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PIONEERS OF BUSHWICK PROJECT **PHOTOGRAPHY | TEXT SERIES BY DARYL-ANN SAUNDERS**

EXHIBIT LOCATIONS – BROOKLYN, NY

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, 374 Stockholm Street at Wyckoff Ave, June 2012–April 25, 2013
LOOM Gallery, Lobby Gallery of 1087 Flushing Ave bt Porter & Knickerbocker, May 22–June 30, 2013



"We come to live at 464 Bushwick Ave in 1960's. In 1960's, when I got here it was like a Dream because I never saw many lights and houses and buildings in my life . . ."

ANA NIEVES

Pioneers of Bushwick project features compelling photographic portraits and text of long-time Bushwick, Brooklyn residents by artist/ photographer **Daryl-Ann Saunders**. The series was started during the artist's two-year participation in **SPARC** (Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide), a NYC art residency program that connects artists to city senior centers with workspace.

During her residency at Diana Jones Senior Center in Bushwick, Ms. Saunders created a small "pop-up" photo studio where she began creating studio portraits and collecting written text by current Bushwick residents living in the area since the 1970s. Many center and community members are included in this effort.

In explaining the inspiration for this body of work, the artist states, "The 1970's and 80's were notoriously difficult decades in Bushwick, marked by drug abuse, arson, crime, and gang activity. The *Pioneers of Bushwick* project commemorates residents that persevered, raised families and contributed to a rich cultural tapestry during those times and up to its current resurgence.

Their contributions will now be in evidence within Bushwick history to be considered by both new and long-time residents. And as this artwork is viewed, it is hoped it will stimulate dialogue, not just about Bushwick and its history, but also about topics of aging, human value, perseverance, self-worth, and cultural experience."

The current exhibit at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center may be viewed 24/7. Upcoming, the May 22-June 30 exhibit at LOOM Gallery (sponsored by Bushwick Community Darkroom) will coincide with Bushwick Open Studios art festival during the first weekend of June (May 31 – June 2, 2013).

Ms. Saunders is a professional and fine art photographer. Her images have been published worldwide, are exhibited regularly and held in public and private collections. For exhibit and artist information, visit: www.DASfineart.com, www.PioneersOfBushwick.com.

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Hi-res photos and additional information is available upon request.

Project/ exhibit space, senior participation and staff support has been generously donated by Diana H. Jones Senior Center (Director: Narcisa Ruiz-Secchiano) and their sponsor, RBSCC. Framing has been donated by the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

The Space for Art program, now SPARC (Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide,) was initiated by the Brooklyn Arts Council in partnership with New York City Department for the Aging and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. The program is now supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

