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BCA's Bronx Writers Center Launches Bronx Memoir Project Workshops for Summer Anthology

(March 11, 2014 – Bronx) **The Bronx Memoir Project**, created by the Bronx Council on the Arts, seeks to develop and collect various (500-1000-word) memoir fragments written by people of all ages, races, genders, nationalities and backgrounds currently residing in the Bronx. This will be achieved by deploying memoir writing facilitators to different cultural destinations throughout the borough from March 15 through May 31, 2014.

The project supports the creation, distribution and promotion of Bronx oral and written memoirs by Bronx residents. The project's emerging writers will conduct workshops and interviews throughout the borough and work directly with seniors, teens and families to create, edit and record first person narratives of homecoming and home. Written memoirs will be collected and published in a summer anthology, in both paper and e-book formats, and oral memoirs will be shared online. This project will map the memoirs by neighborhood, street and building and together they will represent moving history of the borough.



The Bronx Memoir Project was made possible by a grant from the [National Endowment for the Arts](#). The workshops are free and available to persons of all writing skill levels. Information: 718-931-9500 x21 or www.bronxarts.org.

NEA Senior Deputy Chairman Joan Shigekawa said, "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support these exciting and diverse arts projects that will take place throughout the United States. Whether it is through a focus on education, engagement or innovation, these projects all contribute to vibrant communities and memorable opportunities for the public to engage with the arts."

Resulting works submitted in final draft form (e-mailed to the [Bronx Writers Center](#)) will be published in both traditional trade paperback and e-book formats in summer 2014, in an anthology to be produced by the Bronx Writers Center. This compilation of original testimonies will be the first of its kind and will give a much needed and well-deserved voice to those who call the Bronx home.

Bronx filmmakers will also participate by compiling video/film clips of people telling their stories to the camera instead of the page, as part of the Bronx Memoir Project's oral/visual history component. Completed works for consideration for the Bronx Memoir Project anthology can be e-mailed to bronxwriters@bronxarts.org.

Charlie Vázquez, Director of the Bronx Writers Center, said, "We are very lucky to have received this grant. The Bronx Council on the Arts and the Bronx Writers Center have served the people of the Bronx for fifty years, and this project will give the participants of our various writing workshops and programs a chance to tell the world something about themselves, in their own words. Everyone loves a great story and the people of the Bronx have plenty to share."

The Bronx Writers Center, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts, is supported by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Robert A. Bowne Foundation, the NYS Council on the Arts, NYC Council Members Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Annabel Palma and James Vacca, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, Arts Midwest, the Lambert Foundation of the Tides Foundation, and the Bronx Branches of the New York Public Library.

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