



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CARIBBEAN CULTURAL CENTER AFRICAN DIASPORA INSTITUTE LAUNCHES
“MI QUERIDO BARRIO” AUGMENTED REALITY PROJECT**

*New York City Artists Selected to Participate in Project that will feature
East Harlem Community known as El Barrio*

April 9, 2013 – New York – Today, the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI) announced their selection of nine participating artists in the development of the “Mi Querido Barrio” project, an artistic exhibition with both physical and virtual components, mapping a historic and cultural tour of New York City’s El Barrio community. The artists are based in New York and come from a diverse pool of artistic backgrounds. They are: **Alejandro Epifanio, Rachel Harris, Yasmin Hernández, Edgardo Miranda-Rodríguez, Anarmily Nazir, María de Mater O’Neill, Stephanie Rodríguez, Adrian Román** and **Tim Portlock**. The 2-year project, which hopes to foster greater awareness of the rich cultural history of the area’s long-standing residents, is being funded by a support grant from The Rockefeller Foundation’s New York City Cultural Innovation Fund.

The artists have been trained in the new technology of augmented reality by **Tamiko Thiel**, a German-based visual artist who has developed the dramatic and poetic capabilities of various forms of virtual and augmented realities as vehicles for exploring social and cultural issues. Her work has been exhibited internationally in venues such as the Istanbul Biennial, the International Center for Photography in New York, the Institute of Contemporary Art in London and in Boston. She has also taught and lectured internationally. Using these new skills, the selected artists will create site-specific virtual artworks and environments. “Mi Querido Barrio” augmented reality project is being directed by **Bruce Lincoln** along with technology advisor **Clayton Banks**, project historian **Yasmin Ramirez** and workshop coordinator **Regina Bultron**.

“It is an exciting time for us here at the Center as we have the opportunity to train and open a new field to a diverse group of artists,” said Dr. Marta Moreno-Vega, President and Founder, CCCADI. “I am confident that their work will create greater awareness of one of our City’s greatest neighborhoods which will also house our new home at the landmark firehouse at 120 East 125th Street.”

“The Rockefeller Foundation supports innovations in culture that increase social equity,” said Edwin Torres, associate director for The Rockefeller Foundation’s New York City Opportunities Fund and Innovation. “CCCADI’s ‘Mi Querido Barrio’ allows long-standing residents of El Barrio to share their history and to educate new residents about their new community and neighbors.”

For more information on the “Mi Querido Barrio” project, please visit <http://www.miqueridobarrio.com/>



Caribbean Cultural Center
African Diaspora Institute
CCCADI

The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute

Founded in 1976 by Dr. Marta Moreno Vega, CCCADI is dedicated to promoting and promulgating the cultures of people of African descents in the Americas. Connecting communities from the Diaspora to root cultures, where possible, provides a comprehensive understanding of the sacred, aesthetic, philosophical thought and practices that Diaspora communities have gifted the world. CCCADI was recently named the developers of a decommissioned, historic landmark firehouse located at 120 East 125th Street in East Harlem's El Barrio neighborhood. \$5.5 million in renovations to the firehouse, which will become the Center's new home, will begin in 2014 and when open will offer concerts, gallery tours, workshops, performances, conferences, art exhibits, seminars, spiritual gatherings and artist's residencies. For over 36 years CCCADI has worked toward the social, cultural, and economic equity of African Diaspora communities in New York City, State and around the world.

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