



50 Years and Moving Forward

BCA Bx Writers Center
bronxarts.org

Devoted to creating and supporting Bronx voices, readers and writers.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BCA's Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) Literary Winners
Conduct Workshops for The Big Read and The Bronx Memoir Project**

(Bronx — April 1, 2014) 2013 BRIO literary winners Jon Lewis Katz, Patricia O'Hanlon, Leah Maddrie, Phyllis Bowdwin and Jamali Corniel will fulfill their BRIO Artists for Community Enrichment (ACE) community service programs for two Bronx Council on the Arts programs in spring 2014 — the Bronx Memoir Project and The Big Read. Both will stimulate literary culture in the Bronx: by encouraging Bronx residents to write about themselves via a series of free workshops and through a public celebration of the African-American literary classic *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston.

Jon Lewis Katz (April 1) and **Patricia O'Hanlon** (May 1 & 8) will be conducting two of the workshop cycles for the Bronx Memoir Project at the Melrose Branch of the New York Public Library and Bronx Library Center respectively. Visit bronxarts.org for complete workshop schedule). **Leah Maddrie** (April 7), **Phyllis Bowdwin** (April 28) and **Jamali Corniel** (April 29) will compose, perform and conduct workshops at BCA @ 2700 for The Big Read, tailoring their presentations to themes related to *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, while also claiming their mutual public spaces as women of color in the arts.

Since 1989 **BRIO** (Bronx Recognizes Its Own) has provided direct financial support to Bronx artists in recognition of putting forth their very best in the areas of literary, media, film, performing, and visual arts. A total of 25 BRIO grants of \$3,000 each are awarded annually. Only artists living in the Bronx are eligible to apply. BRIO award winners must complete a one-time public service activity — their **ACE** (Artists for Community Enrichment) — before they receive their complete award. The ACE was created to provide artists with additional visibility and also to provide Bronxites with the opportunity to experience the wealth of talent available in our community. When possible, recipients will be given an opportunity to take part in an exhibition, performance, or workshop through one of our BCA programs.

Charlie Vázquez, Director of the Bronx Writers Center, says, "We're proud of our ACE-fulfilling artists and their commitment to serving the wonderful people of our borough. They are proof that the Bronx continues to produce world-class talent. Bringing their work and knowledge to the public entertains, enlightens and inspires people, and that makes the world a better place."

The Bronx Writers Center, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts, is supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Robert A. Bowne Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts' Literature Program, NYC Council Member James Vacca, New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, Arts Midwest, the Scherman Foundation, the Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, and the Westchester Square Branch of the New York Public Library.



Jon Lewis Katz



Patricia O'Hanlon



Leah Maddrie



Phyllis Bowdwin



Jamali Corniel

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Bronx Writers Center • BCA @ 2700 • Longwood Art Gallery • bronxarts.org

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