



Donna M. Corrado, PhD
Commissioner

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July 10, 2014

Dear Senior Center or NORC Program Director:

I am writing to you about a very exciting opportunity. As you may know, the Department for the Aging (DFTA) and the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) have successfully initiated *Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide* (also known as *SPARC*), a community arts engagement program that places artists in residence at senior centers across the five boroughs of New York City. During the 2013-2014 program, 51 artists were placed at 50 participating senior centers. Artists receive stipends and access to workspace at the centers in exchange for the creation and delivery of arts programming for seniors. Participating senior centers also receive a stipend along with the programming and partner directly with the artist to bring these rich projects to their members.

In the coming weeks, DFTA, together with program partner DCA, will identify up to 50 senior centers across the five boroughs for inclusion in the 2014–2015 *SPARC* program. Artists will separately apply to be matched with senior centers. Those senior centers that are selected will be matched with artists whose proposals are determined to be well suited to the centers. We are quickly ramping up for the 2015 program and plan to have artists working with seniors in January of 2015.

To be considered for this program, all interested programs must fill out the attached application by **July 25, 2014**. The application will help us assess which artists will fit best in each senior center according to available facilities and the capacity of the senior center. Please complete the application and email it to **Kristen Zak at kzak@aging.nyc.gov**.

DFTA is pleased to join with DCA to bring this creative program to our City's seniors. I have personally been impressed by the talent, commitment and enthusiasm of the centers and artists that participated in the *SPARC* program and look forward to more of the same this coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Corrado". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Donna M. Corrado
Commissioner