

now Chelsea

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Chelsea Now photo by Maria Rapetskaya

Let the garden grow

BY MARIA RAPETSKAYA

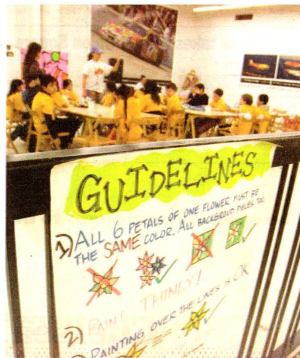
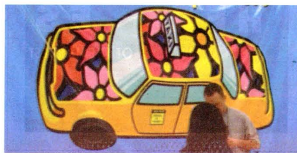
From Sept. 1 through the end of the year, New York City's entire fleet of nearly 13,000 taxis will be transformed into a kaleidoscopic mobile exhibit. Vinyl decals painted with bright flowers will be temporarily attached to the hood, trunk and roof of every cab to create a virtual garden, courtesy of Garden In Transit, a non-profit project that fuses art with education.

Since late last year, Garden has been inviting kids from local schools and hospitals to color in the flowers and sign their names on the petals. Central to the project is the educational session, during

which the children are encouraged to think about how they can influence the world around them, while learning about social issues such as poverty and the environment.

Roughly 30,000 panels are needed, and more than 10,000 kids and adults have participated already. By tapping into the power of teamwork to complete this monumental task, Garden aims to inspire kids to become involved in their local and global communities.

Adults can volunteer to work with children or come during open painting hours. For more information or to schedule a visit, go to www.gardenintransit.org.



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Not your garden variety art installation

A staff member from Garden in Transit, a non-profit project that fuses art with education, loaded painted vinyl decals into wooden crates earlier this week. The decals, painted by local residents, are en route to California, where they will be weather-proofed before returning to New York City to adorn Gotham's entire fleet of 13,000 taxis beginning Sept. 1. For more photos, see Pages 14 and 15.