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Bronx Council on the Arts presents 2015 BRIO Award Winner Edwin J. Torres A Photo Screening and Panel Discussion Saturday | February 27 | Bronx Music Heritage Center Laboratory

(Bronx, NY – February 19, 2016) The Bronx Council on the Arts and 2015 BRIO award winner Edwin J. Torres present *Close to Home: Mi Familia and the Diaspora*, on Saturday, February 27th, from 6:00 to 8:00pm, at Bronx Music Heritage Center Laboratory, 1303 Louis Nine Blvd., Bronx, NY 10459. Sponsored by the Bronx Council on the Arts, Bronx Arts Factory/Bronx Music Heritage Center and WHEDco, this special photo project screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Edwin J. Torres, Alexia Mendoza and Yolanda Rodriguez. Admission is free and all are welcome.



RSVP at www.facebook.com/events/527793270731583/
Questions? Contact Lydia at 718-931-9500 x35 or Lydia@bronxarts.org.

Torres, Mendoza, and Rodriguez's central inspiration for this project is engaging the elderly immigrant population of the Bronx, to collect and distill their stories, to build visual and poetic content on their lives. Participants will present their histories and stories via an exhibition, performance art, a film presentation, and a panel discussion and/or reading.



Edwin J. Torres, 2015 Bronx Council on the Arts BRIO winner, is an emerging photographer born and raised in the Hunts Point area of the South Bronx. He attended Colby College under the Posse program, where he received a Full-Tuition leadership scholarship for 2008-2012. He majored in American Studies and dedicated his focus to telling stories about his community in the Bronx. After graduation, he focused on telling his families' story about the Puerto Rican Diaspora. He enjoys the use of the camera as a tool to communicate emotionally, exercise artistic literacy, and bring to light issues that have poor representation. Edwin's work has been published in the *New York Times*, *The Global Post*, *The Leica Blog*, *Curbed.com*, *Welcome2theBronx.com*, *Fototazo*, and a few other publications. Edwin currently works as a freelance photographer for the *New York Times* and is a curator for the Everyday Bronx Instagram feed. He frequently volunteers his time at the Bronx Documentary Center.

Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO), established in 1989, provides direct grant awards to individual Bronx artists who create literary, media, performing and visual works of art. BRIO is a competitive awards program for creative excellence. This performance will be the **ACE** (Artists for Community Enrichment) component of his 2015 BRIO award. ACE is an essential component for all BRIO recipients and must be performed within the one-year period of their award. The ACE provides artists with additional visibility and demonstrates to the community the wealth of artistic talent available in our borough.

This series is made possible with funding from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYS Council on the Arts, the Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., and NYC Council Members James Vacca, Fernando Cabrera, Andrew Cohen and Melissa Mark-Viverito.

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