



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**TO:** All Media  
**FROM:** The Office of Mayor Alex B. Morse  
**DATE:** May 29, 2013  
**RE:** Holyoke Art at Work End-of-Series Potluck Celebration  
**CONTACT PERSON:** Tim Beaudry (413) 322-5510

---

HOLYOKE – Mayor Alex B. Morse invites the community to celebrate with one the most diverse groups of city workers, elected officials, union leaders, and community activists in Holyoke. “Holyoke At Work” is a project that puts creativity to work, making Holyoke a better home for everyone. On Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Holyoke Senior Center, located at 291 Pine Street, Holyoke At Work is having a “Celebration Potluck,” which will be an opportunity to share some of the artwork and outcomes of the workshops. It is an environment to hear poetry by police officers, stories from grassroots Latina activists, or see photographs by Holyoke High School movers & shakers.

Started in Portland, Maine in 2007, Art At Work is a national initiative bringing the power of direct creative engagement to city governments and the communities they serve, and demonstrating artmaking’s ability to be a powerful and cost-effective tool to address long standing challenges facing cities across the county.

Over the last five months, Holyoke At Work has used a mix of artmaking, listening exchanges and discussions to tackle topics that are important to Holyoke. Community members have written poems and learned about each others lives. They have sung and sharpened their leadership skills and collaborative capacity. Participants have taken photographs of the city to share the stories that show the Di/Visions of their environment. Overall people have brainstormed, laughed, stepped out of their comfort zones, and have gotten to know each other better.



MAYOR ALEX B. MORSE

CITY OF HOLYOKE

Workshop participants (and hosts for the celebration) include Mayor Alex Morse, Police Chief James Neiswanger, Fire Chief John Pond, Principal Aliza Pluta (Morgan School), Jim Bartolomei (President of Patrolmens Union), Marcella Jayne (Community Leader), Maria Salgado (Community Leader/Five Colleges), Lauren Helm (C.R.U.S.H) and Mike Gallagher (DPW/UFCW) and many more community leaders and activists.

Mayor Morse encourages everyone to attend this unique event to get to know members of the community in a whole new way. For more information contact the Mayor's Office at (413) 322-5510.