



HRA, the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, and Gibney Dance Studio Exhibit Artwork by Survivors of Domestic Violence

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, HRA and the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence (MOCDV) have partnered with the Gibney Dance Studio to exhibit works of art by survivors of domestic violence and their children. These works of art, which include paintings, sculpture, and unconventional media like pillows and umbrellas, allows survivors to share their feelings and their stories at a time when words may be too painful, or fail to convey the whole experience. The artworks, many produced in art therapy programs, highlight

not only pain and hardship, but also survival, endurance and hope.



An attendee and her child look at the artwork

“This is a wonderful exhibit both because it gives people the ability to express things they might otherwise have trouble expressing, and because it gives those of us who have never experienced domestic violence a more powerful understanding of both its negative impact and the power of healing,” said HRA’s Chief Special Services Officer Daniel Tietz.



HRA Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Intervention Services Marie Philip

HRA Chief Special Services Officer Daniel Tietz

Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence Cecile Noel



Artwork at the event

“This collaboration is a real testament to the power of healing, and we are proud to be a part of it,” said Marie Philip, Deputy Commissioner of HRA’s Emergency and Intervention Services. “Healing is bearing witness, and this exhibit is about bearing witness to the pain and the victory of our survivors across the city.”

“Thank you to all the artists here today,” said Cecile Noel, Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence. “As you walk around and look at the artwork, keep in mind we sometimes see survivors at the hardest point of what they’re going through, but when we think

about what adds light and meaning to our lives, it’s often art, and you can see the resilience that shines through in all these pieces.”



Artwork at the event



Artwork at the event

A representative of the Broadway production of *The Color Purple* also spoke and sang a song from the musical to attendees. The artworks displayed came from residents of domestic violence shelters, and from participants in programs like the Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (Teen RAPP), which works with teens in city schools to help them identify positive, healthy relationships while building leadership skills and a strong peer group.

Gibney Dance, who hosted the event, sends instructors to New York City domestic violence and homeless shelters to help residents learn to express themselves through dance. The art exhibit is open to the public, and will remain throughout October. Gibney Dance is located at 53A Chambers Street.



HRA staff at the event

October 24, 2016