

MANHATTAN FREEDOM ART WALK THE FIRST NYC ART WALK AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING

NEW YORK – May 3rd, 2019 - In an effort to educate the public through art about the realities of child trafficking, and in the spirit of its eradication in NY, the US and across the world, Street Art for Mankind (SAM) will lead on May 10th 2019 a 2 mile street Art Walk across Lower Manhattan, in partnership with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) and the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS).

Along their way the public will be able to hear diplomats and change-makers make statements, discover new murals and exhibitions counting inspiring true stories of survivors of child trafficking, and be a part of a historical event to advocate for a change in the future of millions of children. Speakers include Melanie Thompson-Survivor, Loic Ercolessi-Artist, Argentinian Ambassador to the UN-Martin Garcia Moritan, New York Deputy Director of the ILO- Vinicius Pinheiro, ENDGBV Commissioner-Cecile Noel, ACS Executive Director-Selina Higgins, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the UN-Anne Gueguen, the co-founders of SAM and more.

During the Art Walk, marchers will discover six murals curated by Street Art for Mankind and painted by famous international street artists. They depict 6 themes on 5 continents: sex trafficking in the US, domestic slavery in Europe, child soldiers in Africa, child labor in the fashion industry in Asia, in the fish industry in Latin America and in the chocolate industry in Africa. The Art walk will also be the opportunity for the public to discover SAM's interactive United Nations street art exhibitions in front of Andaz Wall Street and in front of Pace University.

People will be able to enjoy this inspiring Art Walk via the audio guided tour provided by SAM's free augmented reality app "Behind the Wall".

Featured murals by: Btoy, Jo Di Bona, KinMx, Loic Ercolessi & Victor Ash.

Featured street art pieces by: Abstrk, Binho, Btoy, Claudio Picasso, Huyro, Inkie, KinMx, Loic Ercolessi, LEO, Leza One, Mr Thoms, Mr Cenz, PHD, Remote, Trek 6, Victor Ash...

Additional partners: The International Labour Organization, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations and PACE University. With the support of the Scelles Foundation, Andaz, Delta Air Lines, PTC and Bon Appetit Management Company. Wall owners and facilitators were the White Horse Tavern, Ryan Maguire's, La Parisienne, 245 Water Street and 38 Gold Street. The reception is generously sponsored and catered by Andaz Wall Street. Wine is donated by Sand Point Family Vineyards and Baron François.

Event handles - #FreedomMurals, #SprayFreedom, #NYCAgainstAbuse, #StopChildTrafficking and #StreetArtMankind.

How to register for the Manhattan Freedom Art Walk:

- **Free public registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/manhattan-freedom-art-walk-tickets-56520309768>
- **Media registration** (includes access to the VIP reception at 6pm at Andaz Wall Street): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/manhattan-freedom-art-walk-tickets-56520309768?discount=Press-Freedom>

How to download the Behind the Wall App:

- **Android device:** https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.indies.behind_the_wall
- **Ios device:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/behind-the-wall/id1441805930?mt=8>

About Street Art for Mankind (SAM): SAM is a 501c(3), non-profit organization working with prominent street artists from all around the world to raise awareness on child slavery through the power of art. SAM curates and produces innovative festivals, live performances, exhibitions, murals and art classes in NY and across the world. All art pieces created are for sale, and their proceeds help fund raid & rescue programs to free children from slavery.

About Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV): ENDGBV develops policies and programs, provides training and prevention education, conducts research and evaluations, performs community outreach, and operates the New York City Family Justice Centers. they collaborate with City agencies and community stakeholders to ensure access to inclusive services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence (GBV).

About the Administration for Children's Services (ACS): ACS protects and promotes safety and well-being of New York City's children and families by providing child welfare, juvenile justice, and early care and education services.

Quotes:

Commissioner Cecile Noel, ENDGBV: "Education, awareness, and prevention are the keys to ending trafficking in our city. We are excited to partner with Street Art for Mankind to engage our local community in discussions about human trafficking through street art—an art form so quintessentially New York—and eager to share resources that are available to all trafficking survivors in New York City."

"ACS is increasing awareness about child trafficking and programs that address it," **said ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell.** "I commend Street Art for Mankind for convening the City's first-ever art walk against child trafficking. This innovative trafficking awareness campaign will help educate the public about the realities of child trafficking and work towards our shared goal of preventing young people from being trafficked. Thank you to the artists, participants and all those who work day in and day out to provide supportive services for victims of child trafficking."

Co-founders Audrey & Thibault Decker, SAM: "We are honored to partner with the Mayor's office agencies and thrilled to engage that conversation again with the public of New York City on the necessity to change the future of millions of trafficked children. We truly believe that Art has the power to speak to the minds, the hearts and the souls. It helps us reflect on the reality of society and project a better future. We hope this art walk will get even more New Yorkers to act and be the change we all need to see in the world. There are still 152 Million kids in child labor today, 73 Million of which work in very hazardous conditions... Together we can changes the odds for these children. Let's walk the talk!"

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More on SAM:

Website: StreetArtMankind.org/Freedom-Murals -- Facebook & Instagram: [@StreetArtMankind](https://www.instagram.com/StreetArtMankind)