



**For Immediate Release**

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**Bronx Council on the Arts presents**  
***Dancing Our History | Bailando Nuestra Historia***  
**Monday, May 11, 2015 at Andrew Freedman Home**

(May 4, 2015 — Bronx, NY) The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) invites you to its 2015 annual seniors' performance on Monday, May 11, from 10:00am-2:00pm, at the Andrew Freedman Home. This year, Bronx resident and drummer Jose Ortiz (aka Dr. Drum), in collaboration with seniors from PSS Andrew Jackson Senior Center, will present ***Dancing Our History | Bailando Nuestra Historia*** — a bomba dance performance by the seniors accompanied by Ortiz on the drums. Admission is free and all are welcome. Andrew Freedman Home is located at 1125 Grand Concourse, between 166th & McClellan Streets, and is accessible by the D or B train, exit at 167th Street. Phone: 718-293-8100.

***Dancing Our History | Bailando Nuestra Historia*** is the culminating product of Mr. Ortiz's residency at the PSS Andrew Jackson Senior Center where he conducted workshops for 12 weeks, meeting twice-per-week. Mr. Ortiz taught them the historic and cultural context of "bomba" drumming and dance, engaging participants in movement and wellness and guided them through the memorization process of dance. Ortiz stressed the importance of "bomba" as one of the many cultural elements that can be used to assert identity through oral tradition, history, dance and music.

**About BombaYo & Jose Ortiz**

- BombaYo is a youth project dedicated to preserving the rich Afro Puerto Rican tradition of Bomba.
- BombaYo took its name from several meanings of YO
- Yo, is "I" in Spanish, or self - "I am Bomba"
- Yo, English slang to call one's attention, as in "Hey, it's Bomba"
- Yo' , short in English from Your, "Your Bomba"

Bomba was developed in Puerto Rico over 300 years ago by enslaved Africans from parts of West Africa and the Kongo region and also includes influences from the Spanish colonizers and native Taino people. Bomba is more of an experience than a show. It's where singing, dancing and drumming come together in a community celebration of life. Boricuas on the island and stateside are reviving this tradition and, in turn, uncovering part of their cultural heritage. **Jose Ortiz**, a Bronx native, is a self-taught percussionist of Afro Caribbean rhythms. He is an advocate for the cultural arts and has been active as an organizer and educator of Afro Puerto Rican Bomba, a traditional African derived music and art form

**About DFTA**

The mission of The New York City Department for the Aging is to work for the empowerment, independence, dignity and quality of life of the City's diverse older adults and for the support of their families through advocacy, education and the coordination and delivery of services".

**About the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA)**

The Bronx Council on the Arts, established in 1962, is the official cultural agency of the Bronx. BCA is recognized nationally as a leading arts service organization that provides grants, cultural services and programming. We serve the entire county of the Bronx (over 1.3 million residents) and connect with Upper Manhattan, Westchester and regional resources. BCA offers a wide array of services to a multitude of artists and more than 250 arts and community-based organizations.

**For further information about BCA** and its programs and activities, visit [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org) or call 718 931-9500.

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