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**Bronx Council on the Arts presents a Reading by BRIO Award-Winning Bronx Poets
at the Riverdale Library on Thursday, February 4th**

(January 22, 2010 — Bronx, NY) The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) and the Riverdale Branch of the New York Public Library presents a reading by award-winning BxIndie poets and BRIO award winners Sarah Stern and Matthew Thorburn at the Riverdale Branch of the New York Public Library on Thursday, February 4th at 6:00pm. The library is located at 5540 Mosholu Avenue at West 256th Street in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. All are invited.

Sarah Stern is a three-time BRIO winner for poetry. Her poems have appeared in numerous publications, most recently in the anthology *This Full Green Hour* (Sonopo Press). She received Honorable Mentions from the Anna Davidson Rosenberg Awards and *Lilith* Magazine's Poetry Prize. Her first manuscript, *Sweet Water*, was a finalist for the 2009 ABZ First Book contest.

Matthew Thorburn is the author of two poetry collections, *Subject to Change* (New Issues) and *Disappears in the Rain* (Parlor City Press). In 2008, he was awarded a Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress. He is currently working on a book of travel-themed poems set in China, Iceland and Japan.

Maria Romano, Director of BCA's Bronx Writers' Center and BRIO award winner, will host this reading which salutes the 20th anniversary of BCA's prestigious BRIO award (Bronx Recognizes Its Own) — one of the longest standing individual support mechanisms for artists in the country which recognizes the creative excellence of Bronx artists in all disciplines.

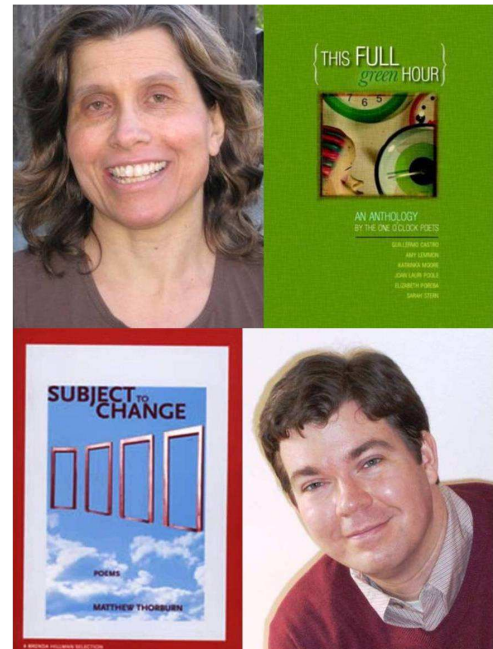
A program of the Bronx Council on the Arts, BRIO provides support for the artistic development of individuals creating works of literary, media, performing and visual arts. The selection for awards is based solely on artistic excellence and only artists living in the Bronx are eligible.

This evening's event is a part of BCA's "BxIndie presents BRIO Program Series" sponsored by the Bronx Council on the Arts. BxIndie events are designed to encourage artists and arts collectives to explore new performance sites, to break new ground in various disciplines, and to get closer to their audience, thus increasing community participation and fostering an environment for the arts to thrive. BxIndie is a NYC Cultural Innovation Fund project funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

For information on the February 4th poetry reading, call 718-931-9500 x35, e-mail lydia@bronxarts.org, or visit www.bronxarts.org. **For Directions**, call 718-549-1212 or visit www.nypl.org/locations/tid/61/directions.

This event was made possible with funding by the NYS Council on the Arts, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Greater New York Arts Development Fund, Department of Youth & Community Development, Scherman Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., the Bronx Delegation of the City Council, and Council Members Maria del Carmen Arroyo and James Vacca.

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BxIndie poets and BCA BRIO award winners Sarah Stern and Matthew Thorburn will read samples of their award-winning works at the Riverdale Library on Thursday, February 4th at 6:00pm. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. All are invited.

Photos courtesy of the poets.