Amazing colored laser show dubbed 'Sandy's Rainbow' lights up New York City's skyline to mark first month anniversary of devastating hurricane

By LESLIE LARSON
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As New York prepares to mark the first month anniversary of the arrival of Hurricane Sandy, brilliant lights are illuminating the New York City skyline to remember the victims of the superstorm.

The outdoor lasers have been installed on the rooftop of The Standard hotel on the High Line in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. They will shine into some of the neighborhoods hardest hit by the storm, beaming into Brooklyn toward the Rockaways in Queens, from 8pm to 2am from Tuesday to Thursday.

The public art project, 'Global Rainbow, After the Storm,' was installed by American artist Yvette Mattern, to offer hope to the Big Apple with the symbol of the rainbow and to encourage New Yorkers to support residents still struggling to pick up the pieces in the aftermath of the storm that hit on October 29.

Millions of New Yorkers will experience the breathtaking beauty of the technicolor light show, originating from the west side of Manhattan and shining across the island into the borough of Brooklyn and even into The Rockaways in Queens.

The art installation 'aims to symbolize hope and act as a call to action to support the communities that were devastated by the storm,' according to the announcement by the Art Production Fund, who sponsored the initiative with The Standard, a boutique hotel on 13th Street and Washington.

Brilliant lights: The lasers have been installed on the rooftop of The Standard hotel on West 13th Street in Manhattan. They colored lights beam across the island, into Brooklyn and into The Rockaways in Queens. / Promise: The Art Production Fund sponsored the light exhibit with The Standard hotel. The organizers said they were struck by the show's 'call to action and inspiring vision of solidarity' as the city continues to pick up the pieces in the aftermath of the storm. / The lights were installed on the rooftop of The Standard, a boutique hotel on 13th Street and Washington.

The lights can shine up to 35 miles, depending on visibility. / Shining hope: The public art project 'Global Rainbow, After the Storm' was installed by American artist Yvette Mattern, to offer hope to the Big Apple with the symbol of the rainbow in the aftermath of super storm Sandy that hit on October 29. / All is bright: The laser equipment used for the show was provided by Lightwave International and even though the beams are far reaching, they only use a minimal amount of power. The entire display will use just 24 amps, which would equal the energy used to power two hairdryers
The laser equipment used for the show was provided by Lightwave International and even though the beams are far reaching, they only use a minimal amount of power. The entire display will use just 24 amps, which would equal the energy used to power two hairdryers.

As New Yorkers gaze into the skies and see the majesty of the rainbow, the artist hopes 'seeing this beacon in the night sky will provide people with a sense of peace and security in this time of crisis.'

She also said she hopes the symbol 'will unify us with its presence so we remember that we are all in this together, regardless of divisions of class, race, religion and culture.'

According to the account in the Old Testament, God destroyed the earth with a flood but spared one man, Noah, who gathered two of each animal species into a great Ark.

The rainbow appeared in the sky after the waters had receded as a covenant between God and mankind, that the earth would never be destroyed again in a flood, according to Genesis 9.

The light show hopes to help raise money for two non-profit organizations offering relief in the aftermath of the storm that has claimed 132 lives in the U.S., left thousands of East Coast residents homeless and caused tens of billions of dollars in damage.

Donations are being directed to Waves for Water, a charity working with residents in the coastal communities in Staten Island, New Jersey, Rockaway Beach and Long Beach, and New York Foundation for the Arts, which has set up an Emergency Relief Fund for those impacted by the storm.

'Mattern’s Global Rainbow, After the Storm inspired us with its call to action and inspiring vision of solidarity,' according to a statement from Doreen Remen and Yvonne Force Villareal, co-founders of the Art Production Fund.

Mattern has previously installed her ‘Global Rainbow’ show in Europe and most recently it was featured as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad this summer.