

# **Collaborative public art, its implications on youth and urban renewal.**

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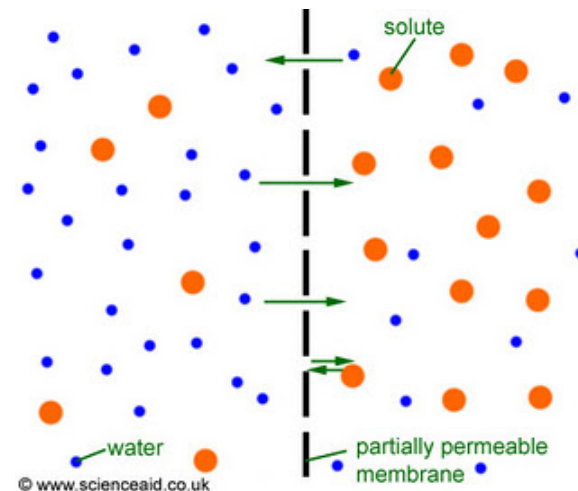
Artistic Director Creation Nation

“Public Art by the Public”

Newark NJ

# Osmosis – a time of redistribution

- *The movement of solvent molecules through a selectively permeable membrane into a region of higher solute concentration, aiming to equalize the solute concentrations on the two sides.*



# Handling data

- **Data Acquisition:** 2011 Newark Census.
  - Newark City Count 2010, a city profile of child well-being.
  - Newark Construction and fiscal report
- **Data Juxtaposition:** positioning data on education, socio economics of Newarks youth, civic renewal and the art world side by side.

# **Narrative – building a community of shared value, rebalancing wealth for the overall health of a community**

- The Economic Opportunity and Cultural Renaissance in Newark:
- Contrast: A Snapshot of Newark's Children:
- Contrast: A Snapshot of Newark's Public Schools:
- The Arts and Arts in Education Landscape in Newark:
- Bridging the Gap: Engaging the business sphere in education and urban renewal projects.



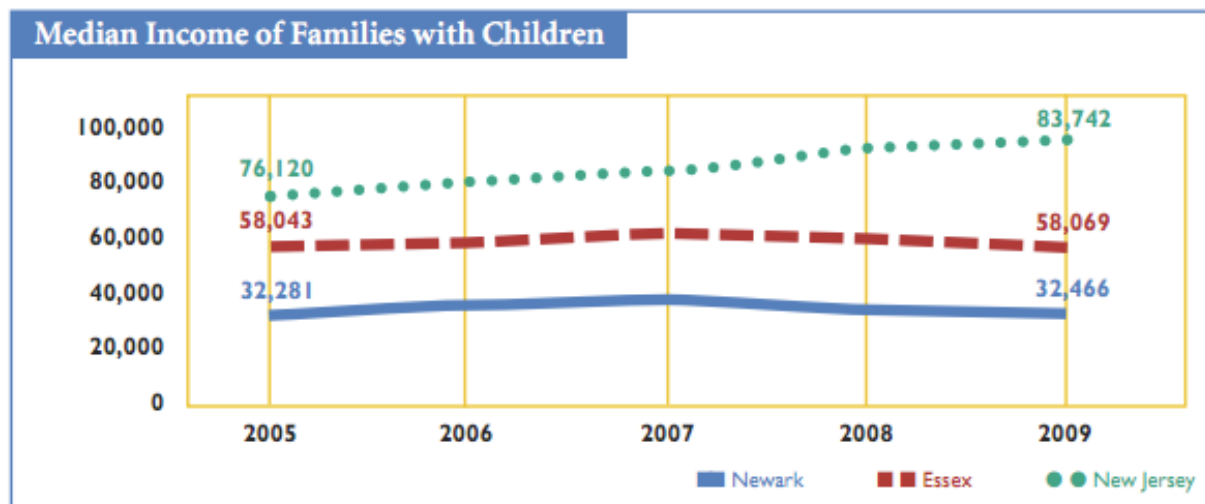
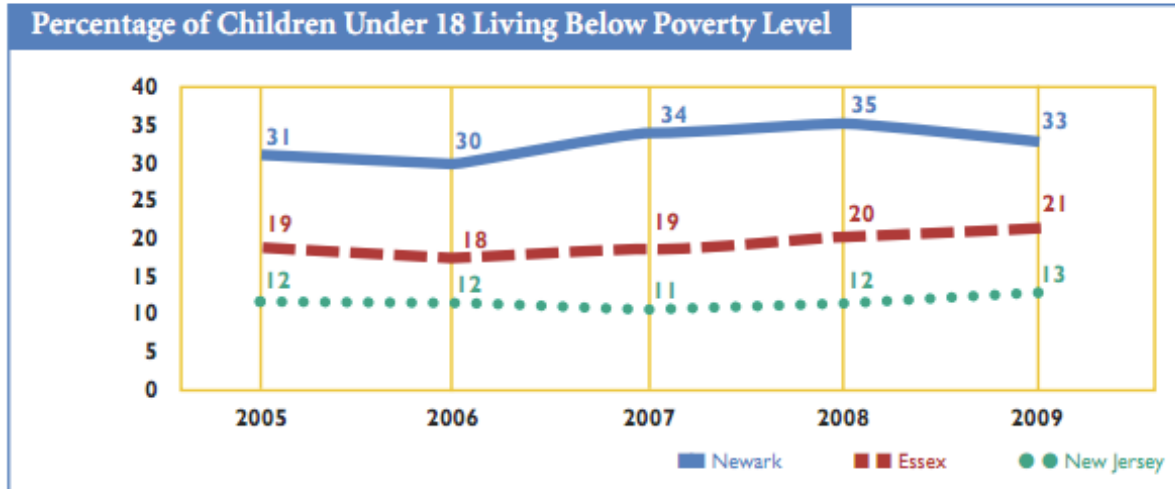
# The Economic Opportunity and Cultural Renaissance in Newark:

- [\\$700 Million in development fiscal 2011](#) including the Marriott Hotel – the first hotel to be built in Newark in 40 years, and the national headquarters for Panasonic breaking ground early 2012.
- [The Prudential Center](#) hosts some 200 events per year including the NHL Devils, college basketball, professional basketball, concerts and family events
- [NJPAC](#), a world – class cultural complex featuring world renowned national and international music, dance and theatre now involved in the building of One Theatre Square, a mixed-use skyscraper in the heart of the cultural district.
- [Universities](#): A thriving and rapidly expanding diverse college and university community of over 45,000 students, including Rutgers University and Business School, the NJ Institute of Technology, Essex County College, Seton Hall Law, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ, and Berkeley College.

# Newark's Children

- Despite recent economic growth in Newark, the city's children see little of the benefit. In the largest city in the second wealthiest state in the United States, a state that includes nine of the wealthiest 100 counties in the country; the city of Newark has a [median per capita income of \\$13,009](#), in comparison to a median New Jersey per capita income of \$27,006, and an average US per capita income of \$21,587.
- [35% of Newark's children live below the national poverty line](#)
- 18% of Newark's children live in a family where neither parent or guardian has a job
- 71% of Newark's children are on Medicaid of the state equivalent
- 62% receive free or reduced-price lunches at school
- 36% of people 25 years of age and older in Newark hold less than a high school diploma.
- Maintaining the status-quo presents the perfect storm for generational poverty, gang violence and a generation of children who cannot visualize their future.

# Financial Statistics of Newark Children



# Newark's Public Schools:

- Approximately 40,000 children
- A dysfunctional public school system taken over by the state in 1995– Fifteen years later we have lost a generation with test scores continuing to fall, and graduation rates continuing to drop.
- “No child left behind” mandates require schools to teach to tests focusing on reading and math only, greatly reducing or eliminating entirely art and civics from the curriculum, stifling creativity and innovation.
- Fewer than 50% of the city's children graduate high school.
- Of those who do graduate, a mere 20% are prepared for college or meaningful employment.
- Of the above 20%, a full 90% require two years of remedial support to attain freshman college level entrance requirements.

# The Arts and Arts in Education Landscape in Newark:

- Newark Arts Council: collects and disseminates information on the arts and coordinates the city's annual Open Doors Arts Festival. Spent [\\$250 million over 3 years](#) in round table discussion all money gone to out of town consultants.
- NJPAC – performing arts center providing world - class performances and arts education specializing in gifted and talented programs in the performing arts, and providing limited artist in residence programs in the schools.
- The Newark Museum – A world-class museum providing cultural enrichment and educational programs for the community and its youth.
- Newark School of the Arts – a 43 year-old institution specializing in classic performing arts lessons for youth.
- A handful of fine art galleries including Aljira, Index, Sumei, Aferro, Seed, and Paul Robeson, presenting fine arts expositions and limited educational programs for youth.
- City Without Walls – a 42 year old art gallery offering limited educational opportunities to Newark's youth, appointed by the City of Newark in 2009 to lead the city's public mural program, currently operating without an Executive Director or permanent staff, subcontracting at least 2-3 of the city's projected 8 murals over the next year to the Barat Youth Initiative.

# Children involved in art programs and public effected by program.





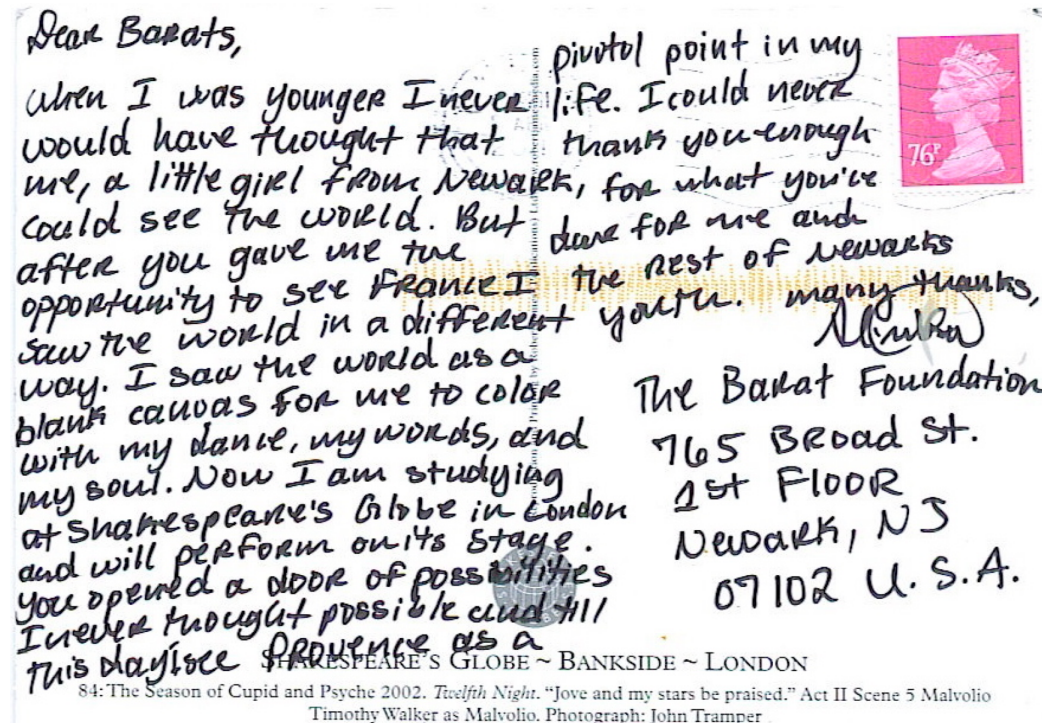
# Emergent System:

- Contextualize urban renewal via civic engagement with inner city youth through youth created public art works.



# Challenges

- **Quantify** – how to quantify inspiration.
- Map “**change over time**”. 2005-2012:
  - Individual student’s lives.
  - Program’s growth
  - City’s benefit





Thank you...