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## **August 5th Bronx Trolley First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour: Ride on the Trolley! View the Exhibitions!**

(Bronx, NY – July 16, 2015) **The Bronx Trolley First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour**, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), rolls again on August 5th with an evening of exhibitions at BCA's [Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos](#), [Bronx Museum of the Arts](#), [Metropolitan College of New York-Bronx Extension Center](#), [BronxArtSpace](#) and [WallWorks Gallery](#). The evening begins and ends at Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos on the campus of Hostos Community College. Admission to venues is free and all are welcome to hop on board the trolley and enjoy them. **Directions to Hostos:** Subway: 2, 4 & 5 trains; Bus: BX1, BX2 & BX19; all destinations to 149th Street/Grand Concourse.

**August 5th's trolley begins at 5:00pm** at **Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos** (Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street) with a meet-and-greet reception for **Freddy Rodríguez: My Geometries 1970-2002**, a solo exhibition featuring paintings, drawings and mixed media works between 1970 and 2002, created by the Dominican-born, New York-based artist and curated by Rocio Aranda-Alvarado. This is the first exhibition to chart the artist's expansive and unique approach to geometric abstraction since his formative training during the apogee of Minimalism. While Rodríguez's early work drew inspiration from Piet Mondrian, Frank Stella and Mark Rothko—whose paintings he encountered at MoMA—his work soon came to reference historical, emotional and political subjects often deemed antithetical to pure formalism.

First comes the physical: the hard-edged abstraction of the 70s joins content in the form of human figures; sensual references to music, dancing and culture emerge. In the 80s, crisp geometric lines co-exist with fluid, loose brushstrokes. Sensuality again breaks through. The 90s see the historical and political take center stage: color and form combine with sugar, dirt, ground glass and peppercorns to evoke the European "Encounter" with the New World. Priestly vestments and slashed canvases reference the sexual abuse scandals in the Catholic Church. This is not your average geometry.

**The trolley bell clangs at 5:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm** indicating the trolley's departure from Hostos on its way to the evening's cultural events. The trolley is your free ticket to a cultural tour along the South Bronx Cultural Corridor of the lower Grand Concourse. The trolley runs on the **First Wednesday** of each month (except January and September), providing Bronxites and tourists alike a fun way to travel via a replica of an early 20th-century trolley car. Passengers are given the opportunity to sample several of the area's hottest cultural attractions, dining establishments and entertainment venues along the way.

**In addition to Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos**, this month's trolley stops and attractions include:

- **Bronx Museum of the Arts: (1) Readings & Conversations** with artist Danny Simmons who discusses his new book, *The Brown Beatnik Tomes*, which presents a collection of prose and paintings from the artist and entrepreneur. **(2) Free Guided Tours** of the museum's exhibitions: *Bronx Calling: The Third AIM Biennial*, curated by Bronx-based artists Hatuey Ramos-Fermin and Laura Napier, features the work of 72 emerging artists engaged in the Artist in the Marketplace (AIM) Program (classes of 2014 & 2015). *iPresente! The Young Lords in New York* is the first museum survey to examine the radical social group founded by Puerto Rican youth in New York and Chicago in the 1960s.
- **Metropolitan College of New York-Bronx Extension Center** for a viewing of *Shelf Life: The Import and Impact of 'ISMS'* — Under the broad theme 'Shelf Life: The Import and Impact of ISMS' (ism/izem, suffix: popularly coined to define specific ideologies). Artists are invited to explore/interpret the scope of identity, social constructs and mis/appropriation.
- **BronxArtSpace** for *Faces from the Block* featuring painters Ananda Nahú and Izolag from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who exhibit their new work alongside Bronx photographer Ricky Flores.
- **Wallworks Gallery** for *Fashion MODA: 35 Years Later*, a group exhibition featuring new and old works by artists who took part in the original programming at Fashion MODA over thirty years ago.

**NOTE: The trolley does not run in September!** The Bronx Trolley First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour will return on October 7, 2015. Visit [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org) in mid-September for information on October 7th's trolley as well as other BCA programs and activities. Additional information: 718-931-9500 x33.

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**Bronx Writers Center • BCA @ 2700 • Longwood Art Gallery**

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