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Contact: Co-Founder Adrienne Gagnon at adrienne@downcitydesign.org or 401-952-8227

DownCity Design Unveils Student-Built Outdoor Classroom on Monday, July 9 **MET School students design and build a structure for the Groundwork Providence Garden in Federal Hill**

Providence, Rhode Island – July 3, 2012

A unique collaboration between **DownCity Design**, **The MET School**, and **Groundwork Providence** culminates in the unveiling of an outdoor classroom designed and built by a team of high school students on **Monday, July 9 at 10 am** at the Groundwork Providence Garden, **14-18 Ring St, Providence**.

The students participating in DownCity Design's *Urban Collaborative* developed critical thinking and problem solving skills while designing and constructing a permanent contribution to the city's built environment, in response to a community need. Mentored by DownCity Design Instructors George Harvey and Joshua Lantzy, students studied the site, proposed design solutions, and ultimately came together to design and build an indoor/outdoor classroom for the Groundwork Providence community garden in the Federal Hill neighborhood of Providence.

"This was not easy," said MET School student Joseph Isacone. "We had to use a jackhammer and an asphalt cutter, had to pour those concrete pilings. It was hard, but it was worth it."

Their final design features soaring angled beams that serve to partially enclose a loose cluster of reclaimed concrete that will serve as tables and benches for small group gatherings within the garden. The classroom will be used as a storage room for gardening supplies, a space to hold community events, and a teaching space for such project partners as **Trees 2020**, **South Side Community Land Trust**, and **Rhode Island for Community & Justice**.

The unveiling ceremony on 7/9 at 10 am will feature visionary educator Dennis Littky, co-founder and co-director of the **MET Center** and **Big Picture Learning**.

For more information, please visit www.downcitydesign.org or visit the students' blog at <http://cargocollective.com/Downcitydesign>

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DownCity Design is a non-profit design organization dedicated to improving civic life while offering inquiry-based, experiential learning opportunities. Their education programs give young people the chance to build science, math, creative problem solving and communication skills through hands-on design projects that have a tangible and lasting impact on their communities. **DownCity Design** partners with after-school programs and schools like the MET School to offer inquiry-based programs that engage students and improve their outcomes, helping them to become active citizens with skills that will serve them in school and beyond. www.downcitydesign.org

Groundwork Providence works to develop healthy, sustainable, and green communities for all Providence residents. We believe that the fight for social and economic justice is intimately connected to the well-being of our shared urban environment. Groundwork's programs are designed to help low-income and underserved populations develop their role as stewards of their own environment and their futures. www.groundworkprovidence.org

The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (the MET) is a state funded public school district and local education agency, which serves 690 high school students in six small schools across three campuses in Rhode Island. To date, the MET has inspired an international network of over 80 similar schools, all founded by Big Picture Learning. www.metcenter.org