



## Media Announcement

For Immediate Release: January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

For More Information: Tom Mead 716-609-0449 [tmead@bfloparks.org](mailto:tmead@bfloparks.org)

### THE BUFFALO OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCES ARTIST SELECTED FOR MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL MURAL PROJECT!

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy is proud to announce Augustina Droze of Los Angeles, California, has been selected as lead artist for the installation of a mural project at McKinley High School as part of the Jesse Kregal Pathway Improvement Project funded through the New York Power Authority, Niagara River Greenway Commission. The artist has been chosen by a panel of judges who reviewed presentations made by artists from across the country. The panel consisted of:

**Thomas Herrera-Mishler** – CEO and President of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy

**Philip Ogle** – Chair of the Buffalo State University Fine Arts Dep.

**Michelle Agosto** – Supervisor of Curriculum in Art for Buffalo Public Schools

**Louis Grachos** – Director of the Albright Knox Art Gallery.

**James Pappas** – Associate Professor of African American Studies in the UB College of Arts and Sciences, and member of the Buffalo Arts Commission.

**Ted Pietrzak** – Former Executive Director of the Burchfield Penny Art Center, and member of the Buffalo Arts Commission.

The selection was made based on Ms. Droze's extensive national experience in mural painting, presentation, and proposal. Her experience and artistic vision of a narrative mural of Frederick Law Olmsted's life and work best aligns with the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy's goals for the project. We look forward to working closely with her to develop a final design and associated landscape plan to successfully implement in the coming year.

Augustina Droze is familiar with large scale public art through her work in large scale mural projects and mixed media installations. With over 10 years experience in the industry she has worked extensively with architects and designers nationwide during every phase of a project. She has worked with a variety of public art agencies including The Chicago Public Art Group and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts as well as with large corporations. She completed a 365 ft long mural commissioned by the Forbes Company in the Gardens Mall in Palm Beach Gardens,

FL. Augustina's work is figurative, realism based, and draws on conceptual elements of nature, science, and fantasy.

For more information, please visit [www.bfloparks.org](http://www.bfloparks.org) or call 716-838-1249 ext 33.

**Who: The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy**

**What: McKinley High School Mural Project**

Contact: Sal Sciandra at [sal@bfloparks.org](mailto:sal@bfloparks.org)