

# TIEMPO

## NEW YORK



*The Latino Alternative Newspaper*

VOLUME 2 NO. 5 • NOVEMBER 16 - 29, 2006 • NEW YORK • WWW.TIEMPONY.COM

10 **Tiempo**  
New York

## Citywide Student Taxi Art Project Starts in Brooklyn

By Marlene Peralta

Bushwick kids never thought their art would decorate New York City yellow cabs.

That's the case of student artists from Intermediate School 291 and the Bushwick Lighthouse Beacon Program who participated in "Garden In Transit," a citywide youth service volunteer and public art project sponsored by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The citywide project kicked off in Brooklyn on November 2 at IS 291, and 300 children between ages 11 and 15 painted colorful flower designs that yellow cabs will exhibit for 16 weeks in 2007 to celebrate the 100 anniversary of the first metered taxi cab.

Frank Negron, director of Bushwick Beacon, said the children were anxious and excited to participate.

Justin Ramos, 11, who attends the after-school program at the Beacon said, "I feel proud because people would see my painting and my arts."

Aarin Muñiz, an eighth-grader said, "I never had anything of mine shown anywhere."

Negron explained the project originally included the after-school program but he suggested that all students from IS 291 participate. Beside the taxicab designs, the artists painted their own mini toy taxi. Even adults painted mini toy cabs. Ms. Alphonso, student activities coordinator, said she would keep hers in her office as a souvenir.

"Garden in Transit," which is part of Portraits of Hope, is a privately funded inspirational project that was created for children with medical, emotional and socioeconomic challenges.

Bernie Massey, the project's co-founder said, "It is a symbol of what kids think about the contemporary world."



**NYC's yellow cabs will exhibit colorful student art for 16 weeks in 2007.**

It teaches students the social issues that are important to them, as well as teamwork, said Massey who is part of the 15 trainers coaching the kids to do the artwork.

It is not mandatory for cab owners to carry the art, but Massey does not predict any problem. Kids from IS 291 were expected to finish 100 to 150 paintings.

"Garden in Transit" will travel to one school in each of the five boroughs for four months.

The 12,760 taxis will start exhibiting the paintings in September of 2007 and each painting will carry the name of student artists from each borough.