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**Twenty-Five Bronx Artists will Receive BCA's 2011 BRIO Award on
Wednesday, June 1st at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College**

(May 27, 2011 – Bronx) Twenty-five Bronx artists will be recipients of the Bronx Council on the Arts' (BCA) prestigious **Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) Award** for artistic excellence at an award presentation on Wednesday, June 1st at 6:00pm at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College. The ceremony marks the twenty-second anniversary of BRIO, and is one of many activities scheduled for that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley which includes three exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos and a number of free Bronx Culture Trolley activities along the South Bronx Cultural Corridor.

The 2011 BRIO Award recipients will each receive a grant of \$3,000. They are:

Literary Arts: Joseph Caceres (fiction), Dominic Colon (playwriting), Derek Lively (screenwriting), Linda Manning (screenwriting), Urayoan Noel (poetry), Anna Purvis (fiction), Carlos Serrano (playwriting), Dianne Sposito (playwriting), Sarah Stern (poetry), and Julio Toro (screenwriting).

Media Arts: Nadia Hallgren / Documentary Film.

Performing Arts: Janna Baty (vocal music performance), Steven Lubin (instrumental music performance), Maxim Pakhomov (instrumental music performance), Jen Shyu (music composition), Wilhelmina Smith (instrumental music performance), and Doug Wamble (music composition).

Visual Arts: Gerardo Ciprian (photography), Donna Diamond (printmaking/drawing), Darnell Edwards (painting), Francisco Fernandez (painting), Michael Ferris, Jr. (sculpture), Xavier Figueroa (installation), Skowman Hastanan (painting), and Diana Rivera (photography).

BRIO awardees must complete a one-time public service activity to receive their complete cash award. Known as the **ACE** (Artists for Community Enrichment), this activity 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.

Since its inception in 1989, BRIO has provided support for the artistic development of Bronx artists. Over the years, more than \$650,000 has been awarded to 235 artists. The selection of the awardees is based solely on the artistic excellence of the work submitted and judged anonymously by a panel of professional artists (different panelists each year) from outside the Bronx and working in each respective field.

Over its twenty-two years, BRIO has grown from ten annual awards of \$1500 to twenty-five annual awards of \$3,000. The Bronx has the unique distinction of being the only borough in New York City to have an ongoing fellowship awards for artists.

The June 1st BRIO Award presentation ceremony is among the many activities taking place during that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley which includes exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Pregones Theater, LDR Studio Gallery, and the Bruckner Bar & Grill.

For further information about BCA's BRIO program, contact Lydia Clark at lydia@bronxarts.org or 718-931-9500 x35. For information on June 1st's Bronx Culture Trolley or other events and activities of the Bronx Council on the Arts, visit www.bronxarts.org. Hostos Community College is located at 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Bronx. Take the 2, 4, or 5 train to 149th Street & Grand Concourse.

Funding for BRIO is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs-Greater New York Arts Development Fund. Additional funding is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, the Scherman Foundation and BCA's membership program.

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