

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sam Holleran
 The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)
 (718) 596-7721
welcometocup.org
sam@welcometocup.org

Student-led project unpacks micro-apartment fad

Micro-apartments have been all over the news lately; as both a way to live with less, and a pilot project to create housing for a squeezed city. These tiny studio apartments—smaller than what is currently allowed by NYC law—are meant to house a population explosion of single New Yorkers. However, many worry that these snug accommodations serve only a narrow group. Who's left out of the conversation? And how much space do you really need to live?

Hot on the heels of the City's adAPT apartment competition, CUP and teaching artist Chat Travieso worked with a group of public high school students from Bushwick's Academy of Urban Planning to investigate the fad and fascination with tiny modular living spaces. The students asked urban planners about regulatory hurdles, architects about prefabricating units, and developers about funding structures. They also talked to community advocates about what groups are privileged in the search for newer smaller housing stock. The crew took this raw information and whittled it down to create *The Big Squeeze*, a poster that uses some collage-craziness to teach others what they learned.

On Thursday, April 4th, the group will present their poster and discuss their investigative process at the mother of all micro-units: the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Students will lead a panel discussion on filling NYC's housing needs in an equitable way. They will be joined by Seema Agnani, Executive Director of Chhaya CDC, an organization that works with homeowners and tenants to streamline the 'legalization' process for illegally-converted dwellings and other types of informal housing; and Andrew Reicher, Executive Director of the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, a 35-year-old nonprofit that helps create and support cooperative and affordable housing.

This People & Buildings event is free and open to the public. Space is limited, please RSVP to info@welcometocup.org. All attendees will receive a free copy of the poster!

Debut of "The Big Squeeze"
Thursday, April 4, 7pm
 Tenement Museum
 103 Orchard St, 2nd fl
 New York, NY

The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement. To learn more, visit: welcometoCUP.org

Urban Investigations are CUP's project-based afterschool programs in which public 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.

The **Academy of Urban Planning** is a public high school in Brooklyn, with an urban planning-based curriculum. aupnyc.org

This program was made possible by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



The Big Squeeze poster



The CUP team presents their work to students in the Neighborhood Explorers program at the Museum of the City of New York



Students practice their interviewing techniques



a detail from the poster