



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ArtReach And Boys & Girls Club of Metro Denver present
The Patchwork of Life Traveling Exhibit**

(Denver) The Patchwork of Life exhibit will open July 6, 2007 at NOW ArtSpace at 3977 Tennyson Street in Denver. The exhibit features a tapestry created by youth encompassing their cultural history, heritage and natural surroundings. This ArtReach project took place at the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver (BGCMD), Cope Branch at 808 Inca in Denver. During the 12-week project, 36 youth learned about the history of quilting and photography, traditional and digital photographic techniques, and sewing. Adrianna Santiago, photographer and BGCMD Cultural Arts Director, trained six youth peer leaders from five Boys and Girls Club branches to assist with teaching the workshops.

To create the Patchwork of Life tapestry, youth recalled their family memories through storytelling and used snapshot and Holga cameras to document their family life. These photographic images and other culturally significant documents and images were scanned and transferred into digital photography to create enlarged negatives. These images were transferred onto fabric using the Van Dyke and Cyanotype processes, and the fabric was sewn together to form a large community tapestry. Each youth's mini tapestry connected to another's to create one large tapestry representing a diverse, but unified community - Patchwork of Life. Adrianna documented the process of creating the tapestry through photography. This photo-narration will be included in the exhibition with the Patchwork of Life tapestry.

Ms. Santiago believes that youth's family and cultural heritage play a significant role in defining their identity. In the United States, culture is becoming diluted in the melting pot of ethnicity. An awareness of one's own culture has become less common among today's youth. Through this project, the youth gained a deeper self-awareness and an appreciation of their heritage. Adrianna Santiago has a permanent and ongoing installation at Westcott Bay Institute on San Juan Island, WA. She has also exhibited in California, Colorado, and New Mexico.

The Patchwork of Life exhibit continues at NOW ArtSpace through July 27th. Translations Gallery will exhibit Patchwork of Life from August 3rd - 17th. A special thanks to The John G. Duncan Trust for funding this project; Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver for their participation, enthusiasm and support of the project, especially Adrianna Santiago, Dan Ruybal and Tina Martinez; Debbie Miller and Lincoln Phillips at Auraria Photo Lab for hosting a tour and demonstration; Lori Owicz and Jennifer Norford at NOW ArtSpace and Judy Hagler at Translations Gallery; Joshua Pass and Celine Santiago.

Established in 1974, ArtReach, Inc. is a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Code serving arts, cultural, educational and human service organizations. ArtReach is the only organization in the Denver area that exists to ensure people of all ages who struggle with physical, mental, behavioral or severe economic challenges have an opportunity to experience arts and culture. Every year ArtReach programs serve more than 70,000 individuals and families in our community. ArtReach is funded through grants from SCFD, CCA, National Endowment for the Arts, and other foundation grants, along with donations from local individuals, and corporations. ArtReach fosters community interactions by maintaining over 300 innovative, long-term partnerships between diverse art and cultural organizations and community agencies (schools, social service agencies, public housing, long-term care facilities, and parks and recreation departments). To donate, volunteer or become involved visit www.artreachdenver.org, or call 303-433-2882.

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