



rocking the boat
812 edgewater road
bronx, ny 10474
p 718.466.5799
f 718.466.2892
info@rockingtheboat.org
www.rockingtheboat.org

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June 29, 2010

Susy King
NEIWPCC
116 John Street
Lowell, MA 01852-1128

Dear Ms. King,

I am pleased to submit this fourth and final report on Rocking the Boat's Water Access Grant, which provided support for our End-of Semester Community Boat Launch Celebration held on Saturday, June 12.

At noon on that beautiful sunny day, Rocking the Boat launched its 30th student-built wooden boat—a 14' Whitehall named *Audacity*—and three Chesapeake Light Craft wooden kayaks built by Boatbuilding Job Skills Apprentices, during a community celebration held at its headquarters in the South Bronx, adjacent to Hunts Point Riverside Park. The event brought together approximately 200 people from the community to celebrate the accomplishments of the youth who participated in Rocking the Boat's boatbuilding and on-water education programs this past spring. The party ended as scheduled at 4 p.m.

The celebration featured live music by a Bronx-based Latin band, Freddy Fuego Septet, a potluck meal with regional dishes prepared by students' parents and grilled burgers, hot dogs and vegetarian choices donated by SIMS Metal Management (our next door neighbor), free rows on the Bronx River led by Environmental Job Skills Apprentices, and demonstrations of the environmental projects carried out by On-Water students during the semester, including:

- Water quality monitoring
- Wading and shore bird surveys
- Fish and angler surveys
- Alewife (river herring) reintroduction monitoring
- Salt marsh monitoring and invasive removal
- Oyster garden and reef maintenance

Students shared their knowledge of current and future threats to the health of the Bronx River, New York Harbor Estuary, and their surrounding ecosystems as well as ongoing efforts to restore and preserve these vital natural resources, including those they participated in during the semester. Environmental Job Skills Apprentices also taught guests about the Bronx River during free rides aboard Rocking the Boat's fleet.

What made the event particularly special was that it was the first End-of-Semester Launch held at Rocking the Boat's new facility—a 6,000 square-foot converted warehouse located just steps away from the Bronx River and a dock at Hunts Point Riverside Park. *Audacity*, therefore, was the first boat built by students in the building's expansive 2,500 square-foot shop. Rocking the Boat is thrilled to have finally established a permanent home in Hunts Point and the event provided a wonderful opportunity to open it up and share it with local residents. Moreover, it was a terrific way to introduce a wide audience of people—from both within and beyond the Hunts Point neighborhood—to the Bronx River and Hunts Point Riverside Park.

A final invoice for Rocking the Boat's Water Access Grant and copies of the press release and poster that were distributed to promote the event are enclosed. Also, please enjoy the enclosed selection of photos.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this report or the event. Thank you again for HEP's generous support.

Sincerely,



Adam Green
Executive Director

Enclosures



boatbuilding and environmental education in the bronx



rocking the boat's spring 2010

end of semester celebration

saturday, june 12, 2010
12pm - 4pm

Come celebrate the hard work and dedication of our students as we launch our new 14-foot Whitehall rowboat, *Audacity*.

Featuring live music by the Freddy Fuego Sextet.



rocking the boat 812 edgewater road, bronx, ny 10474
718.466.5799 | www.rockingtheboat.org | info@rockingtheboat.org

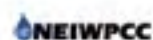
this event is supported, in part, by public funds from:



The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs



New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program



New England Interstate Water Pollution Commission

**SOUTH BRONX TEENS LAUNCH
30th WOODEN ROWBOAT BUILT BY HAND
AT BRONX RIVER CELEBRATION**

**Rocking the Boat Community Launch Celebration
Saturday, June 12
12 noon – 4pm**

WHAT:

Rocking the Boat, a Bronx-based boatbuilding and environmental education youth development organization, celebrates the end of another semester and the launching of its 30th traditional wooden rowboat. The event will take place at Rocking the Boat's new 6,000 square foot shop at 812 Edgewater Road, and on the banks on the Bronx River in the adjacent Hunts Point Riverside. 812 Edgewater will be open for tours all afternoon.

Boat Launch

- Rocking the Boat's 30th boat, a 14-foot Whitehall hand-built by Bronx high school students, to be named *Audacity*
- Launch of three Chesapeake Light Craft wooden kayaks built by Rocking the Boat Job Skills Apprentices

Community Celebration, featuring:

- Rocking the Boat students, friends, community, and family members
- Bronx River environmental and maritime displays
- Community Rowing on the Bronx River
- Net fishing from the shore, waders provided
- International pot-luck courtesy of Sims Metal Management, Hunts Point Alliance for Children, and Rocking the Boat parents
- Live music by Bronx-based Latin band: Freddy Fuego Septet
- Tours of Rocking the Boat's newly renovated 6,000 square foot building

WHERE:

812 Edgewater Road, Bronx, NY and
Hunts Point Riverside Park at the intersection of Lafayette Avenue and Edgewater Road

WHEN:

Saturday, June 12, Noon – 4 p.m.

This event is sponsored, in part, by the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

Rocking the Boat helps inner-city youth develop the skills and confidence to succeed in life by giving them the chance to build wooden boats from scratch and then use them to row, sail, and restore the Bronx River. Four levels of dynamic, interconnected programs—all involving building and using handmade boats on the Bronx River—squarely address the need for comprehensive and sustained services for the severely underserved community of Hunts Point. Rocking the Boat engages over 2,500 people each year, helping youth successfully navigate their way through young adulthood and introducing community members to the wonders of their local natural environment. Kids don't just build boats at Rocking the Boat, boats build kids.



