DISCOVER THE GATEWAY ARTS DISTRICT. Take an aerial dance class. Go food shopping (organic of course). See an exhibit or a show. The three mile corridor located along Rhode Island Avenue and U.S. Rt. 1 is a haven for artists, art-lovers and families. Quick access to two Green Line stations, the MARC and several bus lines.

For more information visit MyGatewayArts.org or ArtLivesHereMD.wordpress.com.

PARTNERS: Art Works Now, Gateway Community Development Cooperation, Hyattsville Community Development Cooperation, Joe’s Movement Emporium, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George’s African American Museum & Cultural Center, Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council, Red Dirt Studio
SPRING 2014

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Front cover: Agniet Snoep, Still Life Series: Prawn, Copyright Agniet Snoep, courtesy CONNERSMITH and Amstel Gallery
Teen Camp June 16–20; 9am–3pm; $225
Teens will explore how art and advocacy can create lasting change. The week’s focus will be on Anacostia watershed advocacy through storm drain painting.

Weekly Camps for ages 5 -12; 9am–3pm; $225
June 23–Aug 29. Curriculum themes change weekly & include Fractals and Fibonacci, culinary arts, local history, and beach fun. Typical week includes art activities, music, yoga, movement, and a field trip. Before & After care.

Register online at artworksnow.org/take-classes/
Call 301-454-0808 or email Tachi@artworksnow.org
Scholarships available! No one will be turned away due to inability to pay for any Art Works’ programs.

The Art of Pizza Photos from Kitchen Workshop: Pizza
by Chef Ruth Gresser; photos by Moshe Zusman
Tuesday, February 25– Friday April 11
Opening: Tuesday, February 25, 7pm

Imprint; A Family Story
The Ceramic Works of Olivia DiBenigno
Monday, April 28 through Friday, June 6
Opening: Saturday, May 3, 5–7pm

Open Studio Tour - Gateway Arts District
Saturday, May 10. Drop in to visit the gallery and watch our kids in action!
For more information on these exciting events, visit dcarts.dc.gov or call 202-724-5613
GALLERY OPENINGS

ANACOSTIA

► HONFLEUR GALLERY
1241 Good Hope Rd. SE
Washington, DC 20020
202.365.8392
www.honfleurgallery.com

March 7–April 25
Primary Urges: Brad Fesmire, Vanessa Irzyk, & Sarah Boyts Yoder
• OPENING RECEPTION
Fri., March 7 | 6–9 pm

► VIVID SOLUTIONS GALLERY
1241 Good Hope Rd. SE
Washington, DC 20020
202.365.8392
www.vividsolutionsgallery.com

March 7–April 25
Fade 2 Grey: Androgyny in Eighties Popular Music
Adrian Loving
• OPENING RECEPTION
Fri., March 7 | 6–9 pm

May 7–June 27
Mambu Badu: Allison McDaniel, Danielle Scruggs, Kameelah Janan Rasheed & Yodith Dammlash
• OPENING RECEPTION
Wed., May 7 | 6–9 pm

THE CORCORAN COMMUNITY GALLERY AT THEARC
1901 Mississippi Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20020
202.889.5901
www.thearcdc.org

March 10–March 31
J. F. Berry Portfolio Photography Exhibition

April 1–April 30
Anacostia & Navy Yard...A Tale of Two Communities

May 1–May 30
Corcoran College of Art and Design Photojournalism Exhibition (CAP)

No opening receptions. Gallery Hours are Mon.–Sat., 8 am–10 pm & Sun 10 am–5 pm

CATALYST PROJECTS
716 Monroe Street, NE, Studio 13
Washington DC 20017
336-253-6224 or 443-310-3076
www.catalystartprojects.com

March 6–March 29
Sculptors Draw
An exhibition of drawings by artists who traditionally work in sculpture.
Julia Bloom and Amber Robles Gordon
• OPENING RECEPTION
Sat., March 8 | 6–9 pm

STUDIO 21
716 Monroe Street, NE, Studio 21
Washington DC 20017
202.269.1600
www.danceplace.org

March 6–29
Mixed Media Works by Ron Feiner & Carla Perlo
Art objects, painting and fiber work
• OPENING RECEPTION
Thurs., March 6 | 6 pm

April 3–26
Jack Gordon
Work by Brookland resident Jack Gordon
• OPENING RECEPTION
Thurs., April 3 | 6 pm

BROOKLAND

► ART ENABLES
2204 Rhode Island Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20018
202.554.9455
www.art-enables.org

Art Enables residency program cultivates the artistic talents of adults with developmental disabilities whose work is shown regularly. In addition, the lower-level Off Rhode gallery specializes in outsider art.
A Neighborhood Music, Art & Special Event Space

1354 H Street, NE WDC

@stevehessler

facebook.com/GalleryOOnH
May 1–31
* A Photographic Ten Country Glimpse of the World*
People, animals, scenes and landscapes by award-winning photographer Bob Klein
* • OPENING RECEPTION
Thurs., May 1 | 6 pm

**CAPITOL HILL**

* **CAPITOL HILL ARTS WORKSHOP**
  545 7th Street SE,
  Washington, DC
  202.547.6839
  www.caphillartleague.org

May 1–31
* Shape of Things to Come*  
Juror: Dr. Alida Anderson, American University
* • OPENING RECEPTION
Sat., March 8 | 5–7 pm

April 26–May 23
* Black & White & In Between*  
Juror: Richard Dana
* • OPENING RECEPTION
Sat., April 26 | 5–7 pm

June 1–June 30
* Capitol Hill Art League Member Solo Show*  
Artist: Nancy Freeman
* • OPENING RECEPTION
Sat., June 1 | 5–7 pm

**THE FRIDGE**

516½ 8th St. SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.550.2208
www.thefridgedc.com

The Fridge specialized in cutting edge contemporary art from local, national and international artists with a penchant for street art and socially charged themes.

**HILL CENTER GALLERIES**

921 Pennsylvania Ave SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.549.4172
hillcenterdc.org

March 6–April 27
* Multi-artist show with Montgomery County Plein Air Artists*  
* • OPENING RECEPTION
Wed., March 19 | 6–8 pm

May 1–June 22
* Multi-artist show*  
* • OPENING RECEPTION
Thurs., May 8 | 6–8 pm

**WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS**

10 Eye Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024
www.wpadc.org

InfoExchange: John Barrett-Lennard
* • CURATOR TALK
Thurs., April 3 | 7–8 pm
Member Artist Portfolio Review: April 4 & 5

InfoExchange: Marianna Garin
* • CURATOR TALK
Thurs., April 10 | 7–8 pm
Member Artist Portfolio Review: April 11 & 12

**H STREET NE**

* **CONNERSMITH**
  1358 Florida Ave. NE
  Washington, DC 20002
  202.588.8750
  www.connersmith.us.com

April 12–May 31, 2014
* KATIE MILLER: Enduring*  
* AGNIE T SNOE P: Alive and Present*  
* • OPENING RECEPTION
Sat., April 12 | 6–8 pm

* **EVOLVE URBAN ARTS PROJECT**
  1375 Maryland Avenue NE
  Washington, DC 20002
  202.744.6439
  www.evolvedc.com

Evolve Urban Arts at the Pierce School Lofts specializes in showing the work of emerging and mid-career artists from the greater Washington, DC area.

* **GALLERY O ON H**
  1352 H street NE
  Washington, DC 20002
  www.galleryoonh.com

Gallery O on H specializes in emerging contemporary art, outsider art and is the partner gallery for East City Art's EMULSION, an annual regional juried exhibition. The gallery also hosts concerts, visual arts for the H Street Festival, courtyard jazz and outdoor performances.

* **INDUSTRY GALLERY DC**
  1358 Florida Ave. NE, Suite 200
  Washington, DC 20002
  202.399.1730
  www.industrygallerydc.com

INDUSTRY is the premiere gallery in the US devoted to exhibiting the work of international 21st Century design.

* **RANDALLSCOTTPROJECTS**
  1326 H St. NE, second floor
  Washington, DC 20002
  202.396.0300
  www.randallscottprojects.com

RandallScottProjects is a contemporary arts organization that specializes in international artists who work in a variety of mediums.
GATEWAY ARTS DISTRICT

OPEN STUDIO TOUR
Sat., May 10, 2014 | Noon – 5 pm
► 17 VENUES
► 70 STUDIOS
► 100+ ARTISTS
See centerfold for map and details

► 39TH STREET GALLERY
Gateway Arts Center, 2nd floor
3901 Rhode Island Ave.
(39th Street entrance)
Brentwood MD 20722
www.39thstreetgallery.org
OPEN DURING STUDIO TOUR

The 39th Street Gallery is managed by the Gateway CDC and is dedicated to fostering fresh, creative exhibitions and projects that engage artists, curators and critics and the public in a contemporary arts dialogue.

► ARTDC GALLERY
5710 Baltimore Ave.
Hyattsville, MD 20781
artdc.com
OPEN DURING STUDIO TOUR

The artdc gallery focuses on Washington, DC metro area artists in all media including sculpture, painting and photography.

► BRENWOOD ARTS EXCHANGE
3901 Rhode Island Avenue
Brentwood, MD 20722
301.277.2863
arts.pgparks.com
OPEN DURING STUDIO TOUR

March 24–April 26, 2014
Exchanged III: School of Art Students from George Mason and James Madison Universities
• OPENING RECEPTION
Sat., March 29 | 5–8 pm

Project America’s Next Top Master Artist
• OPENING RECEPTION
Sat., May 10 | 5-8pm
Round One: May 10–May 24
Round Two: June 1–June 14
Round Three: June 22–July 19

► DC GLASSWORKS
5346 46th Ave.
Hyattsville, MD 20781
301.927.8271
www.dcglassworks.com
OPEN DURING STUDIO TOUR

Sat., May 10 | noon–5 pm
See DC GlassWorks artists transform 2,000 degree clear glass into colorful vases, bowls, sculpture and more at their May Open House. Enjoy free beer and snacks while visiting 15 Resident Artist studios to see what happens when artists put their glass and metal working skills to the test. Work with one of our instructors to make your own blown glass paperweight for a fee. Child appropriate.

CRAFT STORE
Unique items hadcrafted by local artists

Bring in this ad for 10% off your entire purchase

PROJECT AMERICA’S NEXT TOP MASTER ARTIST
Opening May 10, 5-8pm

Grand Finale and Crowning of America’s Top Master Artist:
July 19, 5-8pm
The Gateway Arts District Celebrates its 10th Annual Open Studio Tour

BY ERIC HOPE

With the coming of spring, one of the largest arts-related events in our region is just around the corner. The Gateway Arts District’s annual open studios tour is scheduled for May 10th and this year marks the tenth anniversary of this unparalleled event.

Billed by the organizers as, “the DC Region’s largest one-day visual arts festival,” the studio tour will showcase over 100 artists working out of 70 studios covering 17 locations along the Route One corridor.

Spearheading the event is Carole Bernard, Executive Director of the Gateway Community Development Corporation. The Gateway CDC (G-CDC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to revitalize the communities of Mount Rainier, Brentwood and North Brentwood, using the arts as a focal point for growth. Some of the organization’s most publicly visible activities include running the Gateway Arts Center and managing numerous artist studios in the Gateway Arts Center and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Working alongside Ms. Bernard to coordinate the event is neighborhood artist Tim McLoraine, who is currently meeting with area artists to solicit feedback and incorporate their ideas.

While plans are still evolving, the organizers intend to celebrate the tenth anniversary with several special commemoration events. At 11:30 am, the unveiling of public art by Margaret Boozer, followed by remarks from city and county officials will kick-off the tour. The Brentwood Arts Exchange will host Project America’s Next Top Master Artist, an elimination-style competition where audience votes will move artist-contestants through elimination rounds. Lastly, an after-party at the 39th Street Gallery will allow guests to mingle amidst the art of Martha Davis Jackson and will feature a raffle of artwork by Laurie Breen, whose studio is located in the building.

Given her organization’s mission, Bernard views the arts as a catalyst for neighborhood change. For the G-CDC, organizing and staging this event is not only a labor of love but a moment to showcase the level of connectivity between artists and the greater community along the Route One corridor. “There is such a linkage with how arts are positioned within the district and how the community as a whole develops,” she tells me. Her overarching goal is to show developers and small-scale entrepreneurs looking for opportunities that engaging artists and art-related entities will enrich their development plans in ways unobtainable in other locales. Viewed through that lens, this event marks a moment for artists to flex their creative muscles and highlight what makes this neighborhood so dynamic.

The notion that “the arts” can be used to spawn creative development is not new—East City Art has been covering similar changes in neighborhoods such as Anacostia, H Street and Brookland—but my hunch is that individual artists may not view their work through this catalyst lens. To test that hypothesis and explore why artists choose to participate in events like these, I reached out to Margaret Boozer, founder and director of Red Dirt Studios, located in Mount Rainier. Founded in 1996, Red Dirt Studios is an incubator, exhibition space and studio all neatly combined into one large building which currently houses 13 artists.

 Boozer has had a front seat to the transformation of the neighborhood from both an economic and an artistic perspective. Artists working in the area were arranging informal open studio tours back in the 90’s, but it was not coordinated into a cohesive, “branded” event until ten years ago when the G-CDC was developed. One of the main benefits from her perspective is the way that this yearly event has really made
artists visible to each other in the neighborhood. In the past, artists were mainly working independently in studios, but with the advent of planned openings, artists began to make connections and, ten years later, we can see a very engaged community, aware of its own social and political clout.

As it turns out, her reasons for participating every year really do dovetail with the work of the G-CDC. Boozer contends that one of the unique characteristics of the area is that widely-known, professional artists are working alongside serious hobbyists, and these regular open studio tours encourage “cross pollination” of ideas allowing artists to open their personal and professional networks. In this regard, the Open Studio Tour is a professional networking event as well as a chance to showcase work. As such, she’s been able to cultivate relationships that have led to business collaborations and sales long after the tours have ended.

 Boozer also tells me that showcasing the strength of the artistic community in the Gateway Arts District is imperative if the artists wish to remain in this area long-term. Changes are taking place, and given the sheer concentration of artists living and working in the district, the arts community is in a position to steer that development in ways that celebrate and promote the arts. But they have to show up—“If you’re not involved, someone else is going to make decisions for you,” Boozer notes.

Indeed artists are stepping up and heeding the call and in many cases discovering that artistic and entrepreneurial mindsets go hand in hand. A great example of this is Art Lives Here, a visibility campaign developed in 2011 that encourages local artists to invigorate their

“There is such a linkage with how arts are positioned within the district and how the community as a whole develops.”

neighboring business districts. This initiative is a great example of the ways in which local artists can harness the power of local political and nonprofit entities in an effort to place the arts at the forefront of neighborhood redevelopment.

In the end my hunch was proven incorrect which is humbling but also reassuring. It is exciting to watch artists develop their business acumen along with their craft and taking control of their community in the process. I hope visitors will get a sense of that shift as they walk from studio to studio on Saturday May 10.
OPEN STUDIO TOUR

SATURDAY
MAY 10, 2014
12-5pm
After-party and Opening Receptions at the GATEWAY ARTS CENTER 5-8pm.

HYATTSVILLE
NORTH BRENTWOOD
BRENTWOOD
MOUNT RAINIER

17 VENUES | 70 STUDIOS | 100+ ARTISTS
On May 10, 2014, the creative community of the GATEWAY ARTS DISTRICT will open its doors for the 10th annual GATEWAY OPEN STUDIO TOUR!

Come spend the day in our creative spaces.

ALAN BINSTOCK STUDIO
BREWER’S ARCADE
JOE’S MOVEMENT EMPORIUM
ANI KASTEN CERAMICS
MON CHERI GALLERY
ART WORKS NOW
RED DIRT STUDIO
FLUX STUDIOS
ARTISTS ON THE TRACKS
WASHINGTON GLASS SCHOOL
JOANNA BLAKE STUDIO
GATEWAY ARTS CENTER
BRENTWOOD ARTS EXCHANGE
39th STREET STUDIOS
39th STREET GALLERY
ezSTORAGE STUDIOS
PGAAMCC
artDC
DC GLASS WORKS

...AND MANY MORE

gatewayopenstudios.org
Brookland Update
BY PHIL HUTINET

In the winter edition of the *East City Art Quarterly Guide to the Visual Arts*, I introduced readers to Brookland’s ascendency as DC’s newest arts district telling the story of how a gallerist (Vinie Wohlfarth), a bellwether performing arts organization (Dance Place) and a residential developer (Jim Abdo) laid the groundwork to help transform a sleepy northeast neighborhood into what could become the next great center for the arts.

The arts do not hibernate in DC and especially not in Brookland. Since the winter edition, a number of developments in the greater Brookland community came to my attention. Here is a round-up of what’s going on now and what’s to come this spring.

**DANCE PLACE**
www.danceplace.com

*New Dance Place Theater Features Public Art*

After a series of permitting delays, the expansion of Dance Place’s theater and office space is well underway despite the grueling cold winter. Using their existing space as a shell upon which to grow, the upgraded building will expand the office space, the theater and the lobby area.

When the construction ends in May, a massive piece of public art will adorn the outside of Dance Place’s building. But this is not just any kind of public art - the piece will engage the public through an interactive musical component.

Artist and composer Christopher Janney calls the piece “Touch My Building: Dance Place.” Composed of colored glass, the bright and cheery interactive sound installation invites the public to approach the building, engage with the structure by touch and create “a sound-score of melodic and environmental sounds.” According to Janney, a minimum of four sound-banks with 12 sound-samples will allow users to create a vast array of different sound...
combinations with each experience sounding different from the last.

Janney’s “Touch my Building” perfectly bridges Dance Place’s traditional role as a performing arts organization with the growing visual arts scene of Brookland like their next door neighbor, Brookland Art Lofts, and the Artswalk up 8th Street NE which houses Studio 21, Dance Place’s own gallery and exhibition space.

**DISTRICT CLAY**
www.districtclay.com
New Ceramics Studio in Brookland-Langdon

South of Rhode Island Avenue NE facing the train tracks that ferry passengers and freight between DC and the northeast corridor, a brick industrial building houses DC’s newest ceramics studio. By looking at Google Maps’ street imaging, the space appears rather unimposing and modest in size.

Visiting places in person surprise pleasantly where appearances often deceive! District Clay ceramic studios takes up but one part of a massive 33,000 square foot building which once served as a train station, a post office and more recently as a paper warehouse. The facility now houses District Clay, multiple artist studios, several small businesses including a local coffee roaster and a massive 6,000 square foot furniture showroom. More on the rest of the building will be revealed in the summer edition when the entire space officially opens to the public.

District Clay’s owner Cass Johnson has “thrown” clay for the better part of two decades. Ready to run his own operation, he spared no expense, purchasing all new equipment and installing both an electric and a gas kiln. There are three distinct spaces- a light-filled classroom, a kiln/drying room and an area which Johnson has designated as a future faculty-student exhibition space.

Students can register anytime for a ten-week course cycle. This model allows people with demanding schedules to customize their learning experience. District Clay offers a wide variety of coursework suited to everyone’s skill level.

*Find District Clay Class listings in this guide’s “Classes” section*

**PLEASANT PLAINS WORKSHOP**
www.pleasantplainsworkshop.com
PPW will open a new Annex in Brookland-Edgewood

The flagship PPW, located on Georgia Avenue NW across from Howard University, has hosted a series of cutting-edge exhibitions in its micro-gallery and has a boutique selling handmade items by local artists, designers and crafters. PPW Georgia Avenue also has residencies, workshops and a print studio. Now this creative energy comes to Brookland.

I caught up with Kristina Bilonick on one of the coldest winter days to visit what will become the future Brookland annex of PPW. Located in an old warehouse with a seemingly secret entrance that houses a series of artist studios, the roughly 1,500 square foot space boasts high ceilings, lots of light and has a distinctly industrial feel. PPW Brookland will offer a series of courses in printing taught by residents. PPW’s specialty, like Open Studio DC, is silkscreen printing, a very approachable technique for printing novices.

With the opening of District Clay and the Pleasant Plains Workshop Brookland annex, residents of East City will now have the opportunity to try their hand at ceramics and screen printing without having to travel very far.
**Brookland**

**District Clay**
2414 Douglas Ave NE
Washington, DC 20018
202.740.7207
www.DistrictClay.com

*Enrollment is always open.*

**Beginning & Intermediate Wheel**
Mon. 6–8:30 pm
Tue. 6–8:30 pm
Wed. 3:30–6 pm & 6–8:30 pm
Sat. 10–12:30 pm & 12:30–3 pm

**Kids class—Beginning & Intermediate Wheel**
Thu. 6–8:30 pm

**Ceramic Tile**
Sat. 12–12:30 pm

**Ceramic Sculpture**
Sat. 12:30–3 pm

**Special Focus—Intermediate to Advanced Wheel**
Sun. 10–12:30 pm

**Open Studio**
Sun. 12:30–4 pm

**Capitol Hill**

**Capitol Hill Arts Workshop**
545 7th St. SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.547.6839
www.chaw.org

**Adult Visual Art Classes**

**Oil Painting Basics and Beyond**
Teaching Artist, Ellen Cornett
Mon. April 7–June 2 | 6:30–8:30 pm

**A Taste of Sculpture**
Teaching Artist, Carolina Mayorga
Mon., Mar. 10–31 | 6:30–8:30pm

**Drawing II**
Teaching Artist, Carolina Mayorga
Tues., 6:30–8:30 pm | April 8–May 27 (8wks)

**Advanced Watercolor and Pastel Painting**
Teaching Artist, Ellen Cornett
Wed., April 9–May 28 | 10 am–1 pm

**Drawing I**
Teaching Artist, Carolina Mayorga
Wed., April 9–May 28 | 6:45–8:45 pm

**Life Drawing**
Teaching Artist, Ellen Cornett
Thur., April 10–May 29 | 6:30–8:30 pm

**Ceramics Basics I**
Teaching Artist, Lindsey Walter
Mon., April 7–June 2 | 6:30–8:30 pm

**IPhoto Kids, Family, Pets, Friends**
Teaching Artist, Eileen Sullivan
Mon., April 7–June 2 | 6:30–8:30 pm

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**Spectacular Sculpture**
Ages 6–9
Sat. March 1, 8, 15 | 2:30 pm–3:30 pm

**Craft Hangout**
First and Third Tuesdays | 6:30 pm–9 pm
Ages: 18+

**Spring Break Camps:**
Camp SCRAP, Ages 6–9
April 15–16 | 9:30 am–1 pm
Camp SCRAP, Ages 10–13
April 17–18 | 9:30 am–1 pm
Ages 10–13

Visit http://scrapdc.eventbrite.com for up to date April and May Weekend Classes

**Studio 21**
716 Monroe Street NE Studio 21
Monroe Street Arts Walk
Washington, DC 20017
202.269.1600
www.danceplace.org

**Arts and Crafts**
Every Saturday at 12:30 pm
With artists Carla Perlo & Andrea Petty-Brown

**Washington Drawing Center**
716 Monroe Street NE, Studio No. 7
Monroe Street Market Arts Walk
Washington, DC 20017
202-841-0864
www.washingtondrawingcenter.com

**Life Figure Drawing**
Wed. | 6:30–930 pm
Sat. | 10 am–1 pm except holiday
GATEWAY ARTS DISTRICT

ART WORKS NOW Studio School
3711 Rhode Island Ave.
Mount Rainier, MD 20712
301.454.0808
www.artworksnow.org

Kids Create with CLAY
Mon., Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Mon., April 7, 14, 21, 28 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Mon., May 5, 12, 19, 26 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Ages: 5 and up. Teaching artist Shaine Siegel guides our young artists in creating exciting clay projects.

Kids Create with COLOR
Wed., Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Wed., May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Wed., July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 36 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Wed., July 29, 6, 13, 20, 27 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Ages: 6 and up. Using watercolor, acrylic, collage, or oil pastels.

Kids Create with DRAWING SKILLS
Thu., Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Thu., April 3, 10, 17, 24 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Thu., May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 36 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm
Ages: 5 and up. Teaching artist Artist

Manga Mania-Japanese Comics!
Sat., April 5
Learn from local Manga creators to make an original comic.

Spring Break Earth Camp
April 14–18 | 9:00 am–3:00 pm
earth-themed camp w/clay making

SUMMER CAMPS
Ages 5–12, see ad page 4 for details.

BRENTWOOD ARTS EXCHANGE
Gateway Arts Center
3901 Rhode Island Avenue
Brentwood, MD 20722
301.277.2863
arts.pgarks.com

Easter Egg Dyeing
Saturday, April 12, 1–4 pm
Digital Photography
Tue., March 18–April 22 | 6:30–8:30 pm
Photoshop
Tue., April 29–May 20 | 6:30–8:30 pm
Spring Break Art Camp
April 14–18 | 9:00 am–4:30 pm
Beginning Jewelry Making
Wed., March 5–April 2 | 6:30–8:30 pm
Wed., April 9–May 7 | 6:30–8:30 pm
Kids Metalworking
Sat., April 5 | 11 am–3 pm
Action Watercolor for Seniors
Tuesday, May 20, 1–3 pm
SUMMER ART CAMPS
June 30–July 11
July 14–July 25
July 28–August 8

WASHINGTON GLASS SCHOOL
3700 Otis Street
Mount Rainier, MD 20712
202.744.8222
www.washglass.com

Classes offered by world-renowned teaching artists in a variety of glass techniques and skill levels.
In a Rapidly Changing City, Native Washingtonian Artist Carves out Space for Himself

BY CHRISTINA STURDIVANT

When Kaliq Crosby travels throughout his Columbia Heights neighborhood, there’s a certain air that did not exist too long ago. “At times I feel out of place—ten years ago, it would have been the norm to see me in certain neighborhoods heading down the street to get pizza, or to the subway station or anywhere,” says the 28-year-old African American man who grew up near DC’s U St. Corridor. “Whereas now that it’s a predominantly white neighborhood that I live in, things are a bit more awkward for everyone.”

Crosby recalls instances of his new neighbors crossing the street at the sight of him turning the corner. The level of safety, he believes, is constantly being measured as newer residents attempt to co-exist with the old.

While Crosby’s street gear and DC persona often confine him to a stereotype marked by black male incarceration, high school dropouts and petty thieves, he is far from being a product of his environment. Instead, he uses his passion for art to extrude misconceptions about himself and to unify his community.

Inside the Best Cut Barber shop on Georgia Avenue NW, across from the Howard University School of Business, a mural of the Washington Redskins is airbrushed in burgundy and gold, conceptualized by Crosby’s realization that this enclave is a rare safe-haven of solidarity amongst black men.

“I wanted to make a piece that displayed what a young black person could do in an environment where we’re always looking out for each other. The barber shop is probably one of the only spaces where black men are around each other and everything is cool—we’re relaxed, there is no tension, everybody speaks and we’re all a community,” says Crosby, who has been a regular at Best Cut since he was twelve years old. “I decided to put up a piece that would show pride for our city, for our hometown. I used the Redskins because that’s something that everybody loves and probably grew up on.”

As a child, the artist bug hit him early. “I started drawing as soon as I could pick up a pencil and write my
name,” he says. “I was drawing on the walls as a kid in the living room and always getting in trouble for that.”

To prevent their home from becoming a playhouse of their child’s imagination, Crosby’s parents provided constructive support by enrolling him in special arts programs throughout elementary and middle school.

“They’ve always bought me things that would help me get to the next level with my art,” says Crosby of his parents.

During his sophomore year in high school at Duke Ellington School of the Arts, his father gifted him an airbrush for Christmas. This tool has become the primary medium in which he uses to create his art.

“Airbrushing gives me a lot of range as far as creating lines and shapes at the same time, and getting things done quickly,” says Crosby who can be spotted at local events throughout the city performing live art installations. “It’s a really technical and tedious art form, but I love the results that I get so I stick with it.”

In 2008, he combined his artistic skills and interest in fashion into an entrepreneurial endeavor, Kaliq Customs. The business specializes in crafting signature clothing for individuals and organizations—from caps, to sweatshirts to dance uniforms.

Currently, Crosby is mixing airbrush and hand-paint in a mixed media series of portraits featuring black women, “capturing their beauty and natural essence.”

Conceived from photographic memory of women from varying heritages adorned in head wraps and handmade garments with bold and bright colors, Crosby hopes that this collection will further exemplify his mission to create works that are appreciative of his culture, and in particular, his female ancestry.

Later this year, in advance of college homecoming season, he plans to create a series of pieces dedicated to Greek fraternities and sororities. Organizations like the divine nine, Crosby believes, promote African American culture in a way that demonstrates strength and a larger sense of community.

The graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art continues to be inspired by the plight of inner city youth.

“There’s a negative connotation about black men and people get examples of that more often than the good stuff,” says Crosby, who plans to arrange workshops at his high school alma mater, teaching students the basics of airbrushing and how to monetize art.

He hopes that these engagements will allow youth to identify with success and explore opportunities to be impactful through creativity.

“I think there needs to be someone like me who’s young and looks like them, walks like them and talks like them who can actually spread a message of how great we can be and to show them the different possibilities that they can have within art,” he says. “We don’t live in a culture that cultivates people becoming writers and artists and doing artistic and creative things that literary have changed the world since the beginning of time. I definitely want to be a vessel to bring out the good stuff.”
UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:

March 6-April 27: Montgomery County Plein Air Artists Juried Exhibition
Reception with the Artists: March 19, 6-8 p.m.

May 1-June 22: Multi-artist Exhibition
Reception with the Artists: May 8, 6-8 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS:
Monday - Friday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m-5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 Noon-5 p.m.
All dates and times are tentative and subject to change. Visit hillcenterdc.org or call (202) 549-4172 to confirm gallery receptions.

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Photos by Terricka Johnson