

# City of Newburgh

## PRESS RELEASE

(845) 569-7354 phone– (845) 569-7370 fax

*For immediate release*

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### Dedication of Trestle Mural Project “Archways to Newburgh” Set for Nov. 3



Horizons-on-the-Hudson students Kaiaa Rogers and Savannah Ordonez (between flag and podium) performed a preview of Gary Van Voorhis’ song “Gateway” that will be sung at the dedication of the Trestle Mural Project on November 3.

At a press conference today at Downing Park, City officials joined representatives of Trestle, Inc. and students from Horizons on Hudson Magnet School for a preview of the upcoming celebration of the completion of the Trestle Mural Project. The gala event will be held November 3 at 1 p.m. at the Newburgh Waterfront. At that time, “Archways to Newburgh” will be formally dedicated to the City of Newburgh and CSX Railroad. The public is cordially invited to attend.

“This is one of the most exciting art, cultural, and tourist attractions to ever happen in the City of Newburgh,” said Mayor Nicholas Valentine. “I would like to thank Trestle, Inc., artist Garin Baker, and everyone who helped to make it a reality.”

The Trestle Mural Project concept began in 2002, when Fr. Bill Scafidi, pastor of St. Mary’s Church, was holding a series of events at the Newburgh waterfront commemorating the first anniversary of the September 11 tragedy. Facing the 220-foot railroad wall, he came to the decision that he was going to do something to beautify the city. The unsightly barricade separating the newly revitalized waterfront from the rest of the city seemed the best place to begin.

Fr. Bill, Mona Paschke and Sue Kane, the originators of the project, began by contacting CSX Railroad, the owner of the property, and bringing the concept before the City Council. Both gave their approval. In May of 2003, more volunteers joined the committee, and in June, Trestle, Inc. was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. By summer of 2003, fundraising began in earnest. Artist Garin Baker was selected to create a trompe l’oeil mural depicting several of the city’s important and historic landmarks. Community meetings were held to gather input on the project, and work began in earnest in September of 2005.

In addition to bringing in more than \$30,000 through the sale of bricks for a Commemorative Walkway, Trestle, Inc. raised \$75,000 for the project through concerts, river cruises, wine and cheese parties, breakfasts at the waterfront, art demonstrations, book sales, and the support of corporate sponsors, local businesses, institutions, and philanthropic groups. In 2005, Trestle, Inc. received a \$10,000 grant from Orange Arts, Orange County Tourism, and from New York State Coastal Resources, came a \$75,000 matching grant.

“Archways to Newburgh,” is the first public art project for Trestle, Inc., but not the last, said Trestle, Inc. President Kiki Hayden. “We are committed to improving the quality of life in this extraordinary city while helping Newburgh reclaim its leadership status in the Hudson Valley. This we will do with the cooperation and participation of the community.”

Fr. Bill Scafidi commented, “We are hoping that as many people as possible will attend this community event on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, to celebrate the Archways, our artists, and especially the historical City of Newburgh.”