
NEWS RELEASE

Bushwick photographer creates exhibit and events at Diana H. Jones Senior Citizen Center to bring together senior citizens, young artists and the Bushwick community.

Brooklyn [Bushwick], New York, May 17, 2010: The currently running exhibition at Diana H. Jones Senior Citizen Center, "*URBANITY: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE URBAN LANDSCAPE*", organized and curated by Daryl-Ann Saunders, is a dynamic showcase of artwork by four emerging artists exploring interpretations of the urban environment through a range of media. In its 41 year history, the senior center, located at 9 Noll Street in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, has never hosted an exhibition involving outside artists before. It is one of numerous "firsts" arranged by Ms. Saunders, a visiting artist at the Center, in order to bring diverse age groups and backgrounds together.

"URBANITY" will display with "*COLOR SPLASH*", an exhibit of artwork by 14 members of the center, curated by Narcisa Ruiz-Secchiano, the center's Director. Showing the artwork of young and mature artists together is another "first" initiated by Ms. Saunders to more realistically reflect, through art, the diverse age groups and demographics of the Bushwick community. Exhibit postcards contain information in English and Spanish. And on July 10th, from 1-2pm, an artist talk will take place in both languages so that community members from diverse backgrounds will feel welcome.

Yet to come is another neighborhood immersion, arranged by Ms. Saunders; the Center will participate in Bushwick Open Studios (BOS) Weekend, an annual art-filled June weekend sponsored by Arts in Bushwick (AIB), as "Location 51" on the AIB map. Saturday & Sunday, June 5th & 6th from 12 - 6pm, the Senior Center will welcome the public with exhibits, music, refreshments, and art-related events such as video and 3-D graphics.

In discussing why she wanted the Center to be involved in this year's BOS program, Daryl-Ann, an artist/photographer living in Bushwick, reflected, "My goal is to make this a community-oriented event for the seniors, artists and local community. There will be English and Spanish signage, music by a local musician, a flow of artists, art-goers and senior citizens who use the Center plus their families. I look at art in a broad context sometimes; as a bridge, a tool and of course something beautiful and uplifting. There is a gap between various groups of people in Bushwick, and I want this exhibit to 'cross-over' between everyone."

"*URBANITY: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE URBAN LANDSCAPE*" is one of a series of projects Ms. Saunders developed for the six month artist residency awarded to her by the Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), in partnership with New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs and Department for the Aging. The newly launched residency program provides work space for artists at senior centers in order to bring seniors in contact with the artistic process. Another residency project, "*PIONEERS OF BUSHWICK*", is her Bushwick-specific project consisting of photographic portraits of long-time Bushwick residents with their written comments about the tumultuous years in Bushwick's past during the late 70's through the 90's. Daryl-Ann hopes to celebrate the completion of her BAC residency "with an extensive exhibition of these portraits to honor and give testament to the senior citizens who chose to stay in Bushwick throughout the most difficult period in Bushwick's history." Funding is needed for this project - inquiries and funding resources may reach out to: PioneersOfBushwick@gmail.com

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High resolution photos available upon request

About Daryl-Ann Saunders

An accomplished, award-winning photographer working with a variety of editorial and corporate clients, Daryl-Ann Saunders' portrait and commercial work has been published worldwide. Currently Bushwick-based, one of Daryl-Ann's fine art projects, "Beyond the Platform" of night photography on subway platforms throughout the world, explores the relationship between urban transit systems and surrounding communities. Her fine art photographs are exhibited nationally and held in private and corporate collections (Pfizer, Inc. General Electric Corporation, etc.). Her extensive portrait experience will be a key element of the "PIONEERS OF BUSHWICK" project. To see her photography work, visit: www.DASfineart.com and www.DASaunders.com. To learn more about the Urbanity exhibit: www.Urbanity.blog.com and her artist residency: www.DASfineart.com/News.htm.

About "URBANITY: INTERPRETATIONS OF THE URBAN LANDSCAPE"

Featuring collage, mixed media, painting, photography, real time 3d graphics & video projection, local Bushwick artists explore interpretations of the urban environment in an exhibit at the Diana H. Jones Senior Citizen Center (9 Noll Street between Bushwick Avenue & Stanwix Street, Brooklyn [Bushwick], NY 11206). Artists are: Melissa Dyanne Bartlett, Jillian Brall, Rhett Jones, Daryl-Ann Saunders, Mark Skwarek, Joseph Hocking, Arthur Peters and Damon Baker with music by Christina B. and DJ Mambo Blue. Curator: Daryl-Ann Saunders.

Dates & Times: On display for eight weeks from May 15 to July 10th, Mon – Fri 8am – 3:30pm, during Bushwick Open Studios Weekend: Saturday & Sunday June 5th & 6th from 12pm-6pm, Artists' Talk on Saturday, July 10th from 1 – 2pm. Detailed information is at the Urbanity blog: <http://www.Urbanity.blog.com>.

About "COLOR SPLASH"

Paintings by 14 local Bushwick senior citizens comprise an exhibit at the Diana H. Jones Center ((9 Noll Street between Bushwick Avenue & Stanwix Street, Brooklyn [Bushwick], NY 11206). Artists are: Zheng Chang, Joe Ellerbee, Rosa Javier, Amy Lam, Rita Leist, Carmen Miro, Feng Liam Gui, Ming Chen Hsu, Jia Cheng Hua, Zhong Xin Xu, Xian Di Yu, Bei Rong Yu, Xili Zhang, Wang Zhen Hua. CURATOR: Narcisa Ruiz-Secchiano.

Dates & Times: On display for eight weeks from May 15 to July 10th, Mon – Fri 8am – 3:30pm and during Bushwick Open Studios Weekend: Saturday & Sunday June 5th & 6th from 12pm-6pm.

About the Diana H. Jones Senior Center

Located at 9 Noll Street between Bushwick Avenue & Stanwix Street, Brooklyn in the Brooklyn community of Bushwick and named in honor of a dedicated and loyal advocate of senior citizens and their issues, the Diana H. Jones Senior Center has a long history of serving the Bushwick, Williamsburg and Greenpoint communities. Operational since 1969, the Center came under the sponsorship of the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council in 1997 and seeks to promote the well-being of community residents who are 60+ years of age. Their programs are designed to improve the lives of senior citizens through the provision of concrete social services and advocacy, to promote camaraderie and companionship, and to provide recreation and cultural stimulation.

About Arts in Bushwick (AIB)

The exhibit listing for the BOS event on the AIB site is: <http://bit.ly/onBOSmap>. Arts in Bushwick was founded in the fall of 2007, as a result of grassroots efforts to produce the 2007 Bushwick Open Studios festival. The organization was founded by a group of roughly fifteen local artists and community organizers, and has continued to operate on an all-volunteer, non-hierarchical, break-even basis through three full years of programming. Arts in Bushwick maintains a completely open structure, inviting all community members to bring their ideas and to participate in collaboratively producing the organization and its activities.