

“Welcome to the Neighborhood”

Abandoned storefronts, dilapidated commercial and industrial properties litter these neighborhoods, sometimes for decades. Village youth perpetuate “The Broken Window Syndrome” where a laundry list of associated acts of vandalism, crime and general apathy escalate in a neighborhood. The Window Intervention Project can change all of that.



Our **KEY** ingredients:

We focus on youth. They are willing to ACT and chase after hope for their future .

We unlock the creative freedom inside every human being. Intelligent expression through art IS a portal to hope.

We invite the community to be a part of the CHANGE. We share insights and make room for their neighborhood hopes.



Let us Introduce Ourselves!

TOM TOM PROJECTS is the youth-serving foundation arm of Karen & Albert Antiquaires. We created The Window Intervention Project to provide access and opportunity to young people living in neighborhoods that are underserved. We also curate and exhibit projects by young artists, introducing them to an array of professionals, new regions of world and tools and techniques to achieve strategic goals.

*Interested in joining us? **DONATE!** You can help by donating your time, your talent or your **MON- EY!** We run our operation as streamlined as possible, but financial support is always needed to sustain the programs and grow!*

Contact us
Or to Donate

516.728.7504

or donate@tomtomprojects.com

or web at www.tomtomprojects.com



karen & albert / tom tom projects

The Window Intervention Project

ART INSTALLATIONS & CULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMS



Malcolm and Tatiana, two aspiring historians in a middle school anti-truancy program run by the TOM TOM PROJECT

Photo: Al Williams

Who We Are...

We are a husband and wife artistic duo bending and blending the lines between educational art projects and installations with our entrepreneurial ventures and demand for social change through projects that impact kids and their families.

When Albert started a reading club in a low-performing middle school on Long Island and the kids involved wore these signature yellow scarves across the campus, it was a provocation. Kids wanted to join it, schools wanted to replicate it, families were proud of their “new” readers and – surprise! – middle school kids who were low performers began mentoring younger ones, building their vocabulary and writing skills and improving their grades.

That was easy. We knew what “buttons” to push to evoke a response. And we didn’t need loads of funding. **This is different.** Window Interventions are spectacular window installations as a stimulus in abandoned storefronts in truly underserved communities. We work with local kids to teach them not only how to create their own art installations but also how to collaborate with business people and other decision makers in their community for support, ideas and new connections.

The windows are just the beginning!

Windows To The Soul...

If the eyes of a man are the windows to his soul, can the broken, abandoned windows of a community become portals of hope?

The Need

Tucked into pockets across Long Island, surrounded by some of the nation’s wealthiest zip codes, underserved, economically stressed neighborhoods are desperate to reclaim themselves after decades of decline into crime and neglect.

The residents, mainly working class African Americans and Latinos are struggling to set a direction for their communities. Abandoned storefronts, dilapidated commercial and industrial properties litter these neighborhoods and have become the calling card for avoidance. For these communities, the youth are both their weakest link and their greatest asset. From the intrusive and insistent siren’s call of the internet to gang

pressure to school-fostered discouragement, our children are bombarded and are in need. Access, encouragement, hope and the belief in themselves are sure-fire elements to



change a child’s perspective on their future. Study after study shows that it works

and that through a child a family will change. We’ve seen firsthand where the success of art and culture investments have turned neighborhoods around in South Boston, in Central Harlem, in Pittsburgh. A theater, a museum or a row of artist workshops and an effort to include the local community in the planning and implementation is a recipe that works.

The Solution

We start with our own window installations—a unique project for each community. The community is invited to an exhibition opening, and learns about THE WINDOW INTERVENTION PROJECT. This builds up the community buzz for the programmatic solutions. ...and that’s where the kids come in.

We hold six-week workshops for the students, turning life-skills activities into relevant and timely goal-setting experiences through art. Kids will learn not only window design and technical skills but will also take a creative idea from concept to reality for the whole community to witness. Abandoned storefronts transform into vibrant window displays, budding cottage industries are formed and new connections between the business community and residents are forged.

The Challenge

In order for us to implement a project and leave it generating and snowballing on its own steam in the community, we need time to make it happen. **Time equals funding** to set up project meetings, organize players and set up the young people’s workshops and allow them access with members of the business community we have been recruiting with this idea.

For our window construction, we need materials to build scaffolding. We need to maintain basic insurance so that we are able to install items of value – historical documents, vintage decoratives, interactive technology devises – without running the risk of losing everything if we run into a hiccup or an accident. **Join us in changing the world one window at a time!**