

Press Release: November 2007
Contact: Cathy Byrd cathybyrd@gsu.edu/404.413.5230

RECONSTRUCTING ATLANTA: A CONTEMPORARY CONTINUUM

November-December 2008 Event
PLANTING A GARDEN IN HURT PARK

This month, Atlanta artist Pandra Williams begins planting a native garden in Hurt Park, downtown Atlanta. Her greenspace project is created as part of the **URBAN INTERVENTION: THE BELTLINE** exhibition to be presented in the Welch School of Art & Design Gallery from January 10 to March 6, 2008.

With the involvement of the Georgia State University Building Services Division and the Native Plant Botanical Garden, **Return of the Native Garden** reconstructs a fragment of the ecosystem that was once in the area of the Beltline, a new local transit initiative. In the process, the garden beautifies an active park space adjacent to our urban campus.

An area within the park along Gilmer Street will test the hypothesis that abandoned brownfields surrounding warehouses on the Beltline can be revitalized with a native succession garden. The placement of reclaimed materials like brick and granite in key viewing locations will acknowledge Atlanta's industrial past. These materials will be collected from sites adjacent to the Beltline. The design and planting build upon the idea of growth and change over time. Special care will be taken to plant drought-resistant species.

Supporters and contributors: Christopher Jackman and the GSU Building Services Division, The Boat Rock Legacy Garden and the Native Plant Botanical Garden with Dr. George Sanko and Kathryn Gable.

Visit the website reconstructingatlanta.com to connect with a network of 2007-2008 exhibitions and events on the subject of contemporary art, architecture and urban design in our city. The site links to a spectrum of local initiatives such as Beltline, Inc., the Atlanta Preservation Center, Central Atlanta Progress, Southface Energy Institute and more.

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Contact: artgallery@gsu.edu / 404.413.5230