



## For Immediate Release

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## GREEN AND BLACK HISTORY CONVERGE WITH NEW EXHIBITS AT THE MUSEUM OF RECLAIMED URBAN SPACE

*Green Map's How Green Is My City?* and *Plywood Windows of SoHo: Black Lives Matter*  
Herald Reopening of East Village History Museum

New York, NY, August 20, 2020 — As New York's museums receive the greenlight to reopen, The Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space (MoRUS) presents new mixed media exhibits highlighting two radical social movements with downtown roots. ***Green Map's How Green Is My City?*** and ***Plywood Windows of SoHo: Black Lives Matter*** will debut at MoRUS when the eight-year-old institution raises its gates after being closed since March. Located at 155 Avenue C, MoRUS is open Tuesdays and Thursday through Sunday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Admission is free with a suggested \$5.00 donation. Per New York State guidelines, facial coverings are required and social distancing is enforced.

Curated by Green Map System's founder and director Wendy Brawer, ***How Green Is My City?*** traces the history of this locally-led, globally-linked sustainability mapping

movement that has engaged a thousand diverse communities in 65 countries. The exhibit explores the movement's impacts via print maps and other artifacts that highlight local nature, culture, green living and social justice sites. "Together, the process and the resulting maps form a powerful tool for social change, sparking local action that contributes to community wellbeing and climate health," says Brawer. In addition to creating tools and icons used globally for 25 years, Green Map NYC's expansion into place making, experiences, media and even pandemic pivot projects are included in the exhibit. Brawer adds, "MoRUS's media archive was organized at our East Village office before the museum opened and ever since, MoRUS has been a great place to pick up copies of Green Maps!" Special events, including walking tours, online demonstrations of Green Map's new mapping platform, and an opportunity to put your favorite sites on the map will be announced by MoRUS and at [GreenMap.org/2020exhibit](https://GreenMap.org/2020exhibit).

***Plywood Windows of SoHo: Black Lives Matter*** captures images from June 2020 when a mecca for luxury shopping returned to its artistic grassroots following the protests against George Floyd's killing by Minneapolis police. The opportunistic, collateral looting that followed the peaceful protests prompted many high-end retailers to board up their glass facades with plywood. Using these barriers as canvases, artists created murals and messages calling for racial and social justice. A wide selection of these images, which were captured by the lenses of James Hong and George Hirose and curated by Hong, are displayed on the museum's lower level among actual portions of painted plywood discarded by building owners. "The poignancy of SoHo, the pinnacle of consumerist society, transformed into a platform of social messaging cannot be lost," says Hong. "No matter how things in society may be beautifully cloaked in subliminal messages of how we should live, a raw but potent social message can subvert it without the use of iPhones and high tech, but with messy paint, caulk and spray cans."

***Green Map's How Green Is My City?*** and ***Plywood Walls of SOHO: Black Lives Matter*** will be on display at MoRUS through fall 2020.

To request images from the exhibit for editorial use please email [press@morusnyc.org](mailto:press@morusnyc.org).

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### **About MoRUS**

Opened in December 2012, MoRUS is a fully volunteer-run history museum. The museum is a living archive of urban activism that aims to preserve grassroots activist history in the East Village and promote environmentally-sound community-based urban ecologies. Housed in the storefront of a former squat, MoRUS is open Tuesdays and Thursdays – Sundays from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Also showcasing the unique public spaces and community gardens for which the neighborhood is renowned, MoRUS offers walking tours every Saturday and Sunday at 3:00 PM. For more information visit [www.morusnyc.org](http://www.morusnyc.org).