Raise awareness with the arts

Are you artistic? Are you talented with a video camera or poetry-writing? Use your talents to tackle the issue of street harassment in an entertaining, compelling way, and then post your product online or offline. Use it to generate discussions about street harassment and public safety.

Ideas:

1. **Envision what a safe community would look like and depict it:** Through painting, drawing, videos, song-writing, poem-writing, etc. For example, in 2010, participants at the International Conference on Women’s Safety in Delhi, India, collectively drew their vision for a safe community.

2. **Draw street harassment:** Draw incidents of street harassment or how it makes you feel. Ghaidaa Al Absi launched The Safe Streets campaign in Yemen to address street harassment. In late 2011, she hosted an **exhibition of local artists’** work on the topic, here are two of their drawings:

3. **Mud art & stenciling:** For International Anti-Street Harassment Day 2011, Hollaback CoMo created mud stencil art on the sidewalks of downtown Columbus, Missouri, with slogans like “Street harassment is so uncool – hollaback!” and “hey stranger, don’t call me baby!” They were able to have a lot of awareness-raising discussions with passers-by that day. Hollaback Bmore did this in Baltimore, Maryland, in 2012.
Similarly, Blank Noise in India has stenciled cities in the early morning hours, writing down incidents of harassment at the locations where they occurred.

4. **Sidewalk Chalking:** Write pro-respect, anti-street harassment messages. ProjectRespect.org works with Native American teenagers on respect issues. In 2012, they wrote pro-respect messages all along the major bike trail in town during Meet us on the Street.

5. **Videos:** Create a video about street harassment. It can be a short 30 second PSA, you can share your story, or you can document street harassment.

View videos on the SSH YouTube channel for ideas.

6. **Poetry:** Put your thoughts down in stanzas, make a rhyme to get your point across. Poetry is a powerful form of art. In 2011, Niz, a British university student wrote a poem about street harassment called *Simplified*. Meanwhile, in the USA, Safiya Washington and Kai Davis of the Philly Youth Poetry Movement performed a poem “Stares” in Philadelphia in 2011.
Other ideas:

A. Design anti-street harassment signs or posters to display in the community, including places where harassment tends to occur

B. Make your own “caution tape” that marks an area where you were harassed. Write your stories on the tape and name it a “street harassment zone.”

C. Organize or participate in street performance, such as role playing street harassment and encouraging audience participation in dialogue afterward.