



Building Bridges

Alternative Spring Break Detroit 2008

With Wayne State University & Young Association of Heidelberg (YAH)

March 13, 2008

Project Development

Building bridges among diverse groups of people and connecting them through art in order to create positive change in the community, is a primary goal of the Young Association of Heidelberg (YAH). In dedication of Tyree Guyton's vision of connecting people and "building bridges", the idea of the project was born. As Tyree has many freestanding, found-object pieces on Heidelberg Street, we found it compelling if the project would involve developing a similar piece that is reflective of building bridges in Detroit and with its surrounding suburban areas, both literally and symbolically.

Wayne State's Alternative Spring Break Group and members from YAH searched the city for found objects to incorporate into the piece: wood, steel and plastic scraps, brick, etc. Student Coordinators, Erin Saenz and Brittany Betham developed the overall



sketch and concept of the piece – an evolution of materials, from wood to steel, showing the rise, fall, and the need for the renewal of Detroit and it's residents. The use of shoes, an ongoing theme of many pieces on Heidelberg Street, would also be used to represent the change in the demographics and economy of the city over several decades.

The Project

The project took place on Heidelberg Street. Despite the

weather, we found the atmosphere of Heidelberg Street prominent in our overall understanding and interpretation of what we set forth to create. After three hours, which inevitably included times of confusion, disagreement, contemplation, strategizing and teamwork, the piece reflected something we all hadn't necessarily realized before – a diverse presentation of ourselves that "strings" us all together.



Program Participants include:

Brittany Betham, WSU Student
Erin Saenz, WSU Student
Ali Balawi, WSU Student
Christopher Murphy, WSU Student
Kathleen Beson, WSU Student
David Gerst, WSU Student
Danmeng Sheng, WSU Student
Xiaoxiao Pu, WSU Student
Lisa Selman, WSU Student
Jessica Williams, YAH Lead
Coordinator

