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Immigrant City then and Now exhibit holds last hurrah

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SOMERVILLE - On Thursday, March 27, The Immigrant City then and Now exhibit at the Somerville Museum holds a final public event before the exhibit's close on Saturday. The Thursday evening event features a "Books of Hope" reading of poetry and prose by Somerville youth. The event takes place from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Since 1999, Books of Hope has been building community in the Mystic Housing Projects through weekly writing workshops with Somerville youth, ages 13 to 23. While expanding their knowledge of community issues, BOH provides young people with a platform to comment and make change through written and spoken word. Each participant authors a whole book of poetry, short stories and essays or contributes to an anthology of youth writing. To date over 100 youth penned books have been produced. Youth also holds readings at events, schools, bookstores and cafes where they sell their books. All proceeds go to the young authors. Books of Hope is a project of the Mystic Learning Center and the Somerville Arts Council.

The Immigrant City: Then and Now exhibit opened in fall 2007. Organized by The Welcome Project, the exhibit shares the stories and experiences of more than 30 Somerville immigrant families who are featured in the exhibit. The focus is on two different groups -- we hear from recent arrivals to this country, and from an earlier generation of immigrants. Through words, pictures, art and artifacts, the narrators tell us the dreams, hopes, and obstacles they found in settling in Somerville and the United States..

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