

Bronx beat

2015 SPARC Artists

With support from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the NYC Department for the Aging, 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.

SPARC, 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.

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, for highlights of completed projects and a schedule of remaining events.