



BCA **Bronx Recognizes Its Own**  
bronxarts.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Bronx Council on the Arts Recognizes Twenty-Five New BRIO Winners for Artistic Excellence on June 10th at the 2015 Award Presentation at Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos**

(May 08, 2015 – Bronx, NY) Twenty-five Bronx artists are the 2015 recipients of the Bronx Council on the Arts' (BCA) prestigious **Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO)** award for artistic excellence. An award reception and networking event will be held on Wednesday, June 10th at 6:00pm at Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College, located at 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Bronx. Take the 2, 4 & 5 trains or Bx1, Bx19 buses to Grand Concourse and 149 Street.

The June 10th event marks the 26th anniversary of BCA and BRIO celebrating artistic excellence in the Bronx since 1989. BRIO winners, past and present, are invited to socialize and network while welcoming the 2015 BRIO winners into the fold. Admission is free and all are welcome.

**Please RSVP** at [https://bronxarts.secure.force.com/ticket/#details\\_a0Sd000000Dw4s2EAB](https://bronxarts.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a0Sd000000Dw4s2EAB).

The 2015 BRIO Award recipients each receive a grant of \$3,000. They are:

**Literary Arts** (7): Rachel Ansong (poetry), Derrick Michael Charles (illustrated text), Jon Lewis Katz (fiction), Antoinette Mullins (playwriting), José Olivarez (poetry), Chiseche Salome Mibenge (non-fiction), A. A. Weiss (non-fiction); **Media Arts** (2): Nelson Pena (narrative film/video), Philip Bell (documentary film/video); **Performing Arts** (10): April Armstrong (story telling), Jose Batista-Ayala (spoken word), Igor Begelman (instrumental music performance), Tyrone Birkett (instrumental music performance), Tamara Cashour (music composition), Ilana Davidson (vocal music performance), Steven Lubin (instrumental music performance), Penny Prince (music composition), Abdul Rasheed (choreography), Donald Vega (instrumental music); **Visual Arts** (6): Heidi Johnson (painting), Ruth Marshall (craft), Arnaldo Morales (sculpture), Amy Pryor (mixed media), Christy Speakman (photography), Edwin Torres (photography).

Since its inception in 1989, BRIO has provided more than \$950,000 to 335 artists. The selection of the awardees is based solely on the artistic excellence of the work submitted and judged anonymously by a panel of arts professionals (different panelists each year) from outside the Bronx and working in each respective field. Over its 26 years, BRIO has grown from ten 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 an ongoing fellowship award for artists.

An important and integral component of BRIO is **ACE (Artists for Community Enrichment)** which requires each awardee to present a one-time public service activity that benefits the community within the one-year period of the award. The ACE was created to provide artists with additional visibility and also to provide Bronxites with the opportunity to experience the wealth of talent available in our borough.

While at the BRIO reception, you are invited to browse the gallery and enjoy the exhibition "Freddy Rodríguez: My Geometries 1970-2002". This solo exhibition of work by painter Freddy Rodríguez (b.1945, Santiago, Dominican Republic) features his exploration of geometric abstractions through his hard-edged paintings and drawings executed over nearly four decades. It is on view June 3 - August 5, 2015. Guest Curator: Rocio Aranda-Alvarado.

For further information about BCA's June 10th BRIO program, e-mail [BRIO@bronxarts.org](mailto:BRIO@bronxarts.org). For information on other events and activities of the Bronx Council on the Arts, visit [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).

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