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Cultural Guide for Seniors: Bronx

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The Alliance for the Arts' mission is advocacy for the arts through research and audience development.

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Introduction

The **NYC ARTS Cultural Guide for Seniors: The Bronx** was developed in cooperation with the City of New York, which has declared its commitment to make the city friendlier to senior citizens through its program Age-Friendly NYC: Enhancing Our City's Livability for Older New Yorkers. This guide has information about 18 cultural organizations in the Bronx and the special senior programs or discounts for seniors they offer. It is one part of a citywide guide that includes Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island editions.

The **NYC ARTS Cultural Guide for Seniors** is a natural extension of the Alliance for the Arts' online cultural guide and calendar, NYC-ARTS.org, which was built with support from the City of New York. Profiles of more than 950 arts organizations across the city and details of their thousands of cultural events can be found every day on NYC-ARTS.org.

How to Use This Guide

This guide can be read as a printed document or on a computer as a PDF, using the free software program Adobe Reader. If you read this guide on a computer and have an Internet connection, you can click on the cultural group's name or Web site address to reach the group's expanded description on NYC-ARTS.org or its Web site, respectively.

Cultural groups in this guide appear in alphabetical order. Each listing begins with basic information such as address, telephone number, Web site address, admission costs and open hours. Some organizations hold their activities at venues other than their given address, which is provided for mailing purposes only. A description of the organization follows. If the organization offers programs specific to senior citizens or senior groups, those are highlighted under the heading **Programs for Seniors**. The age at which a visitor is considered a senior varies by organization and, if specified, is indicated in the guide.

Each listing ends with information about nearby subway stations and other details—ranging from disability access at the venue to information on discounts offered to seniors for admission, tickets, tours or memberships.

At the back of this guide is a two-part index that highlights the cultural organizations in this guide that are free to every visitor, and those that have programming specific to seniors. Some organizations will appear on both lists; some organizations in the guide are not on either index, but can be found in the table of contents at the front of the guide.

The information in this guide was up to date on April 5, 2011; however, changes are inevitable. Hours of operation, admission fees and programs may all change. Users of this guide are encouraged to contact the organization in advance to confirm particulars.

Bartow-Pell Mansion

895 Shore Road North, Pelham Bay Park
(across from Split Rock Golf Course)
Bronx, NY 10464

Tel: (718) 885-1461

www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org

Free for Members and Children under 6; \$5 Adults, \$3 Students, \$3 Seniors, \$3 Children

Wed, Sat, Sun 12–4 pm

On land purchased from the Siwanoy tribe in 1654, Robert Bartow built the last of many mansions in the then bucolic neighborhood of Pelham Bay. Grand staircases, Empire furniture and a conservatory shaded with fruit trees are the highlights of this New York City landmark.

Directions: Subway: 6 to Pelham Bay Park, then Westchester Bee-Line #45 bus (accepts Metrocards; fare is \$2)

Senior Discounts: Group tours of the mansion and carriage house cost \$8 per person; \$6 per person for seniors. Group minimum is 10, maximum is 50. Contact education@bpm.org or (718) 885-1461.

Disability Access: None

Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance

841 Barretto Street, 2nd floor
(between Garrison and Lafayette Avenues)
Bronx, NY 10474

Tel: (718) 842-5223

www.bronxacademyofartsanddance.org

The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD!) is a 70-seat performance and workshop space that presents the works of choreographers, dancers, playwrights, directors, musicians, writers and poets who are women, people of color or from the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community.

Directions: Subway: 6 to Hunts Point Avenue. Cross under the Bruckner Expressway to Garrison Avenue and turn right. Walk two blocks to Barretto Street and turn left.

Senior Discounts: Seniors (60 and older) receive a 25 to 50 percent discount on tickets.

Disability Access: Wheelchair accessible

Bronx County Historical Society

3309 Bainbridge Avenue
(at 208th Street)
Bronx, NY 10467

Tel: (718) 881-8900
www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org

Mon–Fri 9 am–5 pm; research library: Tues–Thurs 9 am–5 pm by appointment; archives: Mon–Fri 9 am–5 pm by appointment

The society maintains the Bronx County Research Library and Archives and hosts educational programs, walking tours, exhibitions and lectures on the history of the only mainland borough. It also operates the Valentine-Varian House, in which the Museum of Bronx History is located, and the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage.

Programs for Seniors: Illustrated talks at senior centers upon request

Senior Discounts: Seniors (62 and older) pay \$20 for membership (regular \$35).

Disability Access: Only the archive building is wheelchair accessible; arrangements can be made to view library materials there.

Bronx County Historical Society—Valentine-Varian House

3266 Bainbridge Avenue
(at East 208th Street and Van Cortlandt Avenue East)
Bronx, NY 10467

Tel: (718) 881-8900
www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org

\$5 Adults, \$3 Students, \$3 Seniors, \$3 Children

Sat 10 am–4 pm, Sun 1–5 pm; group tours on weekdays by appointment only

This restored 1758 fieldstone house, operated by the Bronx County Historical Society, retains many of its original elements and serves as the Museum of Bronx History.

Senior Discounts: Seniors (62 and older) pay \$20 for membership instead of \$35.

Disability Access: Not accessible

Bronx Museum of the Arts

1040 Grand Concourse
(at 165th Street)
Bronx, NY 10456

Tel: (718) 681-6000
www.bronxmuseum.org

Free for Members and Children under 12; \$5 Adults, \$3 Students, \$3 Seniors
Admission fees are suggested donations.

Thurs, Sat, Sun 11 am–6 pm; Fri 11 am–8 pm

Works by 20th-century artists from Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as American descendants from those regions, form the basis of the collection. Exhibitions and programs offer Bronx residents the opportunity to learn about themselves, their heritage, history and culture while gaining insight into other cultural groups.

Senior Discounts: Seniors pay \$25 for membership instead of \$50.

Disability Access: Fully accessible; accessible restrooms and telephones available

Bronx Opera Company

Five Minerva Place, #2J
Bronx, NY 10468

Tel: (718) 365-4209
www.bronxopera.org

This small classical company performs at Lehman College's 500-seat Lovinger Theatre (250 Bedford Park Boulevard West in the Bronx) and elsewhere in New York City and Long Island, in English, with full orchestra and chorus.

Senior Discounts: A \$5 discount applies to all normal ticket prices.

Bronx River Art Center

2064 Boston Road
(at 179th Street)
Bronx, NY 10460

Tel: (718) 589-5819
www.bronxriverart.org

Office: Mon–Fri 11 am–6:30 pm; gallery during exhibit dates: Wed–Fri 3–6:30 pm, Sat 12–5 pm

This multi-arts center has filled the West Farms community of the Bronx with art and environmental experiences. Programs encourage residents to engage in creative activism towards the revitalization of their neighborhood. It provides affordable fine arts and digital media classes for all ages.

Programs for Seniors: Seniors may take classes, and caretakers can accompany them to assist free of charge. Senior centers and community organizations can arrange customized art classes in a variety of art media, including painting, sculpture, photography and printmaking.

Directions: Subway: 2, 5 to East Tremont Avenue - West Farms Square. Walk one block north.

Bus: B9, 21, 36, 40, 42, Q44 to East Tremont and Boston Road

Car: Bruckner Expressway to Rosedale Avenue, north to Tremont Avenue, then west to Bronx Street

Disability Access: Gallery and offices fully accessible; classes vary by location

Disability Assistance: Graphical depictions

Bronx Zoo

Bronx River Parkway at Fordham Road
(second entrance at Southern Boulevard and East 182nd)
Bronx, NY 10460

Tel: (718) 367-1010
www.bronxzoo.com

Free for Members and Children under 3; \$16 Adults, \$14 Seniors, \$12 Children
Total Experience Ticket includes admission to seven special attractions: \$27 Adults, \$21 Children,
\$23 Seniors; special attraction tickets can also be purchased separately.
Parking: \$13 Cars, \$16 Buses

April 2–Oct 31: Mon–Fri 10 am–5 pm; Sat, Sun 10 am–5:30 pm; Nov 1–April 1: daily 10 am–4:30 pm
Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day and Martin Luther King Day

Headquarters for the Wildlife Conservation Society, this is the largest urban zoo in the United States. Its woods, streams and parklands cover 265 acres and house more than 4,000 animals. Dramatic settings include the Congo Gorilla Forest and two miles of the open-air Wild Asia exhibit, served by monorail.

Directions: Bus: The BxM11 express bus is a fast and inexpensive way to travel between the zoo and Manhattan. It makes stops along Madison Avenue, between 26th and 99th Streets, then travels directly to the zoo’s Bronx River entrance.

Subway: 2, 5 to East Tremont Avenue - West Farms Square. At street level, walk straight ahead (follow train uptown) on Boston Road 2.5 blocks to the zoo’s Asia gate entrance.

Disability Access: Fully accessible

Disability Assistance: Limited number of wheelchairs and strollers available for rental

Derfner Judaica Museum + The Art Collection at The Hebrew Home at Riverdale

5901 Palisade Avenue
(at West 261st Street)
Bronx, NY 10471

Tel: (718) 581-1596
www.hebrewhome.org/art.asp

Free Admission (all visitors, all hours)

Mon–Thurs, Sun 10:30 am–4:30 pm

Art Collection, Gilbert Pavilion Gallery and Sculpture Garden: daily 10:30 am–4:30 pm

The Hebrew Home at Riverdale is committed to public exhibitions of its art collection throughout its 19-acre campus, and to providing educational and cultural programming.

Programs for Seniors: Specialized workshops provided to Alzheimer’s and dementia patients. Tours and programs are tailored to the needs of the visiting group. Through grants, the museum often subsidizes tours and transportation for senior groups.

Directions: Express Bus: BxM2 (from West Midtown), BxM1 (from East Midtown), BxM18 (from downtown) to the Riverdale Avenue - West 263rd Street stop. Walk down West 261st Street toward the river; turn left on Palisade Avenue. Main gate is on right side of street.

Subway and Local Bus: 1 to West 231st Street, then Bx7 or 10 to West 261st Street; or, A to West 207th Street, then Bx10 to West 261st Street. Walk down West 261st Street toward the river; left on Palisade Avenue. Main gate is on right side of street.

Metro-North: Hudson Line to Riverdale station

On foot: Exit train station, turn left on Palisade Avenue. The main gate is a half mile up the road on the left.

Rail Link Bus: The MNR Rail Link shuttle bus that stops at in front of the station can be taken to West 261st Street - Riverdale Avenue. The Rail Link bus costs \$2.25; fare can only be paid by Metrocard or cash (change only).

Disability Access: Fully accessible

Disability Assistance: Audio guides and large-print materials available

Hall of Fame for Great Americans

University Avenue and West 181 Street
Bronx Community College Campus
Bronx, NY 10543

Tel: (718) 289-5161
www.bcc.cuny.edu/halloffame

Free Admission (all visitors, all hours)

Daily, dawn to dusk. Tours can be arranged between the hours of 10 am and 5 pm.

Ninety-eight busts of presidents, statesmen, scientists, inventors, artists and humanitarians stand side by side in the Colonnade, overlooking the Harlem River on the Bronx Community College campus. The landmark was designed by Stanford White and formally dedicated in 1901.

Disability Access: Wheelchair accessible. ADA compliant restrooms are in nearby campus buildings.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

250 Bedford Park Boulevard West
(between Paul and Goulden Avenues)
Bronx, NY 10468

Tel: (718) 960-8232
www.lehmancenter.org

Dance, music and theater are presented in this 2,300-seat concert hall at Lehman College in the Bronx. Performers in 2011 include the Temptations, Johnny Mathis, Paul Taylor Dance Company and El Gran Combo.

Senior Discounts: \$5 off per ticket on selected events. Offer not available online.

Directions: Subway: 4 to Bedford Park Boulevard - Lehman College

Disability Access: Fully accessible

Disability Assistance:

Hearing: Infrared hearing devices

Mobility: Limited disability seating available

Lehman College Art Gallery

250 Bedford Park Boulevard West
(between Paul and Goulden Avenues)
Bronx, NY 10468

Tel: (718) 960-8731
www.lehman.cuny.edu/gallery

Free Admission (all visitors, all hours)

Tues–Sat 10 am–4 pm

Located on the campus of Lehman College in the Bronx, this gallery exhibits contemporary works by established and emerging artists and offers tours and workshops for schools and groups.

Programs for Seniors: Upon request, the Lehman College Art Gallery will work with senior groups to develop appropriate programs.

Directions: Subway: 4 to Bedford Park Boulevard - Lehman College

Disability Access: Fully accessible

Lifetime Arts

PO Box 8586
Pelham, NY 10803

Tel: (914) 355-2304
www.lifetimearts.org

This organization provides practical support and resources to practitioners and institutions that provide services to older adults. Creative Aging in Our Communities: the New York City Libraries Project is a series of arts programs for older adults in up to 30 branch libraries in the Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island and Brooklyn.

Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos

450 Grand Concourse
(at East 149th Street)
Bronx, NY 10451

Tel: (718) 518-6728
www.longwoodcyber.org

Free Admission (all visitors, all hours)

Mon–Fri 10 am–6 pm; June 7–Aug 5 (summer hours): Mon–Thurs 10 am–6 pm

Established in 1981 as the exhibition arm of Bronx Council on the Arts, the gallery mounts contemporary art exhibitions throughout the year. Both individual and thematic group shows are featured. It is located in Longwood, one of the Bronx’s last surviving historic brownstone districts.

Directions: Subway: 2, 4, 5 to 149th Street - Grand Concourse

Disability Access: Wheelchair accessible

Disability Assistance: Touch tours and large-print materials available upon request

New York Botanical Garden

200th Street and Kazimiroff Boulevard
(Bronx River Parkway [Exit 7W] and Fordham Road)
Bronx, NY 10458

Tel: (718) 817-8700

www.nybg.org

All-Garden Pass: Free for Members, \$20 General, \$18 Students, \$18 Seniors, \$8 Children
Includes Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, any special exhibit, Everett Children's Adventure Garden and Tram
Tour

Tues–Sun 10 am–6 pm

This 250-acre oasis comprises virgin forest, formal gardens, wetlands, ponds, undulating hills, the Everett Children's Adventure Garden and the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, a soaring crystal palace built in 1902. The garden is one of the world's great research institutions in botany and the environment, and its projects are reflected in both its exhibitions and its educational programs.

Directions: Metro-North: Harlem local line to Botanical Garden Station. Walk across Kazimiroff Boulevard to the garden's Mosholu Gate entrance.

Subway: B, D, 4 to Bedford Park Boulevard Station, then take Bx26 bus east to the garden's Mosholu Gate entrance; or walk eight blocks down the hill on Bedford Park Boulevard to the end (approximately 20 minutes). Turn left onto Kazimiroff Boulevard and walk one block to Mosholu Gate entrance.

Disability Access: The garden, its buildings and its tour vehicles are accessible. Due to varied topography, portions of the historic landscape may be inaccessible. For information on garden accessibility, call (718) 817-8649.

Disability Assistance:

Hearing: Assistive listening devices. Headsets, T-coil compatible neckloops and large- and regular-print transcripts of audio tours are available at the Visitor Center Information Booth and the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (assistive listening devices also at lecture hall events). Garden tour with an American Sign Language interpreter on the third Saturday of every month.

Mobility: Inquire at garden entrances for wheelchairs (available on first come, first served basis). Each tram can accommodate one wheelchair.

Vision: The Home Gardening Center's Helen's Garden for the Senses, includes Braille signage. The Audio Tour Stimulating Your Senses in the Home Gardening Center includes visually descriptive commentary. Audio tour signage includes Braille text.

Pregones Theater

571–575 Walton Avenue
(between 149th and 150th Streets)
Bronx, NY 10451

Tel: (718) 585-1202

www.pregones.org

Pregones Theater mounts numerous Spanish and bilingual productions throughout the year at its 130-seat theater in the Bronx. Residents of 12 nearby ZIP codes receive a 50 percent discount at the box office.

Programs for Seniors: Taught by Pregones ensemble artists, Seniors in Motion and Seniors Meet the Arts are on-site, interactive creation and performance workshops focused on declamation (poetry recital), storytelling, choreographed movement, creative writing and music.

Directions: Subway: 2, 4, 5 to 149th Street - Grand Concourse. Walk one block west on 149th Street and turn right on Walton Avenue. Travel time from mid-Manhattan is usually 20 minutes.

Senior Discounts: Seniors (62 and older) receive 30 percent off ticket prices.

Disability Access: Wheelchair accessible

Disability Assistance:

Hearing: Assistive listening devices and closed captioning available

Vision: Large-print materials available

Van Cortlandt House Museum

Van Cortlandt Park
(Broadway at 246th Street)
Bronx, NY 10471

Tel: (718) 543-3344

www.vancortlandthouse.org

Free for Children under 12; \$5 Adults, \$3 Students, \$3 Seniors

Tues–Fri 10 am–4 pm; Sat, Sun 11 am–4 pm

The mansion, the oldest surviving private residence in the Bronx, is a fine example of vernacular Georgian architecture. Built in 1748 by Frederick Van Cortlandt, it was once at the heart of a lucrative wheat plantation that spread across much of the Bronx.

Disability Access: The three-story, 18th-century house has no elevator or wheelchair lift.

Wave Hill

West 249th Street and Independence Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471

Tel: (718) 549-3200
www.wavehill.org

Free for Members and Children under 6; \$8 Adults, \$4 Students, \$4 Seniors, \$2 Children

Tues–Sun 9 am–4:30 pm; open until 5:30 pm April 15–Oct 14 (and until 9 pm on Wed in June & July)
Closed Mon; open Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, New Year’s Day,
Thanksgiving and Christmas

Located among the leafy estates of Riverdale, Wave Hill is a former private residence featuring gardens, lawns, woodlands and picturesque views of the New Jersey Palisades. Programming includes art exhibitions and workshops related to nature.

Programs for Seniors: Wave Hill’s garden, nature and art programs are popular with senior citizens.

Directions: Subway: 1 to Van Cortlandt Park - West 242nd Street. A free Wave Hill van meets visitors at the subway station hourly and drops off visitors departing the gardens. Passenger pick-up and drop-off are on the west side of Broadway directly in front of Burger King. Shuttle schedules are online.

Senior Discounts: Seniors (65 and older) receive discounted subscriptions and memberships.

Disability Access: Visitor Center, Wave Hill House, Glyndor House, the Great Lawn and the Flower Garden are accessible. Wheelchairs available upon request at the front gate and at the reception desk. Trained guide dogs allowed. Handicapped parking in front lot. For more information, please call (718) 549-3200 or e-mail visitorservices@wavehill.org.

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