

Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide (SPARC) Overview

Program Description

- Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide (SPARC) is a community arts engagement program that places artists-in-residence at senior centers across the five boroughs of the City.
- The program provides selected artists with access to workspace in senior centers and a stipend in exchange for the creation and delivery of arts programming for seniors.
- Participating seniors are engaged in an art project or series of cultural programs over the course of the residencies, which also include a public program component - exhibits, open houses, performances and other cultural interactions open to the surrounding community.
- SPARC is a collaboration among the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department for the Aging and the City's five local arts councils.
- SPARC was developed as part of Age-Friendly NYC, a citywide effort to make the City more livable for seniors. It previously ran in 2012 with support from a \$200,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, after a successful pilot in 2009-2010 called Space for Art. The 2013 SPARC program is supported, in part, by public funds from the NYC Department for the Aging.

SPARC 2013 Breakdown

- 50 Artists-in-Residence in 48 Senior Centers
- Total number of SPARC residencies by borough:
 - Brooklyn – 12
 - Bronx – 9
 - Manhattan – 12
 - Queens – 12
 - Staten Island – 5

Goals

- Increase the arts and cultural programming available for seniors and positively impact the quality of life of the City's older adults
- Increase opportunities for arts residencies and access to workspace for artists in a City where affordable space is limited
- Increase the cultural interactions between senior centers and their local communities, reinvigorating neighborhood senior centers as vital community spaces

Residency Activities

- Residencies must take place between January - June 2013
- Project activities expected to include 40 – 60 contact hours
- Project must be cultural but may be in any artistic discipline
- Project must include a public program component

Program Partners

