



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NYRP and Bronx Museum Team Up to Present Free *Arts in the Gardens* Series in Select Bronx Community Gardens

Partnership commits to activating NYRP community gardens in the Bronx with slew of curated, quality arts programming

New York, NY, May 2014 – [New York Restoration Project](#) (NYRP) and The [Bronx Museum of the Arts](#) have partnered to present a season of free arts programming in select NYRP community gardens in the Bronx. With the goal of raising awareness of and further activating NYRP's wider network of public green spaces, the *Arts in the Gardens* series will bring communities together to enjoy performing and other live arts in a natural, outdoor setting. NYRP gardens are available for anyone to volunteer in, grow produce, and host their own events. The event series will feature a mixed line-up of family-friendly events, including a community day; performances by local hip hop artists, DJs, MCs, and spoken word poets; a performance art installation; and a film series showcasing Bronx life. From June through August, the events will take place in three gardens located in the Tremont, Melrose and Highbridge neighborhoods of the South Bronx.

"We're thrilled to partner with the Bronx Museum to offer high-quality arts programming that turns these spaces into multi-functional event venues for engaging with the community," said Jordan Dyniewski, NYRP's Public Events Director. "NYRP's community gardens are not just spaces for urban agriculture; they become exciting event venues where the community can gather to enjoy arts and nature together, and establish a growing sense of community."

The collaboration between NYRP and the Bronx Museum demonstrates a sustainable partnership model that present local communities with opportunities to enjoy free, high-quality programming, without which they may not be able to access or afford to experience performing and other live arts. The robust program also encourages people to engage more actively with their local environment. NYRP's 52 community gardens across the city are places where individuals can discover and build community within a socio-economically diverse environment. By turning these outdoor public spaces into interactive event venues, the program will increase awareness of community gardens as resources for local communities as well as the wider NYC audience.

"The Bronx Museum is thrilled with the opportunity to move beyond its walls and to bring arts activities to local residents in garden environments," said Sergio Bessa, Bronx Museum's Director of Curatorial and Education Programs.

The *Arts in the Gardens* series includes the following events. Dates and locations are subject to change. Participants should visit www.nyrp.org/calendar for most up-to-date information.

Bathgate Garden Launch Party!: Saturday, June 7, 2014, 12-4PM

For the first time ever, NYRP's Bathgate Community Garden is open to the public! Join us for an afternoon of activities that include gardening, movement workshops, a physical comedy performance, and much more. Learn how you can become a garden member. Refreshments will be served.

- 12:00 – 4:00pm: NYRP Educators will showcase the gardening space
Poet-Tree Workshop with E.J. McAdams
- 12:30-1:30pm: Imagination Movement Workshop by dancer-choreographer [Martita Abril](#)
(suitable for ages 4 – 12)
- 2:00pm: Performance by [Parallel Exit](#)

Location: NYRP's Bathgate Community Garden, 1818-1836 Bathgate Avenue, Tremont

"Bronx Raised" Hip Hop Series: various dates in July and August, 6-8:30PM

Curated through [Circa '95](#), events in this hip hop series will open with a DJ to set the mood. The night will progress with live performances by different local Hip-Hop artists delivering rhythm and rhymes reflecting a Bronx state of mind. Come check out some of the best the Bronx has to offer in hip-hop music, dance, and spoken word.

Thursday, July 10, 6-8:30PM

Featuring: DJ Polarity, The Bronx Boys (Dance), Bonafide (Poetry), Circa '95 (Hip-Hop)

Location: NYRP's Target Bronx Community Garden, 1025 Anderson Avenue, Highbridge

Thursday, July 17, 6-8:30PM

Featuring: DJ Fred Ones, [Rhyme Factory](#)'s Youth Group (MC's, Vocalist and Poets), Feenix Flames (MC Poet and Vocalist), Circa '95 (Hip-Hop)

Location: NYRP's Willis Avenue Community Garden, 401 East 143rd Street, Melrose

Saturday July 26, 6-8:30PM

Featuring: DJ Enygma, Division X (Hip-Hop), Flaco Navaja (Vocalist/Poet), Circa '95 (Hip-Hop)

Location: NYRP's Target Bronx Community Garden, 1025 Anderson Avenue, Highbridge

* This event will be followed by a multimedia performance by artist Art Jones, who will use hybrid media to mix sound recordings of the garden, beats and melodies associated with the borough, a video montage of historical Bronx images, digital animation, and footage of the surrounding neighborhood.

Saturday August 2, 6-8:30PM

Featuring: DJ Kid Koi, The Bronx Boys (Dance), [RDAC BX](#) (Rebel Diaz Arts Collective), Circa '95 (Hip-Hop)

Location: NYRP's Willis Avenue Community Garden, 401 East 143rd Street, Melrose

* This event will be followed by a multimedia performance by artist Art Jones, who will roam the garden capturing audio and video to be mixed with beats and pre-recorded footage, wirelessly transmitted to a projector and sound system to present a live 'tour' of the space on temporary screens, made of fabric draped over items in the garden, such as trees, rain barrel, etc.

"Bronx through the Eyes of a Garden": July 26, August 2 and 6

Art Jones, an image and sound manipulator working with hybrid media through film, video, audio devices, will bring his art to three gardens in 90-minute performances to awaken the senses!

Saturday, July 26, 8:30PM

Art Jones will create an exciting visual and auditory performance. Projected through a system of hybrid media consisting of multi-directional speakers and central sound, sound recordings of the garden will be mixed with beats and melodies associated with the borough, and played along with a video montage of historical Bronx images, digital animation, and footage of the surrounding neighborhood.

Location: NYRP's Target Bronx Community Garden, 1025 Anderson Avenue, Highbridge

* This performance is preceded by Circa '95, as part of the "Bronx Raised" Hip Hop Series.

Saturday, August 2, 8:30PM

Art Jones will roam the garden capturing audio and video to be mixed with beats and pre-recorded footage, which are wirelessly transmitted to a projector and sound system to present a live 'tour' of the space on temporary screens, made of fabric draped over items in the garden, such as trees, rain barrel, etc.

Location: NYRP's Willis Avenue Community Garden, 401 East 143rd Street, Melrose

* This performance is preceded by Circa '95, as part of the "Bronx Raised" Hip Hop Series.

Wednesday, August 6, approximately 9pm

Art Jones will create an exciting visual and auditory performance. Projected through a system of hybrid media consisting of multi-directional speakers and central sound, sound recordings of the garden will be mixed with beats and melodies associated with the borough, and played along with a video montage of historical Bronx images, digital animation, and footage of the surrounding neighborhood.

Location: NYRP's Bathgate Community Garden, 1818-1836 Bathgate Avenue, Tremont

* This performance is preceded by the screening of *Bronx Princess*, as part of the "Bronx Screened" film series, which starts at sunset, between 7 and 8PM.

"Bronx Screened" Film Series: August 6, 13, 20

Curated by the [Bronx Documentary Center](#), this film series will tell the story of the Bronx through different heart-felt documentaries about history, culture, politics and social impact. Attendees are welcome to bring a picnic and blanket. Movies will begin between 7 and 8PM at sunset.

Wednesday, August 6, at sunset

Film: [Bronx Princess](#)

Description: Follows headstrong 17-year-old teenager Rocky's journey as she leaves behind her mother in New York City to reunite with her father, a chief in Ghana, West Africa.

Location: NYRP's Bathgate Community Garden, 1818-1836 Bathgate Avenue, Tremont

* This screening will be followed by a multimedia performance by artist Art Jones, who will use hybrid media to mix sound recordings of the garden, beats and melodies associated with the borough, a video montage of historical Bronx images, digital animation, and footage of the surrounding neighborhood.

Wednesday, August 13, at sunset

Film: [Doin' It in the Park](#), 2012

Description: The film explores the definition of history, culture, social impact and global influence of New York's outdoor summer basketball scene

Location: NYRP's Willis Avenue Community Garden, 401 East 143rd Street, Melrose

Wednesday, August 20, at sunset

Film: [Style Wars](#), 1983

Description: It is regarded as the indispensable document of NY street culture and subway graffiti art of the early '80s, the filmic record of a golden age of youthful creativity that exploded into the world from a city in crisis. It won the Grand Prize for Documentaries at the 1983 Sundance Film Festival.

Location: NYRP's Target Bronx Community Garden, 1025 Anderson Avenue, Highbridge

Wednesday, August 27, at sunset

Film: [Sing your Song](#), 2011

Description: This film unearths Harry Belafonte's significant contribution to and his leadership in the civil rights movement in America and to social justice globally.

Location: NYRP's Willis Avenue Community Garden, 401 East 143rd Street, Melrose

About New York Restoration Project

Founded by Bette Midler in 1995, New York Restoration Project (NYRP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming open space in under-resourced communities to create a greener, more sustainable New York City. Unlike traditional conservancies that care for a specific place, NYRP is the only New York City conservancy that works citywide, bringing private resources to spaces that lack adequate municipal support. NYRP is also the leading private partner of the City of New York in MillionTreesNYC – an initiative to plant and care for one million new trees throughout New York City’s five boroughs by 2015. To learn more, please visit www.nyrp.org.

About The Bronx Museum of the Arts

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is an internationally recognized cultural destination that presents innovative contemporary art exhibitions and education programs and is committed to promoting cross-cultural dialogues for diverse audiences. Since its founding in 1971, the Museum has played a vital role in the Bronx by helping to make art accessible to the entire community and connecting with local schools, artists, teens, and families through its robust education initiatives. In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the Museum implemented a universal free admission policy, supporting its mission to make arts experiences available to all audiences. The Bronx Museum of the Arts is located on the Grand Concourse; to learn more about the museum, please visit www.bronxmuseum.org.

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