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King Middle School Future Leaders Connect with the BeltLine

Custom Curriculum Will Engage Eighth Graders in their Neighborhoods' Development

Atlanta (April 28, 2010) – Nearly 200 King Middle School eighth grade students will kick off a month-long, hands-on exploration of how the Atlanta BeltLine redevelopment will improve their neighborhoods economically and environmentally at a program at the school at 545 Hill Street, in southeast Atlanta at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, May 30th. The BeltLine is revitalizing and enhancing the quality of life in neighborhoods around the core of Atlanta with investment in transit, trails, parks, affordable housing, historic preservation and environmental remediation.

“Who Stole Your Identity,” a program created by the CrimeOut Foundation to help youth understand how their identity is connected to their environment, their community and their power to give back, will launch the integrated learning experience. Teachers at King Middle School developed the curriculum, “Learning Through the Eyes of the Beltline,” with support from The BeltLine Partnership, CrimeOut, the Greening Youth Foundation, Trees Atlanta, the Museum of Design Atlanta, and Perkins + Will.

“During the last 10 years, there’s been a disconnection between children and nature,” said Robby Astrove, Program Coordinator for Trees Atlanta. “Our goal is to connect students to nature in the context of the BeltLine by encouraging them to take action through leadership. We’re exposing children to the rapidly growing field of green jobs. There’s not only hope for the future. There are jobs as well.”

The curriculum will include English and Language Arts, Math, Physical Science and Visual Arts. Students will integrate the BeltLine project plan with their academic studies using research, math and artistic skills to examine how the changes will determine economic and environmental improvements for their neighborhoods.