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MLK Dream Weekend Announces “Across the Board” Art Exhibition to Promote Diversity & Inclusion

GREENVILLE, S.C. – MLK Dream Weekend is proud to announce a new initiative, “Across the Board,” an arts exhibition to promote diversity and inclusion in the spirit of community.

Youth from across Greenville County will be challenged to mobilize and contribute to a collaborative art experience that advances diversity and inclusion in their community. Groups of students from art clubs, student councils, honor societies, service clubs or any other group of motivated youth, are invited to host an event that contributes to the project. Each student group will be given a canvas with a word that detracts from the idea of unity and progress (ie. hate, aversion, prejudice, etc.) Students will then be asked to dip a paintbrush in their choice of color and throw the paint toward the canvas to cover the word. The objective being, youth will “make their mark” on the issues that inhibit inclusion in our communities.

Each school received the canvas-board, drop-cloth, brushes and paint for the project on December 2nd and will have until December 16th to host the experience. Through this, students will come together in a collective effort to celebrate the freedom of expression. They are asked to complete their portion of the project during lunch, before or after school hours and at a suitable location approved by the school administration. This initiative is a collaborative partnership between MLK Dream Weekend, Greenville County Schools, Greenville Forward and the HeadStrong Generation and presents a tangible example of a community that values diversity and creates embodiment through the arts. The completed art pieces will be presented before the banquet in the lobby of the TD Convention Center alongside the before and after pictures that show the process of the project and the experience the youth planned.

As we continue our focus on the youth of Greenville County, we will be incorporating more youth involvement at the 2012 MLK Diversity Banquet. The banquet is the kick-off event of the MLK Dream Weekend and is a night of dining, entertainment, awards and an inspiring speaker. To date, 61 high school students have been nominated for seats at the banquet. On Thursday, December 1st, a letter and form were sent to the home addresses of those who were nominated. Through the donations of generous sponsors, tables for the nominees have been secured making their presence at the event possible.

“With the success of MLK DW over the last 6 years, we felt it was time to put more focus on youth in the Upstate and encourage them to be actively involved. We are eager and excited for their participation,” said Nika White, Director of Marketing for MLK Dream Weekend.

For more event information and a complete timeline of Across the Board, visit www.mlkdreamweekend.com/across-the-board/.

MLK Dream Weekend is an organization of civic and business leaders committed to the cause of Dr. King and the citizens of Greenville County. Initiated in 2006 to establish an annual community-wide celebration of the MLK Holiday for the Greenville, South Carolina area, MLK Dream Weekend is based on Dr. King’s dreams of diversity with equality and peace. For more information, please www.mlkdreamweekend.com.

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