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Press Contact:
Anne Edgar, Anne Edgar Associates,
(646) 336-7230 or anne@anneedgar.com
Camille Wanliss, Director of Marketing,
(718) 681-6000, ext.120, cwanliss@bronxmuseum.org

BRONX MUSEUM PRESENTS TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM,
TIMED TO CENTENARY OF THE GRAND CONCOURSE

Daniel Libeskind Delivers Keynote: Conference
Poses Questions about the Bronx’s History and Future

New York — Noted architects, urban planners, city officials, historians, writers, and artists will convene at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Grand Concourse and 165th Street, on Friday, March 6, and Saturday, March 7 to discuss the history and future of the Bronx.

Free and open to the public (with registration), the symposium, entitled Intersections: The Grand Concourse at 100, is part of a year-long series of events and exhibitions marking the centennial of the Grand Concourse. A visionary feat of 19th-century city planning, the Grand Concourse was conceived in 1890 and designed by the French-born engineer Louis Risse as a means of connecting residents of Manhattan to the parks of the north Bronx. After nearly two decades of planning, engineering, and construction, the Grand Concourse officially opened in November 1909.

“This centenary milestone is prompting today’s New Yorkers to consider how the Bronx and the Grand Concourse can best evolve in the next few decades,” says Holly Block, executive director, The Bronx Museum of the Arts. “The question is how to retain the character of the Bronx, while addressing pressing urban concerns.”


On Saturday morning, March 7, Daniel Libeskind, renowned architect and master planner for the reconstruction of the World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan, will deliver the keynote address for Intersections: The Grand Concourse at 100. Libeskind spent his teenage years in the Bronx and attended the Bronx High School of Science.

Throughout the day, symposium participants will address an array of subjects, among them the lessons to be learned from the Grand Concourse and the audacity of the vision that
produced it, the forgotten history of the Bronx Parks system, and options for a growing borough that faces crises in housing, green space, and transportation if steps are not taken for the future.

Intersections: The Grand Concourse at 100 culminates with a workshop led by the Center for Urban Pedagogy.

Symposium Program Schedule: Friday, March 6

6:30—8:00pm  
Honoring Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion  
Opening Remarks:  
Holly Block (Executive Director, Bronx Museum of the Arts)

Keynote Address:  
Dr. Gary Hermalyn (Executive Director, Bronx County Historical Society)  
News accounts of the Grand Concourse in the early 20th century

Featured speakers:  
Prof. Ray Bromley (Professor, Geography and Planning Department, SUNY Albany): The Audacity of the Concourse Project  
Dr. Mark Naison (Professor of History & African American Studies, Fordham University): Ethnic Succession on the Grand Concourse  
Prof. Lloyd Ultan (Historian, Bronx County Historical Society): Louis Risse and the Political Context of His Thoroughfare

Saturday, March 7

9:30—10:00am  
Registration

10:00—10:10am  
Opening Remarks  
Sergio Bessa (Director of Programs, The Bronx Museum of the Arts)

10:10—10:50am  
Keynote Address: Daniel Libeskind (Architect)

11:00—11:40am  
Dr. Peter Derrick (Historian, Bronx County Historical Society)  
Creation of the Bronx Parks System

11:45am—1:00pm  
Bronx Architecture and the Future of the Concourse  
Susan Hoeltzel (Director, Lehman College Art Gallery)  
Deborah Marton (Director, Design Trust for Public Space)  
Moderator: William Menking (Executive Editor, The Architect’s Newspaper)

2:00—3:00pm  
Intersections: New Art Commissions
Skowmon Hastanan, Katie Holten, Jeff Liao, Pablo Helguera
Moderator: Holly Block (Executive Director, The Bronx Museum of the Arts)

3:00—4:00pm Learning From The Grand Concourse
William Casari (Librarian, Hostos Community College)
Sam Goodman (Urban Planner, Bronx Borough President’s Office)
Anthony Greene (Education Coordinator, Bronx County Historical Society)

4:30—6:00pm Teacher training workshop led by Center for Urban Pedagogy

SPONSORSHIP

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The Bronx Museum of the Arts receives ongoing general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with the cooperation of the Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. and the Bronx Delegation of the New York City Council; The Ford Foundation; Starry Night Fund of Tides Foundation; New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; Bronx Delegation of the New York State Assembly; New York Times Company Foundation; and private sources.

The Bronx Museum of the Arts
The flagship cultural institution of the Bronx, founded in 1971, The Bronx Museum of the Arts focuses on 20th-century and contemporary art, while serving the culturally diverse populations of the Bronx and the greater New York metropolitan area. The museum’s home on the Grand Concourse is a distinctive contemporary landmark designed by the internationally-renowned firm Arquitectonica. The Museum’s educational offerings spring from these central programs with outreach to children and families as well as adult audiences. For more information please visit www.bronxmuseum.org

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