

PRESS RELEASE

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Celebrating CETA: A Look Back at New Haven's Community Mural Program

Works by Laura Macaluso



Terry Lennox and Ruth Resnick, *We Can Do It All Better Together, in Peace, in Joy, in Love*, 1977-1979

WHAT: ***Celebrating CETA: A Look Back at New Haven's Community Mural Program***
Works by Laura Macaluso

This photography exhibit will showcase the people of New Haven who created the City's most important community mural program as part of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA); highlighting the successes, but also the tensions, of creating art in the public sphere.

WHEN: Exhibition Dates: July 18 – September 13, 2019
Artist reception: **Thursday, July 18, 5:30-7 pm**
Gallery & Library Hours: Monday – Thursday, 10 am – 8 pm; Friday & Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday Closed

WHERE: Ives Gallery (Lower Level), New Haven Free Public Library, 133 Elm Street, New Haven, CT

EVENT: A free public artist reception Thursday, July 18 from 5:30-7pm in the Ives Gallery

About the Exhibit

The goal of this photography exhibit is to showcase the people of New Haven—mayor, artists, and community members—who created the City's most important community mural program to date, under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). Although most of the murals are now gone, the program gave a professional start to many New Haven-based artists and was the first opportunity to create public art around several neighborhoods with imagery that was very different from the rest of the City's public art work. The exhibit serves to celebrate CETA and

recognize the challenges inherent in making public art, especially as seen through the installation--and subsequent removal--of the *We Can Do It All Better in Peace, In Joy, In Love* mural at the City Welfare Office. This exhibit highlights the successes, but also the tensions, of creating art in the public sphere.

About the Curator

Laura A. Macaluso works with art, history, and culture across time and place. The focus on the CETA mural program comes out of her dissertation/book research, *The Public Artscape of New Haven: Themes in the Creation of a City Identity* (2018) in which she finds an almost forgotten community mural program that gave voice and image to people of color via works of public art. CETA, its artists, and participants deserve recognition for their long-lasting impact on the City and as a precursor to the many community murals that have been created since the late 1970s. For more on her work, visit LauraMacaluso.com.

About the Ives Gallery

The Ives Gallery is proud to exhibit work that reflects and celebrates the rich diversity of greater New Haven's cultural community.

About the New Haven Free Public Library

The New Haven Free Public Library welcomes more than 850,000 visitors annually through our front doors and digital portals, realizing its mission of fostering lifelong learning, inspiring curiosity, and building community through shared access to resources, experiences, and opportunities for all. The library system includes the Ives Memorial Library on the historic New Haven Green, 24/7 online services, the Readmobile bringing books to early childhood learning centers, and four neighborhood libraries: Fair Haven, Mitchell, Stetson and Wilson. Now and tomorrow, the New Haven Free Public Library will transform lives and contribute to creating a strong, resilient, and informed community where everyone can thrive.

The New Haven Free Public Library is a 2019 winner of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for distinctive service to their communities. For more information, visit nhfpl.org.

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