



# Arts Highlights

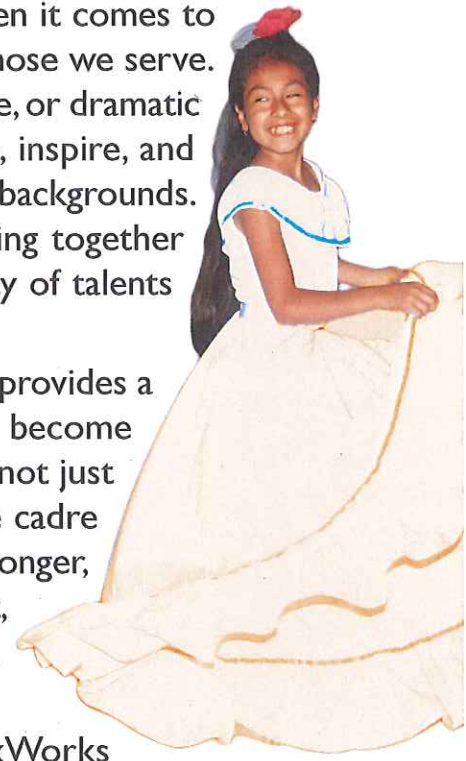
**T**he mission of BronxWorks is to help individuals and families improve their economic and social wellbeing. From toddlers to seniors, we feed, shelter, teach, and support our neighbors to build a stronger community.



BronxWorks recognizes the important role the arts play when it comes to improving the quality of life of those we serve. Be it music, painting, poetry, dance, or dramatic performances, the arts educate, inspire, and motivate people of all ages and backgrounds. The arts act as a catalyst, bringing together individuals who possess a variety of talents and have a host of interests.

To these ends, BronxWorks provides a range of opportunities for neighborhood residents to become musicians, painters, poets, dancers, and actors themselves, not just part of an audience enjoying the arts but members of the cadre of people who bring the arts to life. The end result is a stronger, more vibrant community, one whose people are confident, well-rounded, broad-minded, and energized.

Experience the arts at BronxWorks and become energized yourself!



Carolyn McLaughlin  
Executive Director





Classes in painting, graphic arts, music, and poetry for all age groups are held all year round, with outstanding instructors coming from the ranks of professional musicians, writers, and artists from the Bronx Council on the Arts, as well as the Caribbean Cultural Center and other prestigious organizations.

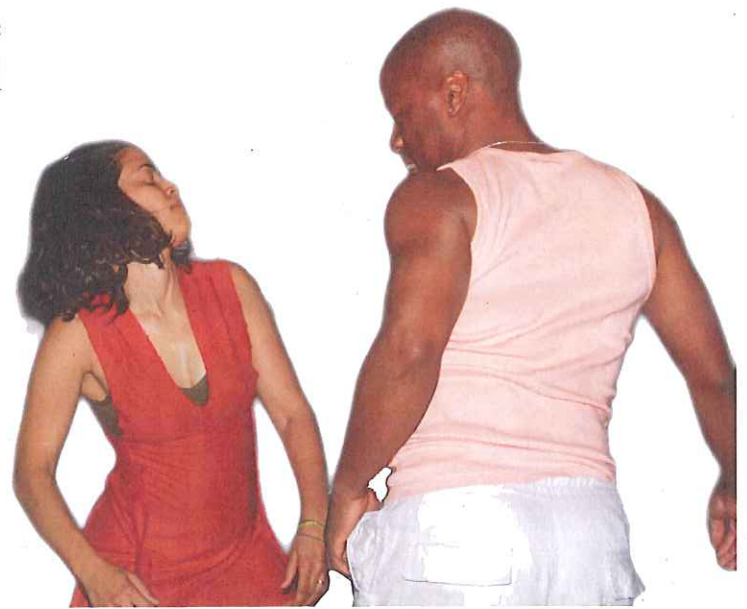
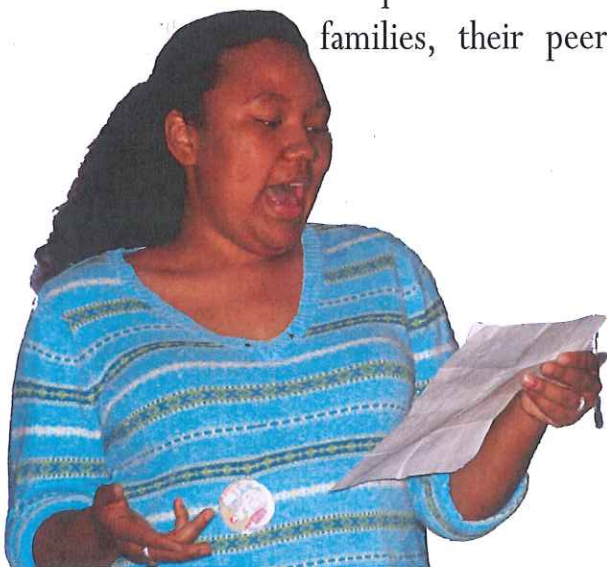
The after-school programs have impacted thousands of children over the years. Instructions in music theory, instruments, and dance, where the students learn to play percussion instruments—including specialty instruments from the Latino experience such as the bomba barrel, maracas, steel drum, and the two-stick cui—are particularly popular.

The performances before families, their peers, and

other community members that typically end each season have become much anticipated events.

Because of the emphasis on performance in each class, the students' enthusiasm and creativity have resulted in improved school attendance, the desire for higher learning and the discovery of talent and artistic aptitude.

Families are likewise involved in the arts, and similar instruction is offered to seniors. Arts-related classes and activities for adults strengthen family ties and open up a new world to those who otherwise are preoccupied with the demands of daily living.



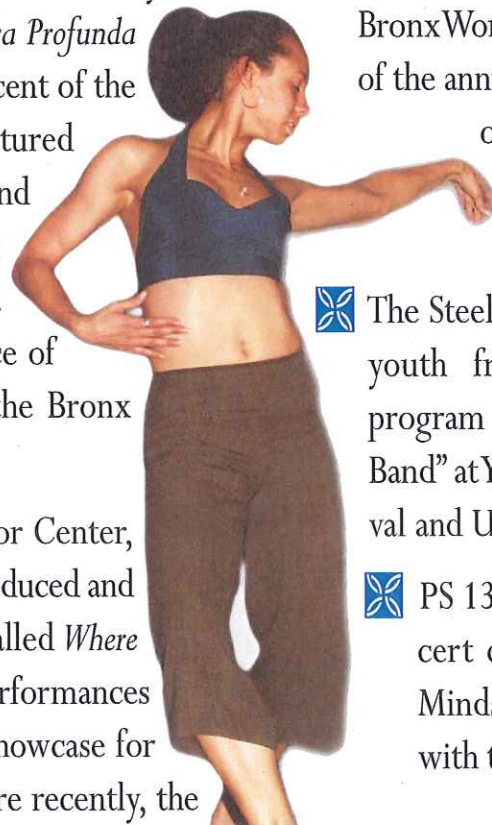


Here is a sampling of the busy arts calendar at BronxWorks:

✦ The Bronx Roots/Routes Music Education Project, conducted by artists-in-residence from the Caribbean Cultural Center, provided instruction in music theory, instruments, and dance for children enrolled in BronxWorks' after-school programs.

✦ Youngsters from the Main Community Center took part in the *Salsa Profunda* (Deep Salsa), a gala reminiscent of the ballroom dance era that featured live dancing by our youth and members of *Los Areytos* dance group to the *Grupo Irek* salsa ensemble before an audience of more than 200 people at the Bronx Museum of Art.

✦ At the East Concourse Senior Center, a group of seniors wrote, produced and narrated a bilingual drama called *Where Did She Go?* It ran for four performances at the Pregones Theater, a showcase for the Latino community. More recently, the



seniors presented a one-act play, titled *Who We Are* on a similar theme.

✦ Poems written by six youth were published in *Tell the World* (HarperCollins), a hardcover anthology of poems by inner city children from New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. The anthology, copies of which were distributed at the BronxWorks 2009 annual event, is an outgrowth of the annual poetry slam in which 8 to 17 year-olds from the Bronx recited poems they wrote in a competition sponsored by the Bronx Council of the Arts.

✦ The Steel Tigers, a steel pan band comprised of youth from the BronxWorks after-school program at PS 90 won an award for "Best Junior Band" at Youth Explosion, a multi-cultural festival and United Way showcase.

✦ PS 130 presented a Caribbean-themed concert celebrating "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds" that featured four jazz ensembles, with the participation of 40 students.

During a Women for Philanthropy luncheon, costumed student dancers and musicians from PS 62 performed the *bomba* dance, accompanied by the 10-member student band, *Juventud Bomba*. The United Way, the sponsor of the event, selected the group to exemplify the impact of its cultural funding on neighborhood groups. Fashion mogul Diane Von Furstenberg was among those in attendance.



**OUR THANKS** BronxWorks is also very grateful to the Caribbean Cultural Center and the Bronx Council on the Arts (including its Bronx Writers' Center) for their support of arts-related events for young people. Special thanks to the Pregones Theater and Ms. Milteri Tucker for their support of arts-related events for seniors.



60 East Tremont Ave., Bronx, NY 10453

