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**Executive Director of the Bronx Council on the Arts to Step Down
Deirdre Scott will focus on other pursuits including development of Westchester Square**

Bronx, NY, Friday, July 15, 2016 – **Charles Rice-González**, Chair of the **Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA)** announced today that its Executive Director **Deirdre Scott**, who has led the organization since 2009, will leave her position effective September 30, 2016 to focus on other pursuits. Ms. Scott will continue to spearhead the development of BCA's future headquarters, a building in Westchester Square, as a consultant.

For the past 7 years, Ms. Scott has overseen BCA's growth and robust programming, including its cultural re-grants program, public programs, and organizational development; advancement of artists and organizations, and exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery.

"The board appreciates Deirdre's years of service and is pleased that she has agreed to continue to guide the Westchester Square project," said Mr. Rice-González. "The Bronx has been fortunate to have such a committed arts professional serving its artists and cultural organizations over these past 7 years."

"I've enjoyed my years at BCA. It's been very gratifying working to grow the arts and culture in the Bronx and beyond. I'll miss working closely with our artists, grantees and audiences, and of course BCA staff and Board. I am very excited that our new building HQ – BCA@2700 is starting to move ahead and delighted to remain part of the headquarters project. I look forward to shepherding it to herald a new day for BCA and Bronx Arts," said Ms. Scott. She adds that, "our new HQ building constitutes an essential, permanent home for arts and culture in the Bronx. It will broaden the range of opportunities for BCA, artists and the creative economy, and the Westchester Square community as well. We are grateful for the investment New York City, our Borough President, and City Council leadership have made in this journey and endeavor."

Mr. Rice-González announced that the Board will name an Interim Executive Director and launch a search for a new Executive Director later this summer.

"The Bronx is experiencing an exciting resurgence that includes its artistic and cultural life," said Mr. Rice-Gonzalez. "It is a fascinating borough with new immigrant populations – from Africa and Latin America. The Bronx Council on the Arts is well positioned to serve such diverse audiences. Our recent BRONX AFRICA exhibition, which Deirdre created, is just one example of this exciting direction."

A pioneering advocate for cultural equity, the Bronx Council on the Arts nurtures the development of a diverse array of artists and arts organizations, and builds strong cultural connections in and beyond The Bronx.

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