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In Johnston Square, Designer-In-Residence Christina Delgado celebrates stories and local history, gives a bridge a colorful facelift, and hosts a free farmers market.



Artist **Christina Delgado** is collaborating on a summer-long public space intervention with the Johnston Square neighborhood, through the **Neighborhood Design Center’s Build Together Summer Design Residency**. Delgado is one of three Designers in Residence working in East Baltimore this summer through Build Together, alongside Jaz Erenberg (in residence in East Baltimore Midway), and Courtney Morgan (in residence in Broadway East).

For years, the Johnston Square community has been actively organizing to move their high-priority community projects forward. Recent successes include the renovation of Henrietta Lacks Park, and the creation of the **Johnston**

Square 2020 Vision Plan, led by **Mrs. Regina Hammond** and the Johnson Square community association **Rebuild Johnston Square** alongside the Johnson Square Partnership. Creatives have joined the effort, bringing storytelling and community identity elements to fruition in a series of design projects rooted in local history and culture.

Delgado’s partnership with the Johnston Square community includes an effort to beautify and enliven the **E Biddle St. bridge** located at 300 E Biddle Street. The gateway installation covers both the north and south sides of the bridge with a 200-foot mural design emulating Johnston Square’s new community identity branding, along with 14 vinyl photos on display. This site intervention ‘bridges’ the dividing line between Johnston Square and Midtown, and anticipates a future park and development along E Biddle Street, as part of the Johnston Square 2020 Vision Plan. Delgado, a Baltimore based artist, designer, educator and organizer, intends to “create public art that honors the people that make and have made Johnston Square a place of community”.

In addition to the bridge beautification, a culminating event will bring people together around the community. The **Johnston Square Gateway Event** will take place **October 2, 2020** from **1-4pm**, at **400 E. Biddle Street, Baltimore, MD 21202** and will include:

- a short film of Johnston Square oral stories, images, and community footage created by Noisy Tenants
- family friendly sidewalk chalk drawing designed by muralist and painter Paige Orpin
- a free farmer’s market including many things families of Johnston Square once had access to such as produce, groceries, and baked goods.
- community altar mapping highlighting key areas in the community that are/were important to residents of the community. These “community altars” will include flower bombs and artistic elements from words and pictures that residents have shared throughout the residency time period.

Learn more about the event at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8cfub7>

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS:

Regina Hammond, Rebuild Johnston Square
Christina Delgado, Neighborhood Design Center Build Together Designer in Residence
G Laster, (Harvard University and Rebuild Metro Intern)
Jenny Guillaume (Rebuild Metro)
Paige Orpin (Mural Artist)
Nicholas Mitchell (Noisy Tenants)
James Boicourt, (Charm City Meadworks)

ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN CENTER

Since 1968, Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) has helped Baltimore communities build new playgrounds, reclaim abandoned buildings and vacant lots, develop affordable housing, revitalize commercial districts and create neighborhood master plans. NDC is the only volunteer-based non-profit in the Baltimore-Washington area that provides these services. With offices in the Station North neighborhood of Baltimore and in Hyattsville, MD, NDC's assistance strengthens civic participation in development initiatives, educates the public about the value of good design, planning and preservation as community revitalization tools, and increases investment in the sensitive rebuilding of neighborhoods. www.ndc-md.org

MEDIA CONTACT

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