

For Immediate Release

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**BRONX MUSEUM PRESENTS TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM,
TIMED TO CENTENARY OF THE GRAND CONCOURSE**

***Daniel Libeskind Delivers Keynote: Conference
Poses Questions about the Bronx's History and Future***

New York — Noted architects, urban planners, city officials, historians, writers, and artists will convene at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Grand Concourse and 165th Street, on **Friday, March 6, and Saturday, March 7** to discuss the history and future of the Bronx.

Free and open to the public (with registration), the symposium, entitled *Intersections: The Grand Concourse at 100*, is part of a year-long series of events and exhibitions marking the centennial of the Grand Concourse. A visionary feat of 19th-century city planning, the Grand Concourse was conceived in 1890 and designed by the French-born engineer Louis Risse as a means of connecting residents of Manhattan to the parks of the north Bronx. After nearly two decades of planning, engineering, and construction, the Grand Concourse officially opened in November 1909.

“This centenary milestone is prompting today’s New Yorkers to consider how the Bronx and the Grand Concourse can best evolve in the next few decades,” says Holly Block, executive director, The Bronx Museum of the Arts. “The question is how to retain the character of the Bronx, while addressing pressing urban concerns.”

The opening evening of March 6 will honor Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion. Constance Rosenblum, author of the forthcoming *Boulevard of Dreams: Heady Times, Heartbreak, and Hope Along the Grand Concourse in the Bronx* (NYU Press, Aug. 2009) and editor of the City Section, *The New York Times*, will explore links between the exciting period of the 1920s and the Bronx today, while keynoter Gary Hermalyn, co-author of *The Beautiful Bronx 1920-1950* (Harmony, 1988), considers early newspaper accounts of the Grand Concourse.

On Saturday morning, March 7, Daniel Libeskind, renowned architect and master planner for the reconstruction of the World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan, will deliver the keynote address for *Intersections: The Grand Concourse at 100*. Libeskind spent his teenage years in the Bronx and attended the Bronx High School of Science.

Throughout the day, symposium participants will address an array of subjects, among them the lessons to be learned from the Grand Concourse and the audacity of the vision that

produced it, the forgotten history of the Bronx Parks system, and options for a growing borough that faces crises in housing, green space, and transportation if steps are not taken for the future.

Intersections: The Grand Concourse at 100 culminates with a workshop led by the Center for Urban Pedagogy.

Symposium Program Schedule: Friday, March 6

6:30—8:00pm

Honoring Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion

Opening Remarks:

Holly Block (Executive Director, Bronx Museum of the Arts)

Keynote Address:

Dr. **Gary Hermalyn** (Executive Director, Bronx County Historical Society)

News accounts of the Grand Concourse in the early 20th century

Featured speakers:

Prof. **Ray Bromley** (Professor, Geography and Planning Department, SUNY Albany): *The Audacity of the Concourse Project*

Dr. **Mark Naison** (Professor of History & African American Studies, Fordham University): *Ethnic Succession on the Grand Concourse*

Constance Rosenblum (author of the forthcoming book, *Boulevard of Dreams: Heady Times, Heartbreak, and Hope Along the Grand Concourse in the Bronx*, and editor, City Section, *The New York Times*): *The Bronx Past and Present*

Prof. **Lloyd Ultan** (Historian, Bronx County Historical Society):

Louis Risse and the Political Context of His Thoroughfare

Saturday, March 7

9:30—10:00am

Registration

10:00—10:10am

Opening Remarks

Sergio Bessa (Director of Programs, The Bronx Museum of the Arts)

10:10—10:50am

Keynote Address: **Daniel Libeskind** (Architect)

11:00—11:40am

Dr. **Peter Derrick** (Historian, Bronx County Historical Society)

Creation of the Bronx Parks System

11:45am—1:00pm

Bronx Architecture and the Future of the Concourse

Susan Hoeltzel (Director, Lehman College Art Gallery)

Deborah Marton (Director, Design Trust for Public Space)

Moderator: **William Menking** (Executive Editor, *The Architect's Newspaper*)

2:00—3:00pm

Intersections: New Art Commissions

Skowmon Hastanan, Katie Holten, Jeff Liao, Pablo Helguera

Moderator: Holly Block (Executive Director, The Bronx Museum of the Arts)

3:00—4:00pm

Learning From The Grand Concourse

William Casari (Librarian, Hostos Community College)

Sam Goodman (Urban Planner, Bronx Borough President’s Office)

Anthony Greene (Education Coordinator, Bronx County Historical Society)

4:30—6:00pm

Teacher training workshop led by **Center for Urban Pedagogy**

SPONSORSHIP

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The Bronx Museum of the Arts

The flagship cultural institution of the Bronx, founded in 1971, The Bronx Museum of the Arts focuses on 20th-century and contemporary art, while serving the culturally diverse populations of the Bronx and the greater New York metropolitan area. The museum’s home on the Grand Concourse is a distinctive contemporary landmark designed by the internationally-renowned firm Arquitectonica. The Museum’s educational offerings spring from these central programs with outreach to children and families as well as adult audiences. For more information please visit www.bronxmuseum.org

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