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The Bronx Council on the Arts Names Viviana Bianchi as New Executive Director

Bronx, NY – August 24, 2017 - The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) has announced the selection of Viviana Bianchi as its new executive director, after a six-month open search. An arts development leader, Bianchi will serve as BCA's fifth executive director since the organization's founding in 1962. She has worked extensively in the development field in her native Argentina, Miami, Washington D.C. and New York City, where she's leaving her position as Assistant Executive Director for External Affairs at Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center in the Bronx, to lead BCA.

Bianchi brings a social sector career that spans more than 20 years in the areas of resource and partnership development, management, fundraising, strategic planning, board of directors relations, and communications and marketing. Prior to working in the Bronx she occupied leadership positions at City Year New York, the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) and at People for the American Way Foundation in Miami. While in Argentina, Viviana founded Pegasus Solutions, a management consulting firm that provided development, strategic planning, and communications/marketing services to media and cultural organizations as well as individual artists. As Project Director for the Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media, she oversaw the social justice media grant-making of the Funding Exchange, a national network of foundations with central offices in New York City.

Aside from her social sector work, Bianchi has been involved in cultural endeavors most of her life as an actress and film festival producer in Buenos Aires, New York City and Miami. She was Grants Review Advisor for the Dade Community Foundation's Fund for Community Organizing (Miami), Film Programmer for Cinema Tropical (New York) and the Museum of Fine Arts (Argentina), and served as Program Officer for the National Film, Video and Photography Competition sponsored by the Ministry of Culture in Buenos Aires. She holds a BA degree in Theater from the University of Massachusetts, and a Master's Degree in Cinema Studies with a Certificate in Media and Culture from New York University/Tisch School of the Arts.

"Viviana Bianchi has the verve and experience to build on BCA's 50+ years of serving artists and the arts in the Bronx," says Charles Rice-González, Co-Chair of the Bronx Council on the Arts. "Her passion for artists and the arts will elevate BCA's voice as a resounding advocate for the arts in the Bronx." Board Co-Chair Sheila McDaniel adds: "Viviana Bianchi's distinctive blend of arts, organizational development, and marketing and fundraising prowess will help deliver our mission. Her appointment is part of the work the BCA board has been doing as we are poised to open a new building and unroll a plan for vibrant, new programming that will better serve artists and organizations by expanding their capitalization and sustainability in a rapidly changing Bronx."

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“I’m thrilled to begin my tenure at this historic juncture and look forward to working with all partners to usher in strategic change and innovative programming that meets the needs of Bronx artists and cultural organizations. Leveraging BCA resources and the transformative nature of the arts, I’ll work tirelessly to strengthen our diverse communities and the future of the borough as a cultural destination for all New Yorkers,” Ms. Bianchi says.

In addition to conducting a leadership search over the last year, BCA also promoted Charlie Vázquez, a published author and director of the BCA Bronx Writer’s Center to the position of Deputy Director of Programming. Bryan E. Glover, a certified business coach and theater producer who brings 25+ years in non-profit management was hired as the Director of Grants. Rice-González adds: “BCA is a leader for equity in the arts and has a beautiful history of putting money into the hands of artists and arts organizations, of providing programs that not only genuinely serve the Bronx, but jettison it forward. This change in leadership is an opportunity to refresh the Council as it moves into its next half-century.”

Bianchi succeeds Deirdre Scott who left BCA in September of 2016. Since Scott’s departure, the Arts Council was led by interim Director Barbara Prete who has employed her 30+ years in arts management and fundraising to steer the organization through the transition. Bianchi will begin at BCA on September 5, 2017.

About the Bronx Council on the Arts

The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) is a private, non-profit membership organization that has been the official cultural agency of Bronx County since 1962. Recognized nationally as a leading arts service organization in providing cultural services and arts programs, BCA serves a multicultural constituency of almost 1.4 million residents. BCA provides an array of services to 5,000 artists and more than 250 arts and community-based organizations. Basic cultural services include direct financial support to individual artists and non-profit organizations, information services, technical assistance, education and community programming, advocacy and the operation of our Longwood Arts Project - exhibition gallery, advocacy and the Bronx Writers Center, an initiative dedicated to the creative and professional development of our writers.

For more information, visit www.BronxArts.org or call 718-931-9500.