



Opening October 3, 2015

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## PRESS RELEASE

# The Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling Opens October 3

***Harlem's first children's museum will feature inaugural exhibitions and special projects by Saya Woolfalk and local artist David Shrobe***

**New York, NY, September 29, 2015** - Harlem's first children's museum will open to the public on Saturday, October 3, 2015. The Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling will provide children and families a state-of-the-art facility and space to grow and learn through encounters with art and accomplished artists and storytellers, as well as opportunities to create art in multiple fully-equipped studios. The Museum will feature inaugural exhibitions presented in partnership with El Museo del Barrio and The Studio Museum in Harlem, as well as special projects by Saya Woolfalk and Harlem artist David Shrobe.

Developed by Broadway Housing Communities and designed by internationally acclaimed architect David Adjaye, this landmark institution is in one of New York City's most dynamic and culturally rich neighborhoods. The 17,000 square-foot facility is located in the historic district of Sugar Hill, at the intersection of the traditionally African-American community of Harlem and the Latino community of Washington Heights/Inwood, and adjacent to the ethnically diverse communities of the South Bronx.

"Sugar Hill, with its rich cultural and intellectual history, is a truly inspiring place and the perfect home for New York City's newest children's museum," said Susan Delvalle, Director of Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling. "In partnership with David Adjaye and other world-renowned artists, we have designed a welcoming space for children of all communities to come together to tell their stories, create meaningful art and foster creativity at an important stage in their development."

The Museum is located at 898 Saint Nicholas Avenue at West 155th Street in New York City and offers year-round art exhibitions, storytelling series, art-making workshops and a new early childhood arts education curriculum. Museum programs are designed to nurture the curiosity and creative spirit of children ages 3 to 8, building the language, literacy and critical thinking skills that lead to lifelong learning.

"This Museum represents one of the most significant cultural projects in Northern Manhattan to date and the culmination of our own Sugar Hill Project," said Ellen Baxter, Founder and Executive Director of Broadway Housing Communities. "The success of this project and warm reception from local residents and educators underscores the importance of creating opportunities to strengthen communities with access to affordable housing, early childhood education and cultural institutions."

"I am very excited to see the Sugar Hill Museum open to the public this week. It represents the completion of this building and captures the spirit of the project's aspiration to reinvent the social housing model. Offering a holistic approach to the needs of the Sugar Hill community, the building has an integrated cultural program, which places childhood development and art at its center," said London-based David Adjaye of Adjaye Associates. "I am thrilled to see this wonderful first exhibition illuminate not only the galleries but the whole neighborhood. This is the moment when the building really comes to life."

A program of Broadway Housing Communities

Broadway Housing  
Communities

—  
The Heights

The Stella

The Delta

Benziger-Abraham  
House

The Rio

Dorothy Day  
Apartments

The Sugar Hill

—  
Dorothy Day  
Early Childhood  
Center

Sugar Hill  
Museum Preschool

—  
Rio Penthouse  
Gallery

Rio Gallery II

—  
**Sugar Hill  
Children's  
Museum of  
Art & Storytelling**

## Inaugural exhibitions include:

- ***People, Places, and Things: Selections from The Studio Museum***  
Organized by Lauren Haynes, from The Studio Museum in Harlem, this exhibition explores artworks created from the 1930s to 1980s and features everything from portraits to landscapes by a group of renowned artists who have depicted everyday life in communities throughout the U.S., including Harlem.
- ***Txt: art, language, media***  
This exhibition investigates new forms of literacy and its visual impact of this on everyday life, from the literature of “ABCs” to spoken word poetry to text messaging. Presented in partnership with El Museo del Barrio, and co-curated by Rocio Aranda-Alvarado, El Museo del Barrio and Lauren Kelley, Sugar Hill Children’s Museum of Art & Storytelling.
- ***The Pollen Catchers’ Color Mixing Machine: Saya Woolfalk in collaboration with daughter Aya Mitchell***  
Filling the six walls of the Museum’s 3,000 square foot Main Gallery, Saya Woolfalk’s brilliant mural – created specifically for the Museum’s opening – is a wondrous dreamscape for all to explore. Curated by Lauren Kelley, Sugar Hill Children’s Museum of Art & Storytelling and produced with the support of members of Cre8tive YouTH\*ink’s Art School Without Walls.
- ***The 2015/2016 Artist in Residence, David Shrobe***  
A fourth generation Harlem resident, current Joan Mitchell Teaching Fellow and Hunter College MFA graduate, David Shrobe’s paintings, wall collages, and objects are an intimate rendering of the community as an evolving landscape. Selected in partnership with The Laundromat Project, David’s inaugural open studio will be a reflection of work produced at the start of his residency.

**Full Press Kit available here.**

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### **About Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling**

The 17,000sf Museum is located in the historic district of Sugar Hill, at the intersection of the traditionally African-American community of Harlem and the Latino community of Washington Heights, and adjacent to the ethnically diverse communities of the South Bronx. A cultural home for neighborhood families and for all New Yorkers, SHCM offers year-round art exhibitions, storytelling series, art-making workshops and a new early childhood arts education curriculum. Museum programs are designed to nurture the curiosity and creative spirit of three- to eight-year-old children, building the language, literacy and critical thinking skills that lead to lifelong learning. Sugar Hill Children’s Museum of Art & Storytelling is located at 898 Saint Nicholas Avenue at West 155<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. Hours starting in November will be Thursdays and Fridays, 10am to 5pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 12pm to 5pm. The Museum is closed to the public but available for school visits on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Admission is free for members and children 8 and under, \$4 for students/seniors, and \$7 for adults. For more information on Sugar Hill Children’s Museum of Art & Storytelling, please visit [www.sugarhillmuseum.org](http://www.sugarhillmuseum.org).

### **About Broadway Housing Communities and the Sugar Hill Project**

Founded in 1983, BHC is dedicated to redressing the challenges of poverty and homelessness in Upper Manhattan with an innovative model that leverages the synergies of permanent affordable and supportive housing, high-quality early childhood education, and access to the arts to improve outcomes for children, families, adults and communities. Poised to bring transformational change to a neighborhood beset by poverty, the 191,000 square foot Sugar Hill Project is BHC’s seventh residential building and first new construction initiative. With the Sugar Hill Project complete, BHC now operates two early childhood education centers (based on the art-infused Reggio Emilia philosophy), an art museum for children and three community art galleries within seven housing developments. For more information on Broadway Housing Communities and the Sugar Hill project, please visit [www.broadwayhousing.org](http://www.broadwayhousing.org).

### **About Adjaye Associates**

Adjaye Associates was established in June 2000 by founder and principal architect, David Adjaye OBE. Receiving ever-increasing worldwide attention, two of the practice’s largest commissions to date are the design of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington D.C and the Moscow School of Management (SKOLKOVO). Further projects range in scale from private houses, exhibitions, and temporary pavilions to major arts centres, civic buildings, and masterplans in Europe, North America, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Some current and recent projects in the US include: a new home for The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; The Ruby City for the Linda Pace Foundation, San

Antonio; and the Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African and African American Art at the Hutchins Centre, Harvard University (2014). Renowned for an eclectic material and colour palette and a capacity to offer a rich civic experience, the buildings differ in form and style, yet are unified by their ability to generate new typologies and to reference a wide cultural discourse. For more information on Adjaye Associates, please visit [www.adjaye.com](http://www.adjaye.com).

#### **About El Museo del Barrio**

El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latino cultural institution, welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of Latino, Caribbean, and Latin American cultures. Their richness is represented in El Museo's wide-ranging collections and critically acclaimed exhibitions, complemented by film, literary, visual and performing arts series, cultural celebrations, and educational programs. El Museo del Barrio is located at 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104 Street in New York City. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am. to 6pm. Admission is suggested. For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit [www.elmuseo.org](http://www.elmuseo.org).

#### **About The Studio Museum in Harlem**

Founded in 1968 by a diverse group of artists, community activists and philanthropists, The Studio Museum in Harlem is internationally known for its catalytic role in promoting the work of artists of African descent. At the core of the Museum's mission is a commitment to fostering inquiry, promoting dialogue, and inspiring people of all abilities and backgrounds. A wide variety of on- and off-site programs brings art alive for audiences of all ages—from toddlers to seniors—while serving as a bridge between artists of African descent and a broad and diverse public. The Studio Museum in Harlem is located at 144 West 125th Street and is open Thursdays and Fridays, noon–9 pm; Saturdays, 10 am–6 pm; and Sundays, noon–6 pm. Museum admission is by suggested donation: \$7 for adults; \$3 for students (with valid identification) and seniors; and free for members and children 12 and under. Sundays are free at the Studio Museum, thanks to generous support from Target. For more information, please visit [www.studiomuseum.org](http://www.studiomuseum.org)

#### **About Saya Woolfalk**

Saya Woolfalk's work considers the idea that symbolic and ideological systems can be activated and re-imagined through collaboration, imaginative play and masquerade. To effect this re-imagining objects, bodies, and landscapes are constructed to immerse us in the logic of another place. In many ways Woolfalk's pieces become the repository of the dreams and ideas of the many people who participate in producing and imagining the contours of the works. In the tradition of the fable or folk story, she maps the desires and ideas of people to create narratives that attempt to be relevant to a contemporary audience. For more information on Saya Woolfalk, please visit [www.sayawoolfalk.com](http://www.sayawoolfalk.com).

#### **About Cre8tive YouTH\*ink**

Cre8tive YouTH\*ink is a non-profit creative arts youth development organization. Using elements of developmental psychology, attachment theory, social justice youth development, and critical pedagogy, they collaborate with arts professionals to design projects that revive the spirit of apprenticeship in the arts, pairing creative urban youths with top artists, journalists and technical professionals in the making of real works of art. This multi-disciplinary approach provides a safe and nurturing setting where youths work collaboratively with arts professionals and each other – maturing as artists, and also gaining the cultural capital needed to more fully participate in their own lives and in the world, ready to assume leadership roles within their communities. For more information, please visit <https://cre8tiveyouthink.wordpress.com/>.

#### **About David Shrobe**

David Shrobe was born, lives and works in New York City. He received his BFA and MFA from Hunter College in 2009 and 2013, respectively. In partnership with The Laundromat Project, the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling has selected Shrobe as its inaugural artist-in-residence for 2015/2016. In 2014, he completed a residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. In 2013, he was a recipient of the Kossak Travel Grant for painters. Shrobe employs a cohesive variety of media and techniques, including painting, drawing, collage, as well as found and reclaimed objects to investigate questions of consumption, identity, spirituality, and the consequences of exposure to mass media and technology on our modes of existence. For more information on David Shrobe, please visit <http://davidshrobe.com/>.

#### **About The Laundromat Project**

Since 2005, The Laundromat Project has engaged art, artists, and arts programming in laundromats and other everyday spaces, thus amplifying the creativity that already exists within communities to build local networks, solve problems, and enhance our sense of ownership in the places where we live, work, and grow. For more information on The Laundromat Project, please visit <http://laundromatproject.org/>.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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