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ARTISTS OCCUPY POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children, artists, puppets, policemen and Crown Heights residents will be gathering on Saturday morning, December 16, '72 at 10:00 A.M., at the old 80th Precinct located at 653 Grand Avenue, Brooklyn. The crowd will be witnessing the arrival of artists who will be occupying, by request, the old 80th Precinct Station House, the present Headquarters for Neighborhood Police Team #4, 77th Precinct. Incongruous as it may seem, poets, painters and police will share the old 80th Precinct building which has recently merged with the 77th Precinct. The Commanding Officer, Captain Adam Butcher said, "Team Commander Ed Donovan uses only the first floor and basement of the building! This arrangement with the Institute for Art and Urban Resources provides a fuller use of the building and brings the creative arts, at the actual production level, into contact with the children of our community who also use the building. We want them to see and feel art in the making. Director of the Institute Alanna Heiss pointed out that working space for artists is scarce throughout the city. "The opportunity to use this space, through the generosity of the 77th Precinct has meant that these artists can continue to live and work in Brooklyn." A branch of the world renowned Bread and Puppet Theatre, "The Puppet Theatre for War, Dragons and Children", will have use of the 3rd floor of the Station House and will be demonstrating its gratitude to the Crown Heights community by staging with the help of many neighborhood children, a spectacular street parade, complete with giant dragons, devils and assorted mythical animals. The street fair will conclude with a puppet show at the old 80th Precinct Station House.

Inside of, and supporting the giant dragons will be well known community leaders. One of them Conrad J. Obregon, HDA's area Housing Director for Crown Heights, laughingly refused to reveal which end of the dragon he would occupy and stated that, "Use of the partially vacant building is an outgrowth of the decentralization experiment now going on in Crown Heights. Coordination for this project was provided by the Institute for Art and Urban Resources, the Police Department and the Housing and Development Administration with the support of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Government".

Some of the other invited guests will include Mayor Lindsay, Brooklyn Borough President Leone, Councilman Thompson and State Assemblyman VanderBeatty.

For Further information:

Alanna Heiss
Institute for Arts & Urban Res
11 John Street, N.Y.
Tel. 233-1096

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