









Jersey City Artist Aguilera Skvirsky's Public Art Project Uses Downtown's Lucky Laundromat as Oral-History Hub

By [Jon Whiten](#) • Aug 16th, 2011 • Category: [Arts](#), [Blog](#)

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If you frequent Downtown Jersey City's Lucky Laundromat on Jersey Avenue, you may have noticed a new presence there this summer. Artist and Jersey City resident **Karina Aguilera Skvirsky** has been on site several days each week for a few hours, making drawings and engaging laundromat customers to hear their stories of Jersey City.

It's all part of a public art project which will have its cornerstone event this Sunday at the laundromat. Skvirsky is one of five participants in **The Laundromat Project**'s 2011 Create Change Public Artist Residency program, which aims to connect communities and artists in meaningful ways. Her project, *ASK ME: TELL ME*, was started with the goal of, as she puts it, "creat[ing] an archive considering the laundromat as a site of Jersey City history by documenting the transitions it has undergone over the years and activate the space for stories from residents about its current role within the community."

This Sunday all Jersey City residents are invited to take part in the public art project, when Skvirsky will be facilitating a free art workshop that offers access to drawing, photography and sound recording. Participants will learn about the city's history and be invited to record their impressions of how Jersey

City's landscape is changing through redevelopment, gentrification and demographics.

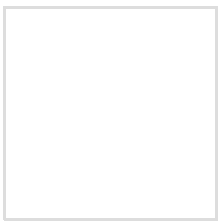
After Sunday's event, Aguilera will create a series of place-based postcards that will act as a living archive of Jersey City and will be made available for free this fall, via a kiosk located at Lucky Laundromat. Participants in the archive will also receive a copy of their contribution.

"Making artwork in the laundromat has led to exchanges with Jersey City residents about how their neighborhood is changing, uses of public space and how they see themselves in a future Jersey City," the artist says of the project.

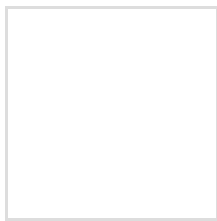
THE DETAILS

ASK ME: TELL ME Public Art Project; Sunday, August 21 from noon to 6 pm; Lucky Laundromat, 577 Jersey Avenue.

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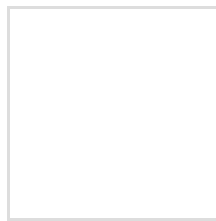
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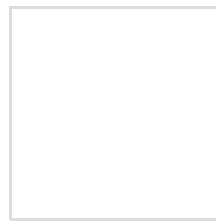
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Jon Whiten is the founding editor of the *Jersey City Independent*; he now works for a public-policy nonprofit in Trenton.

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