

# The DAILY NEWS

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BRONX NEWS

## SPARC of fun slated for senior centers

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A POPULAR community arts program is returning to borough senior centers.

The SPARC program (Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide) places artists at senior centers to create art projects and cultural programs in exchange for a stipend and studio space.

Fifty arts residencies are available for the 2013 program. Nine senior centers are participating in the Bronx.

“SPARC programs – ranging from painting, writing and sculpture to dance and theater – allow (seniors) to use their imaginations, think creatively and enjoy physical activity,” city Department for the Aging Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, who announced \$200,000 in funding for the program last week.

“The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive,” Barrios-Paoli added.

SPARC is a collaboration among the city Department of Cultural Affairs, the

Opera soprano Anna Tonna entertains residents at Riverdale Senior Services during last year's SPARC program. Photo by Enid Alvarez/Daily News



city Department for the Aging and local arts councils in each borough, including the Bronx Council on the Arts.

It was developed as part of Age-friendly NYC, a citywide program aimed at making

New York more livable for the city's growing population of older adults.

Both artists and participants benefit from the partnership, said Deirdre Scott, head of the Bronx Council on the Arts, the

group that will be coordinating the program in the Bronx.

“Artists get to expand their portfolio of skills, meet great people and build new relationships. And older adults enjoy being engaged in various art forms, and being exposed to a variety of talented caring people,” said Scott, urging Bronx artists to apply.

Fifty artists participated in the inaugural 2012 program at 44 senior centers citywide.

Artist residencies for the 2013 SPARC program will take place in select senior centers from January to June 2013.

The participating Bronx senior centers are Bronxworks Heights; RAIN Boston East; PEP for Seniors NORC; Kips Bay Castle Hill Senior Center; Bronxworks Innovative; Neighborhood Shopp Casa Boricua; Coop City NORC; Neighborhood Shopp Leon; and the Sister Annunciata Bethel.

Application materials and guidelines for SPARC 2013 are available at [bronx-arts.org](http://bronx-arts.org). The submission deadline is Oct. 31.

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