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Students Build Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge at Calatrava Colossal Constructors Workshop

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Twelve talented and gifted students from local public and private schools were selected to participate with The Trinity Trust, in partnership with SMU's Talented and Gifted Program and Summer Youth Program, to become engineers for a day on May 14 and to construct a replica of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge with cables and roads.



Roland Baumann, Simon Cohen, Rubi Perez, Angelica Sanjuan

Photo 1 of 6

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On the morning of the engineering workshop, students and their parents were given an exclusive hard-hat tour of the construction site of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge. Rebecca Rasor, director of the Trinity River Corridor Project, City of Dallas, and Jim McTaggart of VSL (in charge of stringing the cables) shared with them what it's like to build the first Santiago Calatrava-designed vehicular cable stayed bridge in the U.S.

Designed by internationally renowned architect, artist and engineer, Santiago Calatrava, the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge is now being constructed to connect downtown Dallas to West Dallas over the Trinity River. The bridge is scheduled to be completed in 2012.

During the ensuing workshop, students built a study-model of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, using a STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) framework. Instructor David Abbondanzio of The Study Center, Inc., who teaches in the Plano-based SMU Summer Youth Program, led the class in building a study-model 1/66 in scale. During the construction process, the students learned how the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge works by building the roads, the signature arch piece, and the 58 cables. The completed model stood 20 feet long and more than 6 feet high.

The workshop was documented by award-winning producer Judy Kelly, whose short film will be a learning/teaching tool available for area schools as the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge opens in 2012. More information can be found at www.thetrinitytrust.org for details.

Through the generosity of the SMU Talented and Gifted program, a scholarship to the SMU TAG program for summer 2011 was awarded to one participant, Simon Cohen, a student at Dallas ISD's William B. Travis Vanguard and Academy for the Academically Talented and Gifted.

Cohen said, "The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge is like a dream. When you look at it, the final version, it's breath-taking and it almost seems magical... but once taken through the step-by-step process, you can really understand the complexity, but also why it fits together so well."

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calendar

<<	jul 2011							>>
26	27	28	29	30	1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
31	1	2	3	4	5	6		

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About The Trinity Trust Foundation and The Trinity Center: The Trinity Trust raises private funds and public awareness to implement the Balanced Vision Plan for The Trinity project in conjunction with the City of Dallas. The Trinity Trust has established The Trinity Center as the gathering place for all civic and non-profit groups working to revitalize the Trinity River in Dallas. It hosts meetings, workshops and events for Trinity related organizations. The Trinity Center facilitates collaboration between these entities and the City of Dallas and encourages seamless integration of all the components of The Trinity project. More information can be found by calling 214.740.1616, by emailing info@thetrinitytrust.org, or by visiting www.thetrinitytrust.org.

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