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METRO NEWS

Bronx is 'the borough to be' for art, she says

The Bronx arts scene was hot when Deirdre Scott moved to a floor-through apartment off Bruckner Blvd. in the 1980s.

"The Bronx in the eighties was a hotbed of activity, with Hip Hop and cutting edge art shows," Scott said. "It had Fashion Moda, Tim Rollins and KOS were operating. The Bronx Council on the Arts was in the Longwood Section in a renovated school building where we had artists' studios and openings all the time.

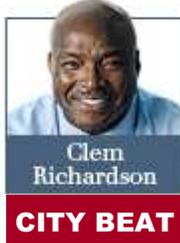
"It was hot!"

Now, as BCA's executive director, Scott wants the world to know the Bronx art scene is hot as ever. If she has her way, Bronx fire will spread across the city.

"I don't want to say there is a Renaissance in the Bronx, but I do feel like this is the borough to be," Scott said. "A lot of the other boroughs have been built up and have their own kind of *gestalt*, in terms of what goes on there. One of the things that is really exciting is that in the Bronx we are constantly renewing ourselves.

"I don't necessarily think it's generational, but periodically we have an infusion of new nations that comes here in waves. So we're an agile borough, and that's exciting and part of the fun."

Current BCA programs this month include the "Toys & Games with a Twist" and "Stations of the Lost" installations at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos (450 Grand Concourse at 149th St.), "Guided Tour of Urban Archives; Our Town Pictures of the Bronx by [Emilio Sanchez](#)" at the Bronx Museum of the Arts (1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St.) and "Botanic HD" at the Bruckner Gallery at the Bruckner Bar & Grill (1 Bruckner Blvd.)



BRAC On The Block @ Bronxartspace (305 E. 140th St.) has "Shifting Communities: the Work Office (Two); Public-works Office (PWO)."

On Friday, Feb. 24 choreographer George Faison, dancer/choreographer Milteri Tucker and Faison's youth group, R.E.S.P.E.C.T. will perform a Black History Month program at the Owen Dolen Center, (2551 Westchester Ave. at E. Tremont.)

The free Bronx Culture Trolley continues hourly runs between all of the venues above from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the first Wednesdays of the month.

The BCA sponsors exhibits and performances at the Hutchinson Metro Center at Westchester Square, and next month will be the borough sponsor of



Deirdre Scott, executive director of the Bronx Council on the Arts, is on a mission to spread the Bronx's arts scene beyond its borders.

The Big Read, a national program in which thousands of expected participants will read the same book.

Meanwhile, Scott, who moved to the Bronx from Harlem, wants to make art even more a part of Bronx daily life.

"What I would like to do is create more opportunities," Scott said. "One of goals I have as a person of color, as a person in an outer borough, is to create value around what we do, not from the top down, but from the people out.

"The more the people value their culture, their heritage, their legacy, their things, their stuff, the more they will tell their own stories."

If those Bronx stories connect with other boroughs, that's just fine with her.

"I want to mix it up," Scott said. "I want to have that fresh mix, that constant churn of information and goodness and projects and issues. We want to get folks moving around in the neighborhood, and get them to get out of the neighborhood.

"Let's get the Bronx out of the Bronx, and let's get the boroughs into the Bronx," she added.

Scott will be among five Bronx honorees at Rep. Jose E. Serrano and New York State Sen. Jose M. Serrano's Feb. 10 Black History Month observance.

Learn more about BCA programs, including the "Bronx Recognizes It's Own" BRIO awards at the website, www.bronxarts.org.