



50 Years and Moving Forward

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**Bronx Council on the Arts receives National Endowment for the Arts grant
for The Bronx Memoir Project**

Grant one of 817 NEA Art Works grants totaling \$26.3 million in funding nationwide

(August 8, 2013—Bronx) National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa announced that the Bronx Council on the Arts is one of 817 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. The Bronx Writers Center, a core program of the Bronx Council on the Arts, is recommended for a \$40,000 grant for The Bronx Memoir Project.

The Bronx Memoir Project supports the creation, distribution and promotion of Bronx oral and written memoirs by Bronx residents. Emerging writers will conduct workshops and interviews throughout the borough, with a focus on the South Bronx, and work directly with seniors, teens and families to create, edit and record first person narratives of homecoming and home. Written memoirs will be collected and published in both paper and e-book and oral memoirs will be shared online. This project will map the memoirs by neighborhood, street and building and together they will represent the moving history of the borough. This project is scheduled to begin fall 2013.

Acting Chairman Shigekawa said, "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support these exciting and diverse arts projects that will take place throughout the United States. Whether it is through a focus on education, engagement, or innovation, these projects all contribute to vibrant communities and memorable opportunities for the public to engage with the arts."

Maria T. Romano, Director of the Bronx Writers Center, said, "We are so honored to receive this grant. For 50 years, the Bronx Council on the Arts has been the beating heart of Bronx arts and culture, and for almost 20 years, the Bronx Writers Center has been a home for Bronx writers and readers. With this support, we will work with our partners to record and celebrate the stories that live in the Bronx."

In August 2012, the NEA received 1,547 eligible applications for Art Works grants requesting more than \$80 million in funding. Art Works grants support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. The 817 recommended NEA grants total \$26.3 million and span 13 artistic disciplines and fields. Applications were reviewed by panels of outside experts convened by NEA staff and each project was judged on its artistic excellence and artistic merit.

For a [complete listing of projects](#) recommended for Art Works grant support, visit the NEA website at www.arts.gov.

The **Bronx Writers Center** supports and develops the appetite for writing and reading in the Bronx. The BWC searches for and promotes new voices and audiences and engages the community in literary and literacy programs. The **Bronx Council on the Arts** is celebrating 50 years as a private, non-profit membership organization that is the official cultural agency of Bronx County. Recognized nationally as a leading arts service organization in providing cultural services and arts programs, BCA serves a multicultural constituency of almost 1.4 million residents. BCA provides an array of services to 5,000 artists and more than 250 arts and community-based organizations.

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