



The Josephine Herrick Project

**10030: Seeing Our Neighborhood
Through a New Lens**

PS 123 - Mahalia Jackson
Spring 2019



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Front cover photo by Areana Hoque



JP | JOSEPHINE HERRICK PROJECT

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Through its free photography programs, the Josephine Herrick Project (JHP) works to transform the lives of individuals facing social, physical, and economic barriers in life. We partner with schools, human service agencies, health care facilities, libraries, and community organizations to deliver customized and hands-on digital photography courses taught by professional photographers.

For JHP participants, the camera is a transformative tool, helping individuals build self-confidence and visual literacy, think creatively and critically, engage actively with their communities, tell their own stories, and advocate for themselves, effecting change in their own lives and the world around them.

JHP was established in 1941 by pioneering photographer Josephine Herrick (pictured left) to teach photography to wounded service personnel returning from World War II. Since then, our programs have expanded to serve a variety of marginalized and vulnerable communities for whom photography provides a way to share their stories with a wider audience.

About this Project

In partnership with PS 123 - Mahalia Jackson and Graham-Windham's Beacon After-School program, the Josephine Herrick Project presents **10030: Seeing Our Neighborhood Through a New Lens** featuring photographs by Harlem middle school students. Over the course of 16 sessions, these students learned about digital photography and visual storytelling, using their Harlem neighborhood as the backdrop to their practice, exploring the community on foot with camera in hand. Though often photographed and documented, this rapidly changing area is often misrepresented, and rarely is Harlem seen through the eyes of young people. The images presented here tell a story about *their* Harlem, allowing us to see the neighborhood through their eyes, and more importantly, letting these young people frame the narrative about their community.



The Josephine Herrick Project was delighted to work with youth from PS 123 in Harlem, in partnership with the school and particularly with Graham Windham who runs the Beacon After-School program at the school. We wish to thank both partners:

In full partnership with families and communities, **Graham Windham** strives to make a life-altering difference with children, youth and families who are overcoming some of life's most difficult challenges and obstacles, by helping to build a strong foundation for life: a safe, loving, permanent family and the opportunity and preparation to thrive in school and in the world.

PS 123 - Mahalia Jackson is based in central Harlem, an area with its challenges: a hub for homeless shelters, as well as for recent arrivals from Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, Central and South America - PS 123 has long served some of Manhattan's highest need children. The youth who attended the class were bright and enthusiastic about learning photography, and eager to use this new tool to show us the beauty of their neighborhood.





"I liked doing photography a lot. It made me look more carefully at my surroundings."



W 139 St

ONE
DIST. OF TRANSPORTATION

"This 2nd image shows 139th street in Harlem. The clouds POP OUT in the background. I took this picture because it reminds me of my neighborhood."



Zion Gadsden

"I picked this picture because it look like the person is touching the sky and it look like he is flying."



Shar-dasia Thompson



Melanie Vega



Areana Hoque



Sokhna Gadsden

"This picture is described as a selfie. The camera is set in portrait mode. It really pops out her face and neck. I like the depths Of field."



Melanie Vega



Zion Gadsden

I like focusing on one thing in this photo. I like the depth of field."



Shar-dasia Thompson



Areana Hoque



Areana Hoque



"I like how the picture is composed and I like how it looks like the hand is touching the sky."

" *Beauty, evolution, secretive, passionate, gesture, and overlooked* are what can describe these pictures I chose. Beauty and evolution can describe because the flower evolves from just a little bud or seed and grows to something that looks spectacular. Secretive, passionate, and gesture describe this picture because flowers can have a story behind them, how they came to be what they are. Flowers used to be given as a grand gesture, to show their passion for somebody. Lastly, *overlooked* is the word that describes the flower pictures most. Flowers are like an introvert - something that stays with what they're used to. Something that doesn't do much, but struggles with being seen. Most people walk right by a flower, not caring, what it is desperately trying to say - that it wants to be noticed appreciated for its beauty. But flowers can bring happiness into a person's life, like when walking down the street and somebody unknown gives you a compliment. It can bring joy to a person's whole day for those simple yet, changing words. Flowers can do the same, just by one look."

Sanaa Greene



Taneya Nunn



Melanie Vega





Menelly Zapata



"This image shows the depths of field and the way the portrait is its very cute. You can see in the background all the dirt and bark."

Sokhna Gadsden



Taneya Nunn

"This series of photographs showcases various types of flowers. I captured a mood of calmness. I like how the pictures gave off a positive vibe. They also gave off a floral theme. I love how the lighting and brightness complemented the shape and color of the different types of flowers I captured."





Sanaa Greene



Jaydah Henry

"This picture speaks to me because I caught the plane right in the middle of the camera. It also looks like it is a spray-painting mold. It was about to rain when this picture was taken."



Areana Hoque



Shar-dasia Thompson



Melanie Vega (both images)





"This picture speaks to me because the camera was only focused on flowers instead of the flowers and the background. It also shows the inside of the flower."

Jaydah Henry



Melanie Vega



Lismar Martinez (both images)



*Lismar
Martinez*



Menelly Zapata



Jaydah Henry

"This picture speaks to me because my friend looks like she's on a green screen. When I tried to get a photo down the block, I accidentally caught her in the photo."



JOSEPHINE HERRICK PROJECT
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Headquarters Staff

Jessica Wanamaker
Executive Director

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Director of Programs

Teaching Artists

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Rhea Creado
Alex Mangus

Student Photographers

Sokhna Gadsden
Zion Gadsden
Sanaa Greene
Jaydah Henry
Areana Hoque
Lismar Martinez
Taneya Nunn
Shar-dasia Thompson
Melanie Vega
Menelly Zapata

Back cover image by Melanie Vega

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