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**Twenty-Five Bronx Artists will Receive BCA's 2010 BRIO Award on
Wednesday, June 2nd at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College**

(May 20, 2010 – Bronx) Twenty-five Bronx artists will be recipients of the Bronx Council on the Arts' (BCA) prestigious **BRIO (Bronx Recognizes Its Own) Award** for artistic excellence at an award presentation on Wednesday, June 2nd at 6:00pm at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College. The ceremony marks the twenty-first 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 2010 BRIO Award recipients will each receive a grant of \$3,000.

They are: **Literary Arts:** Andrew Bui (screenwriting), Aldina Kennedy (non-fiction), Vincent Marano (playwriting), Bruce Tallerman (fiction) and Sam Turner (poetry). **Media Arts:** Benton Bainbridge (experimental film/video), and Pam Sporn (documentary film/video). **Performing Arts:** Sheryl Bailey (instrumental music), Igor Begelman (instrumental music), Nicholas Estevez (performance art), Elizabeth Farnum (vocal music), Anthony Martinez (spoken word), Noele Phillips (choreography), Hannah Rosenbaum (vocal music), Jose Singh (vocal music), and Nelida Tirado (dance). **Visual Arts:** Justin Allen (painting), Vidal Centeno (installation art), Michael Cuomo (painting), Lisa Lebofsky (painting), Ira Merritt (photography), Josh Millis (painting), Ronny Quevedo (printmaking), Hrvoje Slovinc (photography), and Christy Speakman (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, the BRIO Awards program has provided support for the artistic development of Bronx artists. Over the years, more than \$575,000 has been awarded to 210 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 21 years, the BRIO program has grown from 10 annual awards of \$1500 to 25 annual awards of \$3,000. The Bronx has the unique distinction of being the only borough in New York City to have its own ongoing fellowship awards for artists.

The June 2nd 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, BronxArtSpace, and LDR Studio Gallery. Additional activities include an after-party karaoke night at the Bruckner Bar & Grill.

For further information about BCA's BRIO program, contact Lydia Clark at 718-931-9500 x35 or lydia@bronxarts.org. For information on June 2nd'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 NYS Council on the Arts and NYC Department of Cultural Affairs-Greater New York Arts Development Fund. Additional funding is provided by the Carnegie Corporation, Scherman Foundation, Krasdale Foods, Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo, the Office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., and BCA's membership program.

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