art. –Brooke Mullins Doherty

The 2011 artMOBILE was made possible through the generous grants and donations from Bain Capital, Leonard & Hilda Kaplan Charitable Foundation, the United Way, the Lodge of St. Andrew, a Community Development Block Grant, and many individual donors across the Southcoast.

The exhibition will be on view throughout the fall season. Please join NBAM on Thursday, October 13th from 5-7pm (AHA! Night) for the opening reception of **Playground's Palette: Children's Art from the 2011 artMOBILE** in our lower community gallery. All are welcome to this free event!

To download artMOBILE photos, please visit:
http://www.kateross.com/artMOBILE/artMOBILE_Pictures.html

Also on view at the New Bedford Art Museum through January 21, 2011, **Light, Space and Atmosphere: A Spiritual Journey – Willoughby Elliott Retrospective**. Willoughby Elliott is scheduled to give a lecture on his work on AHA! Night. Thursday October 13th at 7pm at the New Bedford Art Museum.

Hours of operation are Wednesday – Sunday, noon to 5pm. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students & seniors and children 12 and under are free.