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**December 6th's Bronx Culture Trolley Highlights:**  
**Longwood Art Gallery's 25th Anniversary Show &**  
**Traditional Puerto Rican Holiday Music at Pregones**

(Bronx – November 17, 2006) **The Bronx Culture Trolley**, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), rolls again on December 6th bringing with it Longwood Art Gallery's much anticipated 25th Anniversary show, *South Bronx Contemporary*, and *Parranda*, Pregones Theater's yearly holiday show – a sure trolley delight every December. Also on the trolley line-up is a tour of the studio of world-renowned artist Antonio Martorell, a new exhibit at Haven Arts Gallery in conjunction with Longwood's current show, and, as always poetry at the Downtown Bronx Cafe to wind down December's trolley night. All are welcome and admission is free.

The trolley bell's ring is your free ticket to a cultural tour along the lower Grand Concourse. **Admission to all participating venue attractions is free.** The Bronx Culture 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.

December 6th's trolley begins at the **Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos** (Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street) at 5:00pm with a meet-and-greet reception and a viewing of the gallery's much anticipated ***South Bronx Contemporary*** exhibit. *South Bronx Contemporary* is a major exhibition commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Longwood Arts Project. It features four distinct curatorial projects by Longwood's past directors, Fred Wilson, Betti-Sue Hertz, and Eddie Torres, as well as current director Edwin Ramoran. **Fred Wilson's project *Black Now*** will present the artist's observations about the contemporary meaning of the word "black" and the color black with items he has collected—and continues to collect—from ebay merchandise to popular culture. **Betti-Sue Hertz's exhibition *Street Disturbance*** will include artists Etcetera, William Pope.L, and Surveillance Camera Players who work in the public sphere and share a penchant for humor and agitprop to address political issues. **Eddie Torres' exhibition *Iconoclastic*** will feature works that employ visual forms found in mass culture—such as comics and advertising imagery—to engage the tension between freedom of speech and religious and cultural sensitivity. **Edwin Ramoran's project *Everyday Is Like Sunday*** breaks down the professional/non-professional binary by introducing works by a select, intergenerational group of Bronx artists in various media who are under-recognized and perceived as hobbyists. The show will be on view through March 10th. For further information on this special Longwood Art Gallery event and its upcoming exhibits, call 718-518-6728 or visit [www.longwoodcyber.org/](http://www.longwoodcyber.org/).

While at Hostos, you can begin your holiday shopping early at the **Artisans Boutique**. It offers imaginative creations in all price ranges that are yours for the browsing and for the buying. Items included are Korean knot tying novelties by Karen Ahn, art cards and prints by Diane Davis, original Japanese ceramics by Rei Yao, one-of-a-kind jewelry and pins by Fran Marino, and much more. View the work of our talented team of Bronx Artisans in a quaint, charming atmosphere and enjoy a **Hand-Craft Demonstration**. Call 718-401-9558, e-mail [lisa@bronxarts.org](mailto:lisa@bronxarts.org), or visit [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org) for additional information on BCA's Artisans Initiative and how to be a participating artisan.

Also at Hostos this month, trolley riders can **enjoy a lecture and tour the studio of world-renowned artist Antonio Martorell**. Antonio Martorell has worked as a set designer, book illustrator and designer, cartoonist and graphics arts teacher. He has exhibited in the United States, Mexico, South America and Europe. A native of Santurce, Puerto Rico, Martorell is the winner of numerous awards and in 1986, a 20-year retrospective of his work filled two museums in San Juan. Included in the retrospective were innovative book designs and illustrations, posters that fused word and image, and portfolios dedicated to much-admired writers. Also included were works that revealed the artist could no longer express himself within the traditional, two-dimensional graphics format. Prints burst their bounds to become murals and the viewer was asked to become a participant in Martorell's creativity as he sought to make art "jump off the wall and become something palpable, inhabitable." In 1992 El Museo del Barrio in New York City presented Martorell's House for Us All. In this installation, the artist offered the viewer a house of childhood visions, a house of boundless possibility, one where walls were built with maps that chart the literary adventures of the writers he admired as a boy — Mark Twain, Robert Louis Stevenson, Alexander Dumas, Jules Verne, and Victor Hugo. The transformation of the marvelous into the daily, and the daily into the marvelous, is a hallmark of Martorell's work. For more information on this lecture and studio tour, call 718-518-6700.

**The trolley bell clangs at 5:30pm, 6:30pm, and 7:30pm** indicating the trolley's departure from Hostos to make its way to the evening's cultural events. Passengers can simply enjoy the trolley ride or they can hop on and off at different stops along the route to enjoy the evening's free activities.

**FIRST STOP: Bronx Museum of the Arts** (1040 Grand Concourse at 165th Street) where you can view their latest exhibition ***Tropicália: A Revolution in Brazilian Culture***. Guest-curated by Carlos Basualdo, *Tropicália* is the first comprehensive exhibition to explore one of the most significant chapters in modern cultural history, a period beginning in the late 1960s when daring experiments in Brazilian art, music, film, architecture and theater converged—and ignited. Although suppressed by an increasingly oppressive military dictatorship, the moment produced a counterculture that has influenced successive generations of artists, even up to the present day. This exhibit is on view thru January 28th. For information on this show or the Bronx Museum and its many events and activities, call 718-681-6000 or visit [www.bronxmuseum.org](http://www.bronxmuseum.org).

**NEXT STOP: Pregones Theater's La Casa Blanca** (571 Walton Avenue, between 149th & 150th Streets) for ***Parranda: Traditional Holiday Music from Puerto Rico*** performed by Los pleneros de la 21 -- *Parranda* is a centuries-old Christmas holiday tradition where musicians travel from house to house singing festive songs. Tonight it is the public who will travel to La Casa Blanca to be greeted with lively holiday music. For more information on Pregones and its performances, call 718-585-1202 or visit [www.pregones.org](http://www.pregones.org).

**NEXT STOP: Haven Arts Gallery** (235 East 141st Street, 2nd Floor, between Rider Avenue & Canal Place) where you can view the gallery's latest exhibition ***Longwood Arts Projects: Then & Now*** -- In conjunction with the Longwood Art Gallery's *South Bronx Contemporary* exhibit, Haven Arts will exhibit works from select Longwood Gallery exhibitions of the 1980s as well as current works from the Longwood Cyber Residency and Digital Matrix programs. This exhibit is on view through December 30th. Artists include: Fred Wilson, Manuel Acevedo, Monika Bravo, Gaye Chan, William Crow, Nicolás Dumit Estévez, Kenta Furusho, Shih-Chieh Huang, Prima Murthy, and Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz. Curated by Barry Kostrinsky, Edwin Ramoran, and J.C. Rice. The show will be view through December 30th. For information on the Haven Arts Gallery and its upcoming shows, call 718-585-5753 or visit [www.havenarts.org](http://www.havenarts.org).

**FINAL STOP** of the evening: **Poetry at the Downtown Bronx Bar and Cafe** (141 East 149th Street & Walton Avenue) where you can enjoy poetry by this month's featured reader **Thomas Sayers Ellis**. Mr. Ellis' work has appeared in many journals and anthologies. He is a contributing editor to *Callaloo*, a consulting editor to *A Public Space*, and a 2005 recipient of a Mrs. Gilea Whiting Writers' Award. His first, full collection, *The Maverick Room*, was published by Graywolf Press in 2005. He has also authored *The Good Junk* (Take Three #1, Graywolf 1996); a chapbook *The Genuine Negro Hero* (Kent State University Press, 2001) and the chaplet *Song On* (WinteRed Press 2005). He is the co-founder of Cambridge, MA's The Dark Room Collective, an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Sarah Lawrence College, and a faculty member of The Lesley University low-residency M.F.A program in Cambridge, MA. His *Quotes Community: Notes for Black Poets* is also forthcoming from the University of Michigan Press, Poets on Poetry Series. Mr. Ellis has received fellowships and grants from The Fine Arts Work Center, the Ohio Arts Council, Yaddo and The MacDowell Colony. An open mic session will immediately follow the featured reader. For additional information on this and future readings at the Downtown Bronx Bar & Café, call Ron Kavanaugh at 718-409-1265 or e-mail [ron@bronxarts.org](mailto:ron@bronxarts.org).

For additional information on the Bronx Culture Trolley and the Bronx Cultural Card (which offers percentage off discounts at participating Bronx organizations and business establishments), contact Phil Cardone at 718-931-9500 x33 or at [trolley@bronxarts.org](mailto:trolley@bronxarts.org). The Bronx Culture Trolley will not run in January. It will be on hiatus until February 7, 2007. Visit BCA's website at [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org) in early January for information about February 7th's trolley night attractions as well as other events, activities, and programs of the Bronx Council on the Arts.

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