

CELEBRATING YOUTH “LIGHTING THE WAY HOME”

Ceremony showcases youth involvement in community revitalization

Silver Spring - An energized group of middle and high school students are playing a critical role in the redevelopment of their own low income, high crime community through the vehicles of art and design. For the Long Branch community of Carroll Avenue/Quebec Terrace, "[Lighting the Way Home](#)," will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at 8733 Carroll Avenue, Silver Spring. It is a celebration of the youth's achievements that will include the unveiling of their designed, handmade illuminated mosaic address signs. The event, previously scheduled for March 18, was postponed due to inclement weather.

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett and the collaborative team of “Common Ground” – YMCA Youth and Family Services, Arts on the Block, Imagination Stage and Gandhi Brigade – will host this special event. The evening will feature program participants interviewing Mr. Leggett and performing a dance and drumming.



The lighting ceremony and celebration will highlight the positive changes youth are making in their community including the custom-made address signs. Designed by “Common Ground” participants, this is the first in a series of projects intended to bring light and hope to the community through functional artwork.

Through “Common Ground,” funded by the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation, youth build personal, leadership and technical skills expressing their individual and collective creativity to benefit their community. Now in its third year, “Common Ground” has changed the lives of participating youth and the community in which they live.



In addition to the “Common Ground” program, the neighborhood has received Montgomery County and State of Maryland funds to design and implement a number of public art lighting projects initiated and guided by Arts on the Block.

About Common Ground:

Common Ground is a collaborative effort between Arts on the Block, Gandhi Brigade, Imagination Stage and Youth & Family Services of the YMCA that draws on the unique expertise of each partner to deliver a year-round, arts-focused skills development experience for under-served middle school students. Common Ground builds on the existing after-school programs at Carroll Ave and Nob Hill sites and engages participants in intensive training in media, the arts, and leadership-skills development with the overarching goal of nurturing creativity, cooperation and determination and producing courageous and caring young leaders. Common Ground is supported by the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation.

For more information about Common Ground, please visit commongroundsilverspring.wordpress.com.

For More Information:

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