



## Whedco's Bronx Music Heritage Center Partners With Nyc Parks To Bring Back The "Boogie Down Booth"

Thursday, Jul 16, 2015 - Volume XXXX, Number 6372

**Bronx, NY** – A colorful new public installation bringing Bronx music, solar-powered lights, seating, and community art to the area under the elevated tracks opened today on Southern Boulevard and 174th Street in the Bronx. The second "Boogie Down Booth" from WHEDco's Bronx Music Heritage Center follows last year's temporary pop-up at Southern Boulevard and Freeman Street, under the 2/5 line, which served as a community gathering point and successfully increased foot traffic to the commercial area.

The new Boogie Down Booth lines a fence outside of Seabury Park (also known as Mid-Bronx Desperadoes Park, or the People's Park), and was

done in partnership with NYC Parks. It features an updated, linear design from Chat Travieso, designer of the first Booth. Like the previous installation, the Booth will provide seating, solar-powered LED lighting, and speakers streaming music from Bronx artists. The playlist, curated by the Bronx Music Heritage Center, covers a variety of genres born in or inspired by the Bronx, including salsa, jazz, Afro-Caribbean, hip-hop, Garifuna, and blues.



New to this booth are interactive elements like a community bulletin board to learn about local events, and a mural wall painted by middle and high school students from East Bronx Academy for the Future and youth from the Children's Aid Society, who will host community events at the Booth. The installation, which recycles much of the material from the previous Booth, will be open until July 2016.

"NYC Parks warmly welcomes the return of the Boogie Down Booth, bringing vibrant music to the Bronx and specifically Seabury Park," said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. "This park is one of our Community Parks Initiative (CPI) sites that will undergo a major redesign thanks to generous capital funding and community engagement, a hallmark of CPI. This fabulous interactive booth will be a great step toward reviving Seabury Park for the neighborhood, plus it is a joyful addition to an area already brimming with culture and passionate community members. Thanks to WHEDco and the Bronx Music Heritage Center for partnering with Parks to make this Boogie Down Booth possible."

The Boogie Down Booths are designed to celebrate the rich culture of the Bronx, expressed through music. The speakers play songs by local artists that counteract the noise caused by trains above the street and the surrounding traffic. Although thousands of live music seats in dozens of clubs and theaters in the neighborhood have been lost over the years, artists from a wide array of cultural backgrounds make the Bronx their home and create new music in the borough.

[Original story published on nycgovparks.org](http://nycgovparks.org)

**About NYC Parks Art in the Parks**

NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, collaborations with arts organizations and artists have produced hundreds of public art projects in New York City parks.