
DAILY NEWS

Black History Month Celebration to explore ‘musical paradise’ with trolley tour of the South Bronx

Morrisania and Hunts Point gave rise to mambo, doo wop, rhythm and blues and hip hop

By [Tanyanika Samuels](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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Dr. Mark Naison Photo credit: Thalia Perez/CPL Media

From the 1940 to the 1980s, the neighborhoods of Morrisania and Hunts Point were a virtual ‘musical paradise.’

“These neighborhoods produced more varieties of popular music than any other place in the U.S. and probably the world, other than Treme in New Orleans,” said Fordham University Prof. Mark Naison, founder of the Bronx African American History Project.

The south Bronx gave rise to such music as mambo, doo wop, salsa, Latin jazz, rhythm and blues, as well as hip hop.

To mark Black History Month, the Bronx Music Heritage Center (BMHC Lab) is presenting a free musical history trolley tour of the south Bronx on Feb. 23 focusing on the musical legends who lived and performed there. Naison will lead the tour, and will treat guests to a rap as his alter-ego Notorious Ph.D.

The trolley tour will include stops at erstwhile musical hotspots such as The Tropicana Club and Sylvia’s Blue Morocco; the former homes and haunts of Jazz greats like Thelonious Monk and Nancy Wilson and doo wop legends The Chords.

The 90-minute tour will also take in outdoor sites such as 63 Park and 23 Park, where doo wop groups would gather to harmonize in the 1950’s - sites which later became famed hip hop scenes.

Afterwards, the BMHC Lab will host a pop-up bazaar of local vendors, refreshments, a African American history presentation by Bronx River Sankofa’s Morgan Powell and a musical performance by Malang Djobateh, a local Gambian Kora player.



The "Bronx Culture Trolley" Photo credit: Pace, Bryan Freelance NYDN

The African American Music History Tour will start at 4 p.m. at the BMHC Lab, 1303 Louis Niñé Blvd. Reservations are required. Call 718-839-1134.

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/bronx/fordham-university-prof-mark-naison-lead-tour-music-hotspots-article-1.1261977#ixzz2KtPbRJNa>