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Twenty-Five Bronx Artists will Receive BCA's 2009 Brio Award on June 3rd

(May 21, 2009 – 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 a June 3rd award presentation at 6:00pm at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College. The ceremony marks the twentieth anniversary of BRIO, and is one of many activities scheduled for that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley which includes the opening reception for the *Bangin'* and *Linger* exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos (curated by BRIO winner Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz) and a number of free activities along the South Bronx Cultural Corridor.



The 2009 BRIO Award recipients will each receive a grant of \$3,000. They are: **Literary Arts:** Desi Moreno-Penson (acting), Sima Rabinowitz (fiction/non-fiction), Stacey Robinson (playwriting), Sarah Stern (poetry), and Matthew Thorburn (poetry). **Media Arts:** Nicky Enright (experimental film/video), Nadia Halgren (documentary film/video), and Geoffery Quan (narrative film/video). **Performing Arts:** Brandon McReynolds (vocal performance), Maxim Pakhomov (instrumental performance), Antonio Polanco (vocal performance), Melissa Primavera (vocal performance), Teana Rodriguez (vocal performance), Jen Shyu (instrumental performance), and Damon White (vocal performance). **Visual Arts:** Gloria Adams (painting), Cara Judea Alhadeff (photography), Marisol Diaz (photography), Michael Ferris Jr. (sculpture), Rosemarie Fiore (printmaking/drawing), Antonio Jerkovic (photography), Kalissa Maxwell (photography), Vittorio Ottaviani (painting), Dennis Redmoon Darkeem (craft), and Jennifer Tomaioloa (painting).

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 20 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 3rd BRIO Award presentation ceremony is among the many activities taking place during that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley which includes the opening of the *Bangin'* and *Linger* exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Longwood; an exhibition, book signing, and hip-hop dance class at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, a performance and a photo exhibition at Pregones Theater, a walking cluster of gallery exhibitions, the Alexander Avenue Art & Antiques District, a multi-media event at Synthetic Zero Art Space, and 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@broncarts.org. For information on June 3rd'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 State Council on the Arts and New York City Department of Cultural Affairs-Greater New York Arts Development Fund. Additional funding is provided by the Carnegie Corporation, Scherman Foundation, Krasdale Foods, the Office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., the Bronx Delegation of the City Council, and BCA's membership program.

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