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AIR summer programs coming together at mural site Aug. 18

PORTSMOUTH — AIR, 3S Artspace...PMAC, WOW! This is not a bunch of gibberish, it's three community arts organizations coming together to create something that makes you want to dance in the street!

AIR, Arts In Reach empowers teenage girls; 3S Artspace is a performance space, art gallery, and farm-to-table restaurant coming soon to Portsmouth; PMAC or Portsmouth Music and Arts Center provides music and arts education for kids and adults. AIR reached out to these two organizations for help with their summer programming and the founders of 3S Artspace and PMAC, Chris Greiner and Russ Grazier respectively, jumped at the chance to help.

When AIR began the creative process of planning the new theme year they knew summer 2011 was the time to paint a mural.

"We are always reaching out for help so that we can create the best programs possible on a small budget," comments Darcy Horgan, president of AIR's Board of Directors.

In this particular case AIR reached out to 3S Artspace and PMAC for some logistical support. First of all, they needed a wall to paint. 3S approached King Weinstein, one of the

owners of the old Frank Jones Brewery buildings along the Islington Street corridor in Portsmouth.

Weinstein is about to begin construction on this site, which will bring with it new space for the arts and artists in the region. 3S Artspace is the first tenant in this major development and King generously agreed to their request for a mural site and use of the location on Aug. 18 for a celebration, performance and ground breaking.

The summer at AIR kicks off with ArtWorks, a visual arts program led by New York City artist Marcela Carvalho. At AIR she will be guiding the girls through self-expression with individual paintings and community building with a group mural.

The second summer program, SongWorks, will be led by local musician Carri Coltrane. Carri will coach the teens in writing their own lyrics and finding their individual and musical voice.

The program finishes up at 1130ft Recording Studio. Chris Chase of 1130ft generously donated studio time so the girls can record single and group songs.

The final program of the summer is TheatreWorks where the teens will work collaboratively with performance professionals, Sharon Lajoie (theater) and Nikki Fields (dance), along with street music artist Jeffery Erwin of Trashcan Lid Productions to create an original showcase of theatre, hip-hop, street rhythms and poetry.

The community is invited to join AIR in the Street at the mural site, 11 Jewell Court in Portsmouth, for a final performance / cd release / art showcase on Thursday,

August 18, 6:00 p.m. AIR, 3S Artspace and PMAC will be dancing in the Street and breaking ground on the new Portsmouth art site. PMAC will open the evening with a set by the PMAC Jazz ensemble, followed by a street stomping performance by AIR teens with a backdrop of the AIR mural. 3S Artspace is featuring a farm-to-table tasting which will pair food harvested at a local farm and prepared by a local chef. This is sure to be a fun evening made possible by three creative organizations working together to support youth in the Seacoast Region. AIR in the Street finale event is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome. For more information: www.artsinreach.org or [603-433-4278](tel:603-433-4278).