



50 Years and Looking Forward

## **Bronx Council on the Arts Awards \$75,900 to 20 Artists and Community Organizations at March 6th Check Presentation**

(Bronx, NY – February 25, 2013) The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) has awarded \$75,900 to 20 local recipients of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Greater New York Arts Development Fund (DCAGNYADF) grants. A check presentation will take place March 6th, at 4:00pm, at Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos preceding that evening's *First Wednesdays Bronx Culture Trolley* event. The ceremony will be attended by representatives of recipient organizations, artists, local legislators, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and members of BCA's Board of Directors.

**The DCAGNYADF Arts Fund grant** is open to Bronx-based artists and arts organizations with organizational budgets under \$100,000 who do not receive direct funding from DCA and provide arts activities to borough residents. For example, actress/singer Amanda "Frankie" Johnson will premiere a new musical at the Cephias Center for the Arts, located at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 2500 Westchester Avenue, in the Westchester Square section of the Northeast Bronx. The performance, to be held at Foster Hall, will be part of an annual arts festival held by the Cephias Center.

Another artist grantee, Dennis Redmoon Dakeem, will be developing a transnational traveling project entitled *Trading Blankets*. *Trading Blankets* follows the trading traditions of indigenous US east coast Native peoples, and re-introduces the concept of trading and bartering items in the Bronx. Dakeem will lay his hand-crafted items on a blanket and invite spectators to participate by trading items and shaking hands to finalize the transaction. The project will involve community members and will be documented by a photography and video exhibition in the Bronx.

Of the winning organizations, Bardekova Ensemble are a returning grantee of professional musicians who perform as a trio, quartet and quintet. They are composed of woodwind and stringed instruments and will present a series of concerts in the Norwood, City Island, and Co-op City sections of the Bronx.

This year, **17 artists and 3 arts organizations received awards totaling \$75,900**. Individual Artists (17) are: Amanda "Frankie" Johnson, Ave Maria Cross, Bobby Santana, Joseph (Chuke) Onyedika, Dennis Redmoon Darkeem, Freddy Sepulvida, Guy Gonzales, Howard Cash, Imani Vidal, Ivan Velez, Jessica Danser, Josie Gonzalez, Milteri Tucker, Nancy Benignus, Pedro Martinez, Rosemarie Fiore, and Ray Felix. Arts Organizations (3) are: Bardekova Ensemble, Bronx Concert Singers, Inc., Full Circle Productions.

Each year BCA provides artists and organizations the opportunity to apply for funds serving a variety of purposes. These funds are charged with fostering the continuing development of local cultural resources responsive to community needs. Applications for the 2013-2014 grants will be available from the Bronx Council on the Arts beginning July. For more information on BCA and its entire grant programs, please visit the grants pages on BCA's website at [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).

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