

Trestle Bricklaying Speech 2013

As we graced into our tenth anniversary year, reason resonated from Fr. Bill to revisit, review, and reflect on every aspect of Trestle Inc.

The first three arches of the “Archways” Mural were refurbished in March by its original artist, Garin Baker, and part of his original team, Peter Cody and Natascha. The fifth arch was scraped and readied for remaining paint to be completely removed, with a resolution for new art to be applied on the barren trestle wall. We have been in discussion with local muralists who have been inspired by Trestle Inc. and would like to participate in this endeavor. Or, perhaps, we will bring to life Fr. Bill’s dream, and invite local artists to paint scenes of Newburgh in 3-Dimensional light bulbs on the Trestle wall, keeping “Newburgh Illuminated” everyday throughout the year. This can become reality with a little preparation and an invitational call to artists eager to create and paint.

The children’s art panel banners, as Trestle Inc’s part in the 2009 Quadricentennial, “Young Palettes Envision the Hudson,” were re-hung on the light poles, in time for “Newburgh Illuminated,” thanks to Judy Kennedy, the DPW and Leif Signs. The old brackets were replaced with a more secure and sturdier mounting system this year, and thus they have returned to hang proudly on Colden Street for all to see.

In addition, as part of “Newburgh Illuminated,” Trestle Inc. sponsored our second “Young Palettes” venture this past Spring. Youth in public and parochial schools were invited to envision illumination, and submit a piece of art reflecting any aspect of illumination. All of these pieces of art were hung in Downing Park for “Newburgh Illuminated” on June 22. Eleven pieces were chosen and announced on the amphitheater in Downing Park that day; four more remain to be chosen, all with the hopes of becoming art panel banners to hang in another section of our City. “Young Palettes Envision Illumination” will remain in motion this year with numerous displays and receptions.

We recognized that our website needed renovation in order to work on mobile devices, iPads and tablets, as well as desktops and laptops. Our ideas yielded it necessary to put into motion a state-of-the-art website, soon to be released. We will now be able to keep it updated and current ourselves with a built-in administrative component. This website has the capacity to upload video and audio, photo galleries, new merchandise, and the Young Palettes artwork. There is plenty of room for the unfolding of the history of Newburgh through the stories told and shown of those loved ones engraved on the bricks of our Commemorative Brick Walkway. We will be requesting voluntarily for you to share your family stories, the stories of your loved ones, photos and artifacts included, and for your stories to be recorded and uploaded onto our website, so that a click on a brick will bring up your family archive. Sound and Story Project is one organization, which has expressed an interest in collaborating with Trestle Inc. on this endeavor; they are willing to collaborate with us in finding grant money and hoping to bring their Sound Cube to the Mural Wall in the future.

On the evening of June 22, as part of Newburgh Illuminated, we displayed a slideshow on the scraped trestle wall depicting the historical stories of Newburgh embedded within each of the Arches. This slideshow created by Pat Favata, a historian and one of our Board Members, will be uploaded on both the City of Newburgh's and our website.

As we venture into our 11th year, we will continue to build "Community through Art" by renewing our projects with innovative possibilities. We are hoping to hold a Trestle River Festival on the waterfront next fall, and invite musicians, vendors, artisans, and the Newburgh Rowing Club to participate. We will be hosting trips to artistic venues. We will be encouraging visitors who come to the Trestle Mural and photograph themselves "in" the image, to send us their new artistic creation, which we will upload in one of the photo galleries. We are reconsidering the Trestle Logo in the hopes for a new image, which we will seek community input through a contest. And we will be raising money through numerous fundraisers in order to continue to beautify Newburgh, to support our local arts and artists, to encourage tourism to Newburgh, to empower and inspire the youth by turning their Young Palettes Envision Illumination art pieces into hanging art panel banners, and to raise money to prepare the barren trestle wall for new art, for live artists painting scenes of Newburgh into 3-Dimensional light bulbs.

As we graced into our tenth anniversary year, reason resonated from Fr. Bill to revisit, review, and reflect on every aspect of Trestle Inc. ...and so we did.... And as we venture into our 11th year, we will continue to build "Community through Art" by renewing our projects with innovative possibilities. Check out our new state-of-the-art website at www.trestle.org and stay informed. Write us if you have an idea or want to help. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for being here today to hear our 10th anniversary journey, our dreams and goals for the upcoming year, and for your continued support.