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**Nine Artists Selected to Work with Seniors as part of BCA's 2015 SPARC Program**

March 30, 2015—Bronx) With support from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) and the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA), the Bronx Council on the Arts completed the selection of artists for the 2015 Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide (SPARC). Nine talented Bronx artists will deliver arts programming to Bronx seniors centers across our borough. These local artists are providing a fun and interactive atmosphere for seniors to acquire creative skills, ranging from theater to acting to Brazilian dancing, and more.

A collaboration among DCA, DFTA and the city's local arts councils, SPARC, now in its fifth year, matches artists with senior centers throughout the city. The program provides artists with a stipend and access to workspace in exchange for the creation and delivery of arts programming. This year, nine projects in the Bronx are bringing joy to seniors and unleashing their untapped talents.

**Leona Hull, Margo Brooks** and **Dr. Emelise Aleandri** teach theater. Hull will utilize acting techniques, vocal preparation and dance to create a "Senior Theatrical Project at **Sister Annunciata Bell**. Brooks is directing a living museum based on work created by senior participants at **Bronxworks Morris**. Dr. Aleandri is working on a variety show utilizing a variegated mosaic: musical, declamatory, pantomime, comic through monologues and short skits at **Bronx House**.

**Wallace Boyd** is teaching creative writing to participants at the **Riverdale Y**, while at **JASA Co-op City** **Anna Tonna** will introduce choral technique in her work "Songs My Mother Taught Me" through which participants explore and experience the correlation between songs and personal memories through moderated talks and worksheets. Seniors will also attend two master classes and live concerts.

Visual artist **Martine Fougeron** is utilizing current technology with participants at **PEP for Seniors** to create self-portraits. **Martin Delossantos** teaches painting by directing participants in a communal mural and central wall art installation at **Neighborhood Shopp Leon Senior Center**. **Josie Gonzalez** introduces a painting class series coupled with mixed media and sculpture to present an overall exploration of visual arts to **RAIN Nereid**.

With the vibrant, colorful and rhythmic Brazilian Music and ballroom dance, **Irenio Dos Santos** will instruct participants in a fun and exhilarating production in "Dancing Our Stories" where lessons will grow through visits with middle school students developing into a documentary based on the lives and stories of the seniors at **Casa Boricua**.

Check the SPARC page of the Bronx Council on the Arts, [www.bronxarts.org/sparc.asp](http://www.bronxarts.org/sparc.asp), for highlights of completed projects and a schedule of remaining events that are open to all.

*SPARC is a collaboration among the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department for the Aging and the City's five local arts councils situated in each borough – Bronx Council on the Arts, Brooklyn Arts Council, Council on the Arts and Humanities of Staten Island, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and Queens Council on the Arts. It was developed as part of Age-Friendly NYC, a citywide effort to make the City more livable for seniors, and previously ran as a successful pilot called Space for Art. The program is supported, in part, by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.*

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**Bronx Writers Center • BCA @ 2700 • Longwood Art Gallery**  
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**2015 SPARC Artists**

**1st Row:** Dr. Emelise Aleandri, Wallace Boyd, Margo Brooks.  
**2nd Row:** Martin Delossantos, Martine Fougeron, Josie Gonzalez.  
**3rd Row:** Leona Hull, Irenio Dos Santos, Anna Tonna.