

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2021

Bronx, NY - The Bronx Museum of the Arts is pleased to present *What We Call Home: Teens Curate the Collection*, an inaugural initiative that invites New York City high school students to create exhibitions within the museum. This show was curated by the Bronx Museum's Teen Council, a paid internship program that has provided a space for teens since 2005. *What We Call Home* features a selection of works from the Bronx Museum's permanent collection and will be on view in the museum lobby until April 28, 2021.

What We Call Home is a show about inclusive communities and cultural preservation through the lens of New York City teenagers. It represents the perspectives of younger constituents who have watched the dynamic ways that the city has shifted throughout their lifetimes and the beautiful aspects of New York City's diverse social scape. In a curatorial statement crafted by members of the Teen Council, they say "Home is a familiar place where you can find comfort in your surroundings. During the quarantine, home has also become a space to learn, grow, build and rest. Each of the artworks selected depicts our cultures and community as we see them. By showing the perspectives of the less represented lives of the people of New York we are centering the positive aspects of our city: our home." Because of COVID, a cohort of 12 teens worked remotely with the collection by going through the Museum's digital archives, guided by Holly Block Social Justice Curator Jasmine Wahi and educators Edwin Gonzalez and Ingrid Raphael. The teens picked works by select New York City-based artists who have had a connection to the Bronx or the Museum. The group researched both the artists and their respective works to pull together a curatorial vision.

What We Call Home includes works by the following artists: John Ahearn & Rigoberto Torres, Sanford Biggers, Glenn Ligon, Jamel Shabazz, and Emilio Sanchez. In addition to the artwork, the exhibition includes three video interviews with Sanford Biggers, Jamel Shabazz, and John Ahearn that were conducted, filmed, and edited by the Teen Council.

The Bronx Museum's Teen Council program "Teens Curate the Collection" is a program that gives the public, specifically youth, an opportunity to have a say in what they see within our museum space. It is an initiative that places agency with audiences and communities in new and exciting ways. It is also a program intended to educate students about ways of engaging with art and long-term career opportunities within the cultural realm.

Members of the Curatorial Team include: the Teen Council Fall 2020-21 Cohort - Kayla Acevedo, Alvar Acuna, Samiha Ahmed, Olivia Cruz, Eric Garcia, Faeid Hassan, Dayna Hernandez, Noemi Polanco, Amadeus Quinones, Oriane Sow, Lynda Spencer, Jasmine Vital, with Teen Council Educators Edwin Gonzalez and Ingrid Raphael.

Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by SRI Fine Arts Services and the Director's Circle, the Bronx Museum's premier support group.



About the Teen Council

Teen Programs at the Bronx Museum provide opportunities for young people to engage deeply with contemporary art and the museum space. Teen Council is an intensive paid after-school program started in 2005 in which teens express and discuss ideas and create art relating to issues affecting young people today.

Teen Council is made possible, in part, by the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation, and The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation. Education and Community Programs are generously supported by Con Edison, Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation, Francena Harrison Foundation, The Hearst Foundations, New York Yankees Foundation, O'Grady Foundation, William Talbott Hillman Foundation, and New York City Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson, Council Member Diana Ayala, and Council Member Ruben Diaz Sr.



About the Bronx Museum of the Arts

For 50 years The Bronx Museum of the Arts has championed the people of the Bronx, dedicating itself to sharing the rich, local culture that has influenced contemporary artists and audiences across the city and beyond. Founded in 1971 by community leaders and activists at a time when the borough was in crisis - in our 50th year, we recommit ourselves to our founding ethos and renew our investment in our local communities, people of color, women, LGBTQIA, and belief that art and culture are essential on the path to achieving social justice and equity.

Between 2021 and 2022, the Museum's exhibitions will focus on the stories, visions, and voices of historically underrepresented artists and highlight the work of the Bronx and New York-based artists, along with alumni of the Museum's Artist in the Marketplace Program.

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