



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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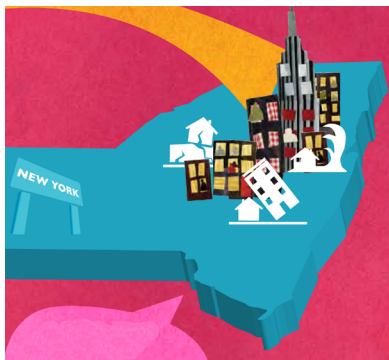
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CUP worked with College Now students to create an illustrated guide on community-level disaster planning



Booklet detail: "Who should be in charge of planning for a disaster?"



Booklet detail showing potential New York disasters



Booklet detail showing what happens when chemicals leach into the water in a 'double disaster.'

Are You Ready For a Ruckus? **an illustrated guide to disaster preparedness** **debuts at the Red Cross's Emergency Communications Center** **Wednesday, March 21, 7 pm**

Will you be ready when disaster strikes? What about your neighborhood? Who's responsible for making a plan for your community? While government officials have a city-wide plan and plenty of advice to share with individuals, the information for community-level disaster planning is scarce.

Disasters are everywhere in the news right now, from '2012' to twisters, but in New York City, where nature seems so remote, most people have thought little about what they would do in the event of one. However, because of global warming, erratic weather events are only going to become more common, so it's good to have a game plan. Last summer's back-to-back earthquake and hurricane got plenty of New Yorkers to pack go-bags, but very few of us have considered how we'd prepare our community for such an event.

Students in the College Now program at New Design High School and the Urban Assembly Academy of Government and Law worked with CUP and teaching artist Fatima Abdul-Nabi to look at disaster planning from the community perspective. The group interviewed stakeholders and public officials from agencies like the Office of Emergency Management and FEMA. They passed through more security checkpoints than president Obama to visit high tech command centers and situation rooms. They broke down what they learned and created a visual primer on community preparedness, what it might look like, and why it matters.

This Wednesday they will present their illustrated guide ***Are You Ready For a Ruckus?*** at the Red Cross's Emergency Communications Center. The center is a 24/7 monitoring and control room that, in the event of a large-scale emergency, shifts into a command center for first responders.

Are You Ready For a Ruckus? Debut **Wednesday, March 21, 7 pm**

the American Red Cross in Greater New York
520 West 49th St (between 10th and 11th Aves) New York, N Y

You must RSVP to attend this event. Send the name of each attendee (no + ones, please) to info@welcometocup.org

The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) uses the power of design and art to improve civic engagement. CUP collaborates with designers, educators, advocates, students, and communities to make educational tools that demystify complex policy and planning issues. We believe that increasing understanding of how these systems work is the first step to better, more equitable, and more diverse community participation. welcometocup.org

Urban Investigations are CUP's project-based afterschool programs in which high school students explore fundamental questions about how the city works. Students collaborate with CUP and teaching artists to create multimedia teaching tools that reach audiences in the arts and social justice.

College Now is a free City University of New York program designed to prepare NYC's public high school students for success in college. By taking part in College Now, students get acquainted with the demands of college life and work before they get there. College Now offers college-credit courses, college-preparatory courses and activities, and experiential-based summer programs. collegenow.cuny.edu

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