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July 1st Bronx Trolley First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour: Exhibitions, Exhibitions and Exhibitions and, of course, a Ride on the Trolley

(Bronx, NY – June 16, 2015) **The Bronx Trolley First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour**, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), rolls again on July 1st with an evening of exhibitions at BCA's [Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos](#), [Pregones Theater](#), [Metropolitan College of New York-Bronx Extension Center](#), [Bronx Documentary Center](#) and [BronxArtSpace](#). The evening begins and ends at Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos on the campus of Hostos Community College. Admission to venues is free and all are welcome to hop on board the trolley and enjoy them. **Directions to Hostos:** Subway: 2, 4 & 5 trains; Bus: BX1, BX2 & BX19; all destinations to 149th Street/Grand Concourse.

July 1st's trolley begins at 5:00pm at Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos (Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street) with a meet-and-greet reception for **Freddy Rodríguez: My Geometries 1970-2002**, a solo exhibition featuring paintings, drawings and mixed media works between 1970 and 2002, created by the Dominican-born, New York-based artist and curated by Rocio Aranda-Alvarado. This is the first exhibition to chart the artist's expansive and unique approach to geometric abstraction since his formative training during the apogee of Minimalism. While Rodríguez's early work drew inspiration from Piet Mondrian, Frank Stella and Mark Rothko—whose paintings he encountered at MoMA—his work soon came to reference historical, emotional and political subjects often deemed antithetical to pure formalism.

First comes the physical: the hard-edged abstraction of the 70s joins content in the form of human figures; sensual references to music, dancing and culture emerge. In the 80s, crisp geometric lines co-exist with fluid, loose brushstrokes. Sensuality again breaks through. The 90s see the historical and political take center stage: color and form combine with sugar, dirt, ground glass and peppercorns to evoke the European "Encounter" with the New World. Priestly vestments and slashed canvases reference the sexual abuse scandals in the Catholic Church. This is not your average geometry.

The trolley bell clangs at 5:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm indicating the trolley's departure from Hostos on its way to the evening's cultural events. The trolley is your free ticket to a cultural tour along the South Bronx Cultural Corridor of the lower Grand Concourse. The trolley runs on the **First Wednesday** of each month (except January and September), providing Bronxites and tourists alike a fun way to travel via a replica of an early 20th-century trolley car. Passengers are given the opportunity to sample several of the area's hottest cultural attractions, dining establishments and entertainment venues along the way.

In addition to Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, this month's trolley stops and attractions include:

- **Pregones Theater** for *Amen De Mariposas*, an exhibition by Dominican artist Germán Pérez, whose work is dedicated to women and is a tribute to the Mirabal Sisters, who are symbols of resistance and courage in the Dominican Republic.
- **Metropolitan College of New York-Bronx Extension Center** for a viewing of *Shelf Life: The Import and Impact of 'ISMS'* — Under the broad theme 'Shelf Life: The Import and Impact of ISMS' (ism/izem, suffix: popularly coined to define specific ideologies). Artists are invited to explore/interpret the scope of identity, social constructs and mis/appropriation.
- **Bronx Documentary Center** for *Altered Images*, a photographic exhibition exploring disputed images in photojournalism and documentary photography — photos that have been faked, posed and retouched. From the American Civil War to present, this groundbreaking exhibition examines many of the most prominent cases and shines a spotlight on acceptable documentary practice and ethical photojournalism.
- **BronxArtSpace** for *Contours*, an exhibition about interaction and spatial relationships, constructed entirely on interdependence. It considers the capacity of correspondence in a fixed parameter.

The Bronx Trolley First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour will return on August 5, 2015. Visit www.bronxarts.org in mid-July for information on August 5th's trolley as well as other BCA programs and activities. Additional information: 718-931-9500 x33.

The Bronx Trolley First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts and the Bronx Tourism Council, is made possible with funding from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYS Council on the Arts, the Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., Hostos Community College, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., NYC Council Members Andrew Cohen, Andy King, Melissa Mark-Viverito and James Vacca and the Bronx Delegation of the City Council.

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Bronx Writers Center • BCA @ 2700 • Longwood Art Gallery

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