

2015 BRIO PANELISTS

Miguel Angeles
Josephina Baez
Chris Boswell
Suzanne Broughel
Robin Browne
Tulani Browne
Derrick Cameron
Tom Cardamone
Ingrid Edmondson
Kim Hamilton

Tiffany Harrington
Shatera Hillyer
Jamillah Jennings
Suset Laboy
Abigail Lapin
Cecil Lee
Alicia Lieu
AB Lugo
Steven Mackiewicz
Dylan Masai

Vanessa Matir
Michael Mejias
Nancy Mercado
Raquel Penzo
Linda Powell
Lauren Oliver
Nicholas Rispoli
Daniel Vidal Soto
Theresa Valera
Grace Whitworth

Grants Panelists Wanted. Go to www.bronxarts.org/grants.asp to apply.

HELP YOURSELF GET BETTER GRANTS!

Seeing it Through

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOP SERIES

Saturday, June 27, 2015 2:00-3:00pm

Audience Development Two-Part Workshop with Ron Kavanaugh
Part 1: Defining and Targeting to Your Project's Audience
Part 2: Using Social Media to Market Your Project

Morris Park Public Library | 985 Morris Park Avenue | 718-931-0636

Monday, June 29, 2015 5:00-3:00pm

Everything You Want To Know About Fiscal Sponsorship but Were To Afraid To Ask

with Eileen Newman, Executive Director, Center for Bronx Non-Profits
Hostos Community College | 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street
C-Building, 3rd floor, JFK Room (located inside the main Hostos Dining Hall)

BRIO

2015



BRONX
COUNCIL
ON THE
ARTS
bronxarts.org

26th Annual

Bronx Recognizes Its Own

BRIO Awards Ceremony

**Celebrating Artistic Excellence
in the Bronx since 1989**

Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos

Hostos Community College

450 Grand Concourse

Bronx, NY 10451

Wed | June 10, 2015 | 6:00 pm

ARTS FUND

**ARTIST FOR
COMMUNITY
GRANT**

**COMMUNITY
ARTS
GRANT**

2016 Applications Available Monday, August 3, 2015

Bronx Recognizes Its Own

BRIO Fellowships support Bronx artists

About BRIO: 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. BRIO award winners must complete a one-time public service activity (ACE) to receive their complete award. The selection process is based solely on artistic excellence and is decided by a panel of arts professionals representing the various disciplines. Only artists living in the Bronx are eligible to apply for BRIO. Since its inception, BRIO has provided more than \$950,000 to 335 artists.

About ACE (Artists for Community Enrichment): An important and integral component of BRIO is ACE which requires each awardee to present a one-time public service activity that benefits the community within the one-year period of the award. This initiative was created to provide artists with additional visibility and also to provide Bronxites with the opportunity to experience the wealth of talent available in the community. Recipients are given an opportunity to take part in an exhibition, performance, or workshop through one of BCA's programs. When the ACE activity is completed, the awardee receives the remaining \$500 balance of the award.

About BCA: The Bronx Council on the Arts, established in 1962, is the official cultural agency of the Bronx. BCA is recognized nationally as a leading arts service organization that provides grants, cultural services and programming. We serve the entire county of the Bronx (over 1.4 million residents), and connect with Upper Manhattan, Westchester and regional resources. BCA offers a wide array of services to a multitude of artists and more than 250 arts and community-based organizations.

BCA's Mission: 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.

Funding for BRIO is provided by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs-Greater New York Arts Development Fund. Additional funding is provided by the NYS Council on the Arts, Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., Hostos Community College, NYC Council Members Andrew Cohen, Andy King, Melissa Mark-Viverito, and James Vacca and the Bronx Delegation of the City Council and BCA's membership program.



2016 BRIO applications will be available
online Friday, October 2, 2015.

Application Submission Deadline:
Friday, December 4, 2015.

For further information about the Bronx Council on the Arts and its programs and activities, visit www.bronxarts.org or call 718-931-9500
BCA is located at 1738 Hone Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461

BRIO PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS

PRESENTATION OF BRIO AWARDS

2015 BRIO Award Winners

LITERARY ARTS

Rachel Ansong / poetry

Derrick Michael Charles / illustrated text

Jon Lewis Katz / fiction

Antoinette Mullins / playwrighting

José Olivarez / poetry

Chiseche Salome Mibenge / non-fiction

A. A. Weiss / non-fiction

MEDIA ARTS

Nelson Pena / narrative film/video

Philip Bell / documentary film/video

PERFORMING ARTS

April Armstrong / story telling

Jose Batista-Ayala / spoken word

Igor Beigelman / instrumental music performance

Tyrone Birkett / instrumental music performance

Tamara Cashour / music composition

Ilana Davidson / vocal music performance

Steven Lubin / instrumental music performance

Penny Prince / music composition

Abdul Rasheed / choreography

Donald Vega / instrumental music performance

VISUAL ARTS

Heidi Johnson / painting

Ruth Marshall / craft

Arnaldo Morales / sculpture

Amy Pryor / mixed media

Christy Speakman / photography

Edwin Torres / photography

GROUP PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

with 2015 BRIO Winners

2015 BRIO AWARDEES

Rachel Ansong / poetry: In 2005, Rachel Ansong exchanged the Accra sun for the New York City moon. Although she found this "between two cultures" to be very difficult, because she was only 12 years old and could not return home because of her "undocumented" status, she was able to discover her passion in writing. Rachel used writing as a way to cope with and establish roots in her new surroundings. She continues to cultivate this passion at City College, drawing inspiration from the narratives her grandmother told her as child in Ghana. As a poet, Rachel would also like to become a teacher of the discipline, sharing with others the power of expression in discovering their identity and overcoming challenges. She believes her grandmother's narratives do not end with her. She wants the fragrance of her mixed culture, her ever-broadening knowledge and her passionate perspectives to linger out in the world.

April Armstrong / story telling: April Armstrong is a storyteller, actress and singer. A featured teller at Clearwater Revival, Mohegan and Connecticut College Festivals, she has told stories for schools, colleges, libraries and museums in the NYC Tri-State area; California, Florida, Georgia, Jamaica, Negri, Jamaica and Bali, Indonesia. Throughout the year, April's a regular at Historic Hudson Valley's Philipsburg Manor for "Pinker Celebration" and Washington Irving's Sunnyside at "Legends" festival. April wrote and performs *Two Wings to Heaven* — the Story of Bessie Coleman, a one-woman show about black aviation, and is one of writers of the bestselling book *The Big Moo*. April's theatre career includes Broadway National Tours, Off-Broadway, and regional theaters throughout the USA; and a recurring character on *Law & Order: SVU*. She can be heard singing in the film *Washington Square*. April's debut CD, *The Cat Came Back: Stories and Songs with a Jazzy Twist* is available on CDBaby and Amazon.com. Learn more about April at www.aprilarmstrong.com.

Jose Batista-Ayala / spoken word: After moving to NYC in 2005, with no formal training in anything related to theater, Jose began acting, writing and dancing (salsa) for an off-Broadway urban sketch comedy group. "We were like 'In Living Color', but better and I was like JLO, but better". In 2007, he ventured off on his own to write, produce and direct his first play called *FRIENDAMIGO* about a group of gay friends from Washington Heights. Jose took what he knew about being gay and Dominican and created an LOL comedy experience for his audience. After a break from theater, he brought *FRIENDAMIGO* back in 2013, bigger & better. Since then he's done his one-man variety show *DRUNK ON LOVE* and wrote a piece about gay cruising called *The Cruising Monologues*. His current show *POETR OMEDY: A One-Man Dramedy* combines his comedy & poetry in a unique way. It debuted in February 2015 at BAAD! (Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance).

Igor Begelman / instrumental music performance: Exhilarating virtuosity and imagination that compliment his "gracious sense of style and excellent musical personality" have become trademarks for clarinetist Igor Begelman. Winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, the award given to outstanding American artists, he has performed recitals and as a soloist with orchestras across all continents. Equally accomplished as a chamber musician, he has performed with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and at festivals throughout the world including Marlboro, Caramoor, Moab, Tanglewood and Schleswig-Holstein. Aside from performing the traditional literature of the clarinet repertoire, he has premiered compositions by many of today's leading composers. Mr. Begelman has served as a Professor of Clarinet at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and currently teaches at Brooklyn and Sarah Lawrence Colleges.

Phillip Bell / documentary film/video: Born in New York City, Phillip's early interest in painting and fine arts created an important base upon which his filmmaking developed. He studied Computer Art at the School of Visual Arts until his ongoing interest in photography drew him into a different career. After seven years as a freelance photographer he transitioned from still to moving image and has since worked as a cinematographer, editor and director on both short and long form projects. Phillip resides in the Bronx, dividing his time between commercial work, personal projects and collaborations.

Tyrone Birkett / instrumental music performance: Tyrone Birkett is a saxophonist, composer and producer. His current recording with his group Tyrone Birkett Emancipation titled "Postmodern Spirituals: The Promised Land" is the first endeavor to showcase his Postmodern Spirituals concept. The Negro Spiritual revived and refreshed through jazz language, 70s soul music and black church music. As a saxophonist, Tyrone Birkett has synthesized his mentorship by jazz saxophone greats Frank Foster and Budd Johnson, years toiling in black church sanctuaries and soul-jazz into a distinctive fusion. Tyrone has brought his music to venues including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Schomburg Center for Black Culture, The Greene Space at WYNY, Lehman

Center for the Performing Arts at Lehman College, the U.N., Montreal Convention Centre, Bermuda Europe. He attended JHS 125 and Adlai Stevenson HS where won the John Philip Sousa Band and Armstrong Jazz Awards respectively and attended the Aaron Copland School at Queens College.

Tamara Cashour / music composition: Tamara Cashour is a composer of song cycles, piano chamber music, music theatre, incidental music and sacred music for organ and choir. A multi-year ASCA Composer Award winner 2008-2015, and was first place winner of the 2008 For Women Only Composition competition. Her compositions have premiered in major NYC venues, nationally internationally, including Symphony Space, Queens College Lefrak, St. Peter's Cilticorp, Brandeis University, Columbia University, 47th St. Theatre and Rome, Italy. She enjoys a professional career as a collaborator with a Carnegie-Weill where she debuted as a recitalist in 2002 and is a member of New Composers Circle. Since 2008, she's been a vocal collaborative pianist at Mammes College of Music; H regional opera musical director credits include Lake George Opera and Natchez Opera. She has been Director/Organist/Composer-in-Residence, Presbyterian Church/New Rochelle and Rehearsal Accompanist at the Bronx Concert Singers. Tamara received her BA from Columbia University and her MA from NYU.

Derrick Michael Charles / illustrated text: Born in 1985 in the Bronx, Derrick Michael Charles is an African American comic book writer currently living in the Coop City section of the Bronx. Graduating from Le College in 2008 with a BA degree and a minor in Black Studies, Derrick never officially pursued academically. Instead, he became interested in the field of writing in the years following his graduation he rediscovered his love reading through fantasy novels and comic books. He began working on his first *Ninja Express*, in 2009 as a solo work. In 2010, Derrick began collaborating with Pronto Comics, producing *Cold Night* and forming his partnership with Ninja Express artist Drake Tenta. Derrick also wrote an issue of a comic titled "Ruin" and he is currently working on moving into children's books and novels.

Iana Davidson / vocal music performance: Grammy Award-winning soprano Iana Davidson enjoys busy singing career. She recently made her third appearance at Carnegie Hall in a lead role with American Symphony in Max Von Schilling's *Mona Lisa*. Her recording *Songs of Innocence and Experience* with Maestro Leonard Stalkin won six Grammy Awards in 2006. She has sung with symphonies and opera companies throughout Europe and North America. This summer she reunited Maestro Keith Lockhart at the Brevard Music Festival in Mahler's 4th *Symphony* and Mozart's *Exsultate*. Iana has given numerous world premieres and is a crusader for the works of Ernst Krenek (1991). She frequents the baroque and early music repertoire and has recently represented the famous with the Pearl Earring" in repertoire of the 16th century baroque with Ars Antiqua. She is the A Director of the classical chamber music series in Riverdale called ClassicalCafé.

Heidi Johnson / painting: Heidi Johnson was born in Providence, Rhode Island. While attending University for her undergraduate studies, she attended The School of the Museum of Fine Arts School, Boston, MA. Her work has always been an inquiry into personal perceptions and experiences of time and memory. While traveling extensively throughout Southeast Asia and India, her work became heavily influenced by Thangka paintings, their ideas of simultaneity and ordering of space-everything, all at once. She noticed same concept of simultaneity in Dutch still life, and fast-forward to now...the moving three-dimensional world of contemporary society. She currently lives and works in the Mott Haven area of the Bronx.

Jon Lewis-Katz / fiction: Jon Lewis-Katz was born in Los Angeles to a West Indian mother and a Jewish father, and has made his home in New York City for most of his adult life. His writing has appeared in *New Walk*, *Los Angeles CityBeat*, *the Pasadena Weekly*, *the Ventura County Reporter*, and *The Tri Guardian*. He has received a Charles Pick Fellowship, an Alonzo Davis Fellowship and a BRIO award from the Bronx Council on the Arts. He has also completed residencies at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts and the Paden Institute and Retreat. At present, he is an Assistant Professor at Bronx Community College and is at work on a collection of stories about West Indians and West Indian-Americans in New York City.

Steven Lubin / instrumental music performance: In the past few seasons, pianist Steven Lubin performed as concerto soloist or recitalist in England, France, Spain, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy, Finland, Ukraine, Australia, Taiwan, Japan, and all across North America. He has appeared as soloist in many of the world's great concert halls, including Avery Fisher, Alice Tully, Barbican Center, and Ker Center, and in major international festivals, such as Luthansa, South Bank, Regensburg, Colmar, Utrecht, Roque d'Anthéron, Aranjuez, Ravinia, Espoo, Mostly Mozart, and Mainly Mozart. He has performed with National Symphony, the Odessa Philharmonic, the Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg, the St. Paul and