

September 8, 2011

## Bronx beat

### BCA partners with senior centers

The **Bronx Council on the Arts** announces Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide (SPARC), a community arts engagement program that places artists-in-residence at senior centers across the five boroughs of New York City. The program provides selected artists with access to workspace in senior centers and a stipend in exchange for the creation and delivery of arts programming for seniors. Participating seniors will be engaged in an art project or series of cultural programs over the course of the residency, which will also include a public program component -- a series of exhibits, open houses and other cultural interactions open to the surrounding community. This initiative seeks to connect artists with seniors in senior centers and positively impact the well-being of seniors through arts-based activities.

The Bronx Council on the Arts is the administrating organization for the Bronx. Artists will be selected for SPARC through a competitive application process. A call to artists is available on the BCA website at [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org) for all Bronx artists interested in working with a senior center in the borough of Bronx. Artists interested in a SPARC residency with a senior center in another borough are encouraged to visit the website of their local arts council for application materials and guidelines. The submission deadline is September 30.

To download the application for a SPARC residency at a Bronx senior center, please visit the Bronx Council on the Arts website at [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org). For further information call (718) 931-9500, ext. 23.

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William E. Griffin, chairman of the Board of **Hudson Valley Bank**, has announced that Vincent T. Palaia has been elected as a director of the Bank.

Palaia has been a senior executive with Hudson Valley for the past 23 years. He joined the bank in 1988 and was named to his current position, executive vice president and chief lending officer, in 1997. In that time, the bank has grown significantly. When he first came to Hudson Valley, the bank had approximately \$200 million in its loan portfolio, which has grown to about \$2 billion today.

Palaia has more than 40 years of experience in community banking in the New York Metropolitan area. He started his career with National Bank of Westchester in 1967 and subsequently worked for Lincoln Bank and Chase Bank in various capacities.

A resident of Greenburgh, NY, he has been active in a number of civic and business organizations throughout the area, including Junior Achievement, the Lions Club, local Chambers of Commerce and the New York Business Development Corp. He also spent two years of ac-

tive duty in the U.S. Navy.

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Marisa Sarlo-Passafiume has been named the director for **Manhattan College's** new Center of Academic Success. She will play a key role in helping to launch the new Center, which focuses on helping students to improve academic performance and success, leading to better retention and graduation rates.

Sarlo-Passafiume, a resident of Shrub Oak, N.Y., most recently served as director of the Manhattanville College mentor program within the Center for Academic Success, and assisted in developing and implementing the College's first peer mentoring program. In addition, she was also the assistant director of the Manhattanville advancement program, collaborating with faculty and staff to provide support services to historically underrepresented students during their first year experience.

Before coming to Manhattanville, Sarlo-Passafiume was the director of talent search and upward bound at the City University of New York Research Foundation, at Lehman College's Center for School College Collaboratives. She supervised a variety of enrichment programs including the TRiO programs, which contained 650 students, teachers, counselors, tutors and office workers and was designed to help monitor students' academic progress and college readiness.