



The Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy- www.urbandivers.org

The ENVIROMEDIA MOBILE

HARLEM RIVER ECOLOGY CENTER

& Hudson River North Marine Field Station

... located at the southern end of Roberto Clemente State Park, NYC Bridge Park and River Park Towers, just north of the historic High Bridge.

Entrance of the center, faces the water, beneath bld 10.

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Celebrate the Harlem River

Our event aimed at using our EnviroMedia Mobile and its environmental literacy, recreation and cultural enrichment programs as a resource to bring families, local residents and visitors to the Harlem River waterfront for a weekend of alternative recreational activities that provides them with an opportunity to learn about the community's nature resource, appreciate its significance and all that it has to offer. In this regard we would begin to foster a renewed relationship between the community and this natural resource the Harlem River, and empower newly captivated stewards.

The event took place on a weekend in September 2010 and was in collaboration with several local community partners with whom we have a historic relationship. These partners included Community Boards 4 and 5, Highbridge 5 Schools, Harlem River Working Group, and the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality. We provided a day long full of activities that included public tours of the Mobile Museum, and a birds of prey presentation. Other collaborative organizations also offered other activities, such as tabling, DJ, refreshments, etc.

The mobile Nature and Maritime museum showcased exhibits that inspired learning and discovery about the living nature of our urban environment, as well presented elements among its maritime component that brought an enriched perspective of the ecological, social, cultural and economic history of a place where the community lives, learns, plays, works and worships. A special highlight of the mobile museum exhibits were a presentation of various maritime contributors that were cultural familiars to the community aimed to be served. It also featured a core sample of the Harlem River bedrock. These simple elements helped capture the imagination of the community and ensured them a direct cultural relationship – an element that is key in developing a sense of ownership among all the local resident stakeholders.

The live encounter and the educational presentation with a Red Tailed Hawk was the biggest highlight and most talked about experience among the festival attendees. It really reigned in the concept of paying attention to the living nature of our urban environment.

The event was well attended by local residents, including several public officials. The experience, the activities help provide a vision to our public officials as to what other opportunities that the Harlem River, its resources, its access can provide to the community, as a place for family recreation and relaxation, cultural enrichment, maritime activities and environmental education. It also provided us with the opportunity to engage them in a dialogue about the need for environmental remediation when and where necessary.

A measurement of our success is the ongoing dialogue that we witnessed among the community members that went on for weeks after the event. The experience was a conversation in the schools, the local churches, the food pantry, the community centers, as well as among our public officials.

Approximately 400 participated. This was unprecedented due to the limitations of our budget, thus the limitations of our promotional and public outreach capacity. Despite several set-backs due to the financial limitations, we were very pleased with the turn-out. And our intended message and experience was well received. We were able to muster volunteers among our HS school interns.



. Kids and Congressman after tour of the EnviroMedia Mobile, on right our HS interns (volunteered as mobile museum docents)
Hawk Talk- Birds of Prey Presentation, DJ Music Hawk Talk

