

# BLACK ROCK ARTS FOUNDATION

INSPIRING ART, COMMUNITY & CIVIC PARTICIPATION

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## **ScrapEden Public Art Installations Team Artists with Community Park Groups to Craft Pro-Environment Message**

The Black Rock Arts Foundation, a non-profit arts organization that promotes civic participation through public art programs, has launched ScrapEden SF – a project pairing three San Francisco park groups with artists to create temporary public sculptures from reclaimed and recycled materials. Working under a Zero Waste grant from the San Francisco Department of the Environment and in conjunction with the Neighborhood Parks Council, three public art projects intended to inspire people to recycle, reclaim and reuse will be unveiled in SF neighborhood parks in June 2007.

Mayor Gavin Newsom said of the initiative, “Temporary public art can play an important role in helping San Francisco residents engage with their public parks and with one another. ScrapEden SF is a terrific pilot project of the Black Rock Arts Foundation that brings together artists and public park groups to creatively spread the message of how important it is for people to recycle, reuse and compost. I’m all for it.”

“We are thrilled to be working with community groups who are committed to their neighborhood parks and artists who see public art as a way to encourage people to reconsider their role in protecting the environment,” said foundation Executive Director Leslie Pritchett. “Watching the artists’ concepts evolve in response to direct involvement with community has been very exciting.”

Neighborhood Parks Council director Isabel Wade is enthusiastic about the partnership. “We’re so excited about this opportunity to support temporary interactive art installations in our City’s parks. We are aware from national studies that art installations help draw positive park use and build community connections”.

Three site-specific proposals developed for ScrapEden SF are now under permit review with appropriate San Francisco city agencies:

### ***Panhandle Bandshell, Panhandle Park***

The *Panhandle Bandshell* will be a full-scale, traditional bandshell constructed predominantly from reclaimed materials—including car hoods, circuit boards and plastic bottles. The project will engage community members through its design and installation and by providing a performance stage for acoustic (non-amplified) performances throughout the summer. For more information about this collaboration of The Finch Mob, REBAR Group, CMG Landscape Architecture and the North of the Panhandle Neighborhood Association (NOPNA), please visit: [www.panhandlebandshell.com](http://www.panhandlebandshell.com).

### ***Casa de la Imagination, Parque Ninos Unidos***

Artist Wendy Testu, in collaboration with students from the Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School and the Mission Parents Group, will create a small open play space, organic in nature, constructed from, among other things, leftover building supplies, tree branch trimmings, rubber bicycle tires, and plastic milk cartons. *Casa de la Imagination*, chosen for Parque Niños Unidos at 23rd Street & Treat in San Francisco, will be accessible to local residents during its exhibition, and in Testu's words, "will encourage local residents of all ages to take notice of their park and consider their own consumption of materials."

### ***Sol Flor, Juri Commons***

A series of recycled mosaics, *Sol Flor*, designed by artist Jennifer Alexander for Juri Commons at 25th Street & Guerrero in San Francisco will be created in collaboration with the Juri Commoners, a group of area residents and park enthusiasts. The colorful found-object mosaics inspired by flowers and the sun will be installed at ground level throughout the park—folks will be able to walk, sit and picnic on the mosaics. Alexander believes strongly, "in living consciously and working towards a healthier future where people consider the waste that we collectively create." For more information visit <http://www.jennalex.com/solflor/>.

All three collaborative ScrapEden SF projects will serve as tools to talk about the importance of recycling, reuse, and composting with an ultimate goal of changing residents behaviors around trash in San Francisco. In addition, these pilot efforts will provide a lab for the development of a community arts organizer's toolkit. Installations are expected to open in early June 2007, and will remain in place for approximately three months.

ScrapEden SF is a continuation of the Black Rock Arts Foundation's Civic Participation Program, pairing working artists with communities to inspire positive social change. Past projects of foundation include the installation of public art in Civic Center Plaza, the Hayes Green, Pier 14 on the Embarcadero, and Indian Basin Shoreline Park at Hunter's Point. For more information, please visit [www.blackrockarts.org](http://www.blackrockarts.org).

The Neighborhood Parks Council advocates for a superior, equitable and sustainable park and recreation system through community-driven stewardship, education, planning and research. Since 1996, the Neighborhood Parks Council has grown to include 120+ park groups and 4,000 park volunteers, establishing itself as San Francisco's premier park advocacy group.



Artist's Rendering  
*The Panhandle Bandshell Project*