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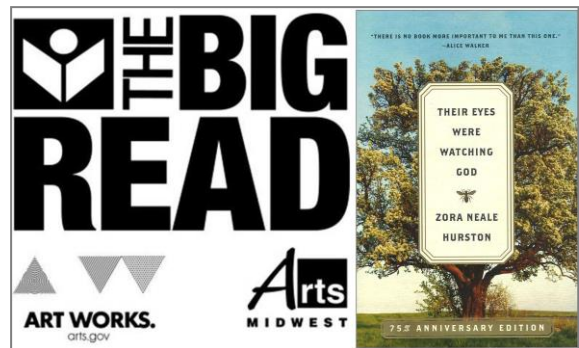
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**The Big Read in the Bronx 2014 celebrates Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
 Join the Bronx Council on the Arts for a Variety of Community Activities!
 Wednesday, April 2 – May 12, 2013**

(Bronx, NY – March 10, 2014) Join the Bronx Council of the Arts (BCA) for the kick-off celebration of **The Big Read in the Bronx 2014** on Wednesday, April 2, from 5:00-8:00pm, at BCA's Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos (450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street) in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. The evening will include readings from **Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*** and free copies of the book will be distributed. Audience members will be encouraged to participate in the evening's activities. Directions: Subway: #2, 4 or 5 IRT trains. Bus: BX1 or BX19. All stops at 149th Street and Grand Concourse.

One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, ***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston.

Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston's classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.



Most Big Read in the Bronx 2014 events are free and open to the public. Most Big Read activities will take place at BCA's future headquarters at 2700 East Tremont Avenue (corner of St. Raymond Avenue) unless otherwise noted. **Information:** 718-931-9500 x21.

Scheduled Bronx 2014 Big Read events include:

- **Wednesday, April 2 (5:00-8:00pm): 2014 Big Read in the Bronx Kick-off** event, in conjunction with The Bronx Trolley: First Wednesdays Arts & Culture Tour, with Bronx WritersCorps Teaching Artists presentation, book discussion and book giveaway.
Location: Bronx Museum of the Arts Auditorium, 1040 Grand Concourse (718-681-6000).
- **Monday, April 7 (6:30-8:30pm): Baby Steps or Finding Zora:** a workshop on taking the first small steps to fulfilling your artistic goals, plus book discussion with BRIO winner Leah Maddrie
- **Tuesday, April 8 (6:30-8:30pm): In Progress: Character and Characterization,** a writing workshop and book discussion with Charlie Vázquez.
- **Monday, April 14 (6:30-8:30pm): Poetry of the People Workshop** with Bonafide Rojas.
- **Saturday, April 19 (12:30-3:00pm): Printmaking Craft Workshop** with Laura Alvarez and book giveaway.
Location: Huntington Free Library, 9 Westchester Square (next to Apple Bank), Bronx, NY 10461 (718-931-9500 x33 or 917-972-2386).
- **Saturday, April 19 (3:00-8:00pm): Women in Creative Rebellion** – An afternoon and evening of poetry performance, workshops, an open mic and vendors of original crafts. Live performance by Afro-Caribbean folk dancer Milteri Tucker, with drummers.

Bronx Writers Center • BCA @ 2700 • Longwood Art Gallery • bronxarts.org
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- **Tuesday, April 22 (3:00-5:00pm): *Their Eyes Were Watching God* book club discussion.**
Location: YMCA Glebe Senior Center, 2125 Glebe Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461 (718-829-1564).
- **Saturday, April 26 (1:00-3:00pm): Children's read-aloud & family journal making workshop** with Lis Ortiz.
Location: Westchester Square New York Public Library, 2521 Glebe Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461 (718-863-0436).
- **Monday, April 28 (6:30-8:30pm):** An evening with BRIO literary arts winner Phyllis Bowdwin and company. Theatrical responses to Zora Neale Hurston and book discussion, and a keynote lecture by scholar and professor of African American literature and culture, Candice Jenkins.
- **Tuesday, April 29 (6:30-8:30pm): Community Arts Tuesday** open mic, book discussion and book giveaway, with theatrical readings by actors and storytellers Chad Carstarphen and Juliette Jeffers and storyteller Jamali Corniel.
- **Sunday, May 4 (4:30-6:30pm): In Progress: Excavating Your Past,** a writing workshop and book discussion with Charlie Vázquez.
- **Sunday, May 4 (6:30-8:30pm): In Progress: Setting as Character,** a writing workshop and book discussion with Charlie Vázquez.
- **Monday, May 5 (11:00am-1:00pm): Big Read Senior Performance** at Lincoln Hospital Theater with live bomba drumming and dance performance by Bombazo Dance Company and book giveaway,
- **Tuesday, May 6 (6:30-8:00pm): Teen Students' Visual Arts Presentation** in response to *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, plus book discussion.
Location: The Point, 940 Garrison Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474 (718-542-4139).
- **Wednesday, May 7 (6:00-9:00pm):** Bronx Culture Trolley and book giveaway and book discussion.
Location: Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street (718-518-6728).
- **Saturday, May 10 (11:00am-5:00pm): Fair at the Square;** 4:00-6:00pm book give-away and read-aloud with Charlie Vázquez.
Location: BCA @ 2700 and the outlying Westchester Square area.
- **Monday, May 12 (6:30-8:30pm): In Progress: Elements of Suspense,** a writing workshop and book discussion with Charlie Vázquez.

Visit www.bronxarts.org and click on The Big Read for information about additional Big Read events.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. For more information, visit www.neabigread.org. Additional support is provided by the Robert Bowne Foundation and the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund Inc., and the Westchester Square Branch of the New York Public Library. Additional support was provided by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYS Council on the Arts, Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, and NYC Council Members Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Annabel Palma and James Vacca.

The Bronx Council on the Arts is a private, nonprofit membership organization and is the official cultural agency of the Bronx. Recognized nationally as a leading arts service organization that provides grants, cultural services and programming, BCA offers a wide array of services to Bronx-based artists as well as arts and community-based organizations. For more information on BCA's upcoming events and programming, and to learn how you can support the Bronx Council on the Arts during in its future endeavors, please visit bronxarts.org.

For more information about The Big Read in the Bronx: Contact Charlie Vazquez at 718-931-9500 x21 or bronxwrites@bronxarts.org, or visit www.bronxarts.org and click on The Big Read.

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