



BROOKLYN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

BRONX MUSEUM

**PRESS RELEASE**

**"I ♥ BX/BK" CELEBRATES BOROUGH PRIDE WITH A TWO-PART EVENT & OPEN MIC AT  
BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS**

New York, January 26, 2012 – I ♥ Bx/Bk brings together natives and experts to celebrate the particularities, and the greatness, of the Bronx and Brooklyn. On February 14<sup>th</sup> at Brooklyn Historical Society and February 24<sup>th</sup> at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, poets, storytellers, and baseball historians will share odes to their neighborhoods.

The Yankees. The Dodgers. Arthur Avenue. Flatbush Avenue. City Island. Coney Island. Each borough has its icons and its heroes, its beaches and its gardens. Each has a distinct identity. But how have these identities been forged? And is the Brooklyn-Bronx rivalry still alive today? I ♥ Bx/Bk explores these questions and examines how the two boroughs have inspired such love, fear, myths, loyalty, and longing. Learn about the baseball rivalry that is now the stuff of legend, and how it has impacted Brooklyn-Bronx relations. Discover the connections between people growing up in different parts of New York City in different eras.

We love our neighborhoods fiercely. Whatever your allegiance, you consider yourself lucky to call this borough home. It is a part of you that you carry everywhere you go. How has your borough left its mark on you? What makes your borough so great? What does it mean to be a Brooklynite, or a Bronxite? You'll have the chance to represent your borough in open mic sessions.

**February 14, 2012**

**Brooklyn Historical Society**

**7p.m.**

**\$15/\$10 for BHS and BxMA members**

This Valentine's Day, show your borough some love! Enjoy Tumbador chocolates and Brooklyn Brewery and Bronx Brewery beer in Brooklyn Historical Society's stunning Othmer Library. Hear borough love stories from Brooklyn storyteller Michele Carlo, Bronx storyteller Bobby Gonzalez, Brooklyn poet Knickie D, Bronx poet Skye Cabrera, Brooklyn Dodgers historian Joe Dorinson, and former Yankees batboy Frank Prudenti. After the featured performers, rep your borough in our open mic session.

Tickets available at [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org)

**February 24, 2012**

**The Bronx Museum of the Arts**

**6:30p.m.**

**Free**

Continue the celebration of New York City's two greatest boroughs at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, near the landmark Yankee Stadium. Performers will lead a special tour of the museum, sharing personal insights into selected artworks in the exhibitions *Urban Archives: Emilio Sanchez in the Bronx* and *Juan Downey: The Invisible Architect*. View a piece of the original Yankee Stadium wall, and show your borough allegiance by sipping beer from the Bronx Brewery or Brooklyn Brewery, and chat with knowledgeable brewery representatives.

Explore the connections between the two boroughs with Bronx storyteller Maria Aponte, Brooklyn storyteller Daisy Rosario, Bronx poet Pearl Quick, Brooklyn poet Tuan X, Yankees historian Tony Morante, and Brooklyn Dodgers historian Bob McGee. After the featured performers, rep your borough in our open mic session.

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Bronx Stories: I ♥ Bx/Bk is produced in collaboration with The Bronx Museum of the Arts and Brooklyn Historical Society. This event is part of Bronx Talks: Bronx Stories. The goals of Bronx Stories are four-fold: to challenge stereotypes about the Bronx and promote positive images of the borough; to provide a platform for voices from the community and space for the community to come together; to create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere in the museum; and to encourage deeper engagement with the arts. I ♥ Bx/Bk is also part of BHS's spring series, *Inventing Brooklyn*, which examines key people that have influenced Brooklyn's past and present and highlights cultural trends that have roots in Brooklyn's rich and diverse history.

For more information, visit [www.iheartbxbk.com](http://www.iheartbxbk.com)

## ARTIST BIOS

**Maria Aponte** was born and raised in East Harlem, and currently resides in the Norwood section of the Bronx. Maria writes and performs work about discrimination, intolerance and feminism. Her performances include *Lagrima de mis madres*, based on the women in her family, *I Will Not Be Silenced*, based on the life of Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz, and *Brown Hips, Red Lips, Hot Skins*, which she performs with musicians Chacho Ramirez and Dwight Brewster. Maria works at Fordham University's Bronx Campus in Career Services, and is pursuing her Masters in Latin American and Latino Studies. Her new book "Transitions of a Nuyorican Cinderella" will be published in Spring 2012.

**Skye Cabrera** has been writing since the age of 8, graduating from scribbling in journals in her bedroom in the Bronx, to keeping blogs on Facebook, to rocking performance stages across NYC and the East Coast. A Bronx-native, Skye (born Jennifer Isabella Corporan) is daughter to Dominican and Greek parents. She chose the name Skye to represent the intention of her craft to elevate her purpose as a writer, performer, and individual. Cabrera, her grandmother's maiden name, reminds her to aim for the highest potential in representing her ancestors. Her first self-published book of poetry and prose, an intimate journal entitled *Music for Caterpillars*, was released in November 2011 and can be found on Amazon.com.

**Michele Carlo** is a writer/performer who has lived half her life in the Bronx and the other in Brooklyn. (The five months in Manhattan and the year in Queens don't count.) She is the author of the memoir *Fish Out Of Agua: My life on neither side of the (subway) tracks* (Citadel Press 2010) and has contributed stories to Thomas Beller's *Lost & Found: Stories From New York*, *SMITH* magazine, *Chicken Soup For The Latino Soul* and *American Writers on Class*. Michele has also told her stories almost everywhere a person can tell stories in NYC—including the *MOTH's* GrandSlams and Mainstage—and, of course, with Bronx Stories. For more info, visit [www.michelecarlo.com](http://www.michelecarlo.com)

**Knickie D**, Queens native and Brooklyn resident, is the definition of a passionate manipulator of prose. She has been called the prophet for lost souls and broken hearts. Writing words to evoke the struggles of life, she appeals to the many layers of human complexity. Her stage presence is undeniable, partly due to her 5'10" stature and zoftig frame, but mostly because of the power of her words to paint images innately connected to the human psyche. Once you have heard her, you won't soon forget that this was the poet who gave you goose bumps with a smile.

**Joe Dorinson** grew up in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. He attended Columbia University and in 1961 began his pedagogical career as a substitute teacher in Harlem. Since 1966 Joe has worked with Long Island University, where he broke new ground with three conferences that he conceived to honor Jackie Robinson, Paul Robeson, and Brooklyn. His book edited with Dr. Joram Warmund, *Jackie Robinson: Race, Sports and the American Dream* (Armonk NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1998) has earned rave reviews, and *Paul Robeson: Essays on His Life and Legacy* (Jefferson NC: McFarland, 2002) continues to attract readers. Though deeply

immersed in research and writing projects, Joe considers teaching as his vital center.

**Bobby Gonzalez** is a storyteller, poet, and native Bronxite. He has performed at numerous venues including Carnegie Hall, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and Yale University. His repertoire includes personal stories as well as traditional folkloric Native- and Latin-American tales. Bobby serves as master of ceremonies for the annual Bronx Native American Festival. His latest book of verses is titled *The Last Puerto Rican Indian: A Collection of Dangerous Poetry*. As an individual proud of his Native-American, Latino, and African ancestry, Bobby is a messenger of hope, pride, and love of diversity.

**Bob McGee** is the author of *The Greatest Ballpark Ever: Ebbets Field and the Story of the Brooklyn Dodgers*, which won the 2005 Dave Moore Award as the most important book written about baseball during that year. He also is co-author of *Bridges of Central Park*, with Henry Hope Reed and Esther Mipass (Greensward, 1990), called “a welcome book” by The New York Times, which spurred the movement to preserve and protect Central Park’s bridges, the greatest collection of miniature bridges in the world. Although he has lived many other places, Bob has always had a home in Brooklyn.

**Tony Morante** was born and raised in the Bronx and now resides in the Pelham Parkway area. In 1958 he began working in Yankee Stadium as an usher. He went on to institute the Yankee Stadium Tour program, which benefits a non-profit arm of the Yankees organization, and is now the Director of Stadium Tours. Tony is dedicated to Bronx community service, and met his wife while leading a tour of the New York Botanical Gardens. He has a passion for baseball history and is currently working on a book about baseball in New York City. Tony has a keen interest in wine and ornamental horticulture, and enjoys relaxing in the New York Botanical Gardens and the Bronx Zoo, two institutions in which he virtually grew up.

**Frank Prudenti** was born in East Harlem, New York. He began working as a batboy for the New York Yankees in 1956, while attending Benjamin Franklin High School. In 1963 Frank was drafted into the US Army. While in the service, his family moved to the Bronx, and he has been living there for the past 49 years. He wouldn’t want to live anywhere else – he is only minutes away from his second home, Yankee Stadium. He has been married to his wife MaryAnn for 49 years, and has three children and six grandchildren. Frank considers working with the Yankees to be the greatest job in the world. Not a day goes by that he doesn't reminisce about his days with the Yankees.

**Pearl Quick** was born and raised in the Bronx. She currently attends Sarah Lawrence College, where she studies Language, Race and Poetry and carries around the documentary "To Be Heard" in which she stars. It documents her life and the lives of two of her friends as young slam poets, finding their voices and speaking out against inequalities close to their hearts. She considers the film a great accomplishment and hopes to use it as a platform to teach high school students all over the world to find their voices through performance poetry. Pearl hopes to start self-sustainable programs in the Bronx for young women of color and to complete the first draft of her memoir speaking about her weight when she graduates in 2014.

**Daisy Rosario** is a writer, comic, storyteller and aspiring journalist currently studying at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. A Brooklyn native, she currently lives in Harlem where she can see her beloved Yankee Stadium from her bedroom window. Daisy began working with The Moth as an Assistant StorySLAM Producer after being featured on The Moth Radio Hour on NPR and their popular podcast with her story, “Child of Trouble.” She has too many interests to count and she loves talking to people. For more information, visit [daisyrosario.com](http://daisyrosario.com)

**Tuan X** is a singer, MC, writer, and actor from the Bed-Stuy section of Brooklyn. He is the CEO and Co-Founder of The Art Initiative, an organization built on the foundation of Art and the many creative facets used to broadcast it. He helps to create, coordinate, market, and host events that provide artists more platforms for expression. As an entertainer he has appeared on stages as diverse as the floors of City Hall, legendary venues such as the Apollo Theater, high school stages and rehab centers. Tuan is an avid supporter of the ASPCA. He sets new standards in R&B and Hip-Hop with a sound that is rooted in the past yet blossoming in brilliant design for the future.

#### **PRESS CONTACT**

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