

The Museum of Modern Art

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No. 153 438

NEW HARLEM PARK FEATURES MURAL DESIGNED BY SEVEN YOUNG ARTISTS

The unveiling of an untitled mural in the newly created park at 139 Street and Lenox Avenue will officially take place at noon, Saturday, December 4, on a site formerly occupied by a Chinese restaurant and opposite the old Savoy Night Club. The brilliantly colorful mural is a focal point in the park/playground, which was made possible by a corporate grant from Reader's Digest and in cooperation with City Walls, Inc. and the New York City Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Administration.

The mural was painted by 20 youngsters and three teachers from the Children's Art Carnival in Harlem, which is sponsored by The Museum of Modern Art. The design for the mural was chosen by Betty Blayton Taylor, Director of the Carnival, from the paintings of seven artists, ages eight to 13. The paintings were then scaled to the size of the wall (actually the backs of three handball courts), 90 feet by 14 feet, and executed in three days. The mural will serve as a backdrop for outdoor plays as well as for decoration. The Parks Department paid \$2.00 hourly to the youngsters who mounted the mural. This is probably the first park in New York City with mauve backboards for the basketball team and delphic blue trash cans. The color scheme of the mural is carried out all through the park, including the splash pool in variations of blue.

For additional information: Betty Blayton Taylor, Children's Art Carnival, 234-6266.