



NineDot Energy & Bronx Charter School for Better Learning

Clean Energy Mural Revealed

By Karlene Buckle 10.26.2023

On 10.25.23, I was thrilled to have had the privilege of sharing our Clean Energy Mural story at the **NineDot Energy's** historic battery site, with esteemed policymakers and implementers from the **Mayor's Office, Office of Climate and Environmental Justice**, alongside members of key city agencies, such as the **Department of Buildings, NYC Housing Authority**, and **NYC Department of Administrative Services**. Councilmember **Marjorie Velazquez** also graced us with her presence, highlighting the significance of our shared vision. This initiative celebrates the intersection of **art, sustainability, clean energy**, and the **power of community collaboration**. Our gathering was a testament to what can be achieved when a community unites behind a common goal.

Our partnership began early this year, as students at Bronx Charter School for Better Learning embarked on a STEM program, generously funded by **NineDot Energy**. Under the guidance and tutelage of local artist **Tijay Mohammed** and with the invaluable assistance of **ArtBridge**, a public art non-profit organization, our students created a vibrant and impactful mural. Mr. Tijay is

a patient but firm teaching artist who allowed our students to create without interference. This masterpiece embodies the values we hold dear and the actions necessary to secure a brighter future for generations to come. As **Mr. Shubert Jacobs**, Executive Director of Bronx Charter Schools for Better Learning, eloquently put it, "The mural speaks to the legacy we are building as a community."

On October 14th, the mural was revealed to celebrate the hard work, creativity, and determination of our BBL students. To quote NineDot, it happened "through a rain-soaked but happy crowd" of nearly 200 people. At the event, Councilmember Marjorie Velazquez, a passionate advocate for clean energy, shared her thoughts, and our student council president, **Mila Joseph**, did an exceptional job as the emcee. It's worth mentioning that following the October 14th event, Mila continued to proudly showcase her NineDot-BBL cup throughout the day, garnering admiration from teachers who are impressed by her dedication to spread the message.



This is where it started. **Dr. Marilyn Maye**, our founding Board Member heard the construction noises during BBL2's graduation. She was so upset by the unsightliness of the installation right in front of the school where children have to pass every day. Dr. Maye managed to get a telephone number from the sign on the construction site, called and **Adam Cohen** picked up the phone. His prompt and inspiring response sparked a chain of wonderful events that ultimately led to this powerful collaboration. I agree with **Karen Alter's** idea that, "It's a great lesson to all of us — when a neighbor calls, answer the phone." Adam's answer inspired Dr. Maye to reach out to our administrators who passed the baton to me. I ran with it. And here we are today, celebrating the most wonderful partnership with a group of people who, unlike other companies that provide sponsorship for school programs, is not looking for praises and accolades, but aimed at ensuring that our future generation is poised to continue the mission.

Picture this: We had a Clean Energy paint party every Friday and Saturday. We went from hearing Adam Cohen's tomato story on the day we launched our STEM+ enrichment program to Ms. Karen Alter putting collaboration ideas into action.

The NineDot/BBL partnership goes beyond sponsorship; it molds our youth into dedicated environmental activists who are now even using their creative talents to spread the message of clean energy through a compelling rap:





We gotta save the planet...that's the goal

Clean energy habits, let's take control
Turn off the lights when you leave the room

Unplug your devices, don't let them consume

Water the plants, take a shorter shower
Reduce your carbon footprint...that's the power

Clean energy habits, let's make a change

For a better future, let's rearrange
We can do it...we're the next generation
Clean energy habits, that's our foundation

Ride your bike or walk, don't take the car

Use public transport...it's not that far
Recycle your waste, don't throw it away
Reuse what you can...that's the way

Plant a tree help the environment
Clean energy habits that's the sentiment

We gotta act now time is running...out
We gotta make a difference...there's no doubt

Clean energy habits, let's spread the word

Together we can make...a better world

Let us remember that we are stewards of our planet, and through art, activism, and collaboration, we have the power to create a brighter, cleaner, and more sustainable future for all. This initiative is a testament to what we can achieve when we unite with a common purpose. Together, we can inspire change and promote a greener future.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to NineDot and our BBL administrators for making this partnership work. Our BBL family is grateful and thrilled to have neighbors with a purpose, showing that together, we can truly create a positive change in the Bronx then the wider community.

