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Bronx Music Heritage Center to Host ECCI Martí Dinner

New York, NY - Tues., Jan 15, 2013

On January 28th the BMHC Lab will host the Club Cubano Inter-Americano's Cena Martiana, a cultural dinner celebrating the birth of José Martí (1853-1895)

The Bronx Music Heritage Center is committed to preserving and promoting Bronx music, cultivating Bronx artists, spurring neighborhood revival, and providing free cultural programs for the community. Currently, BMHC programming takes place in the BMHC Lab, a 1,500 sq. ft. storefront incubator and forum in the Crotona East neighborhood, and at venues throughout the Bronx. The BMHC Lab is located at 1303 Louis Nine Boulevard in the South Bronx, and hosts concerts, screenings, galleries, roundtable discussions, and artists-in-residence.

This year, WHEDco, in partnership with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the New York City Housing Development Corporation, and Blue Sea Development Company, will break ground on Bronx Commons, a 361,000 sq. ft. development in the Melrose neighborhood that will house the permanent BMHC performance space and archives, along with 290+ affordable green apartments, live/work space for elder musicians, an arts-based school in partnership with Bard College, a rooftop garden, and recreational space.

On January 28th the BMHC Lab will host the Club Cubano Inter-Americano's Cena Martiana, a cultural dinner celebrating the birth of José Martí (1853-1895), the most renowned political and literary figure in the history of Cuba, featuring guest



speakers and a film screening.

The Club Cubano Inter-Americano, established in 1945 in the Bronx by Afro-Cubans, is one of the first Latin organizations in the north-east United States to develop a cultural space for not only Cubans, but for all Latin Americans as well. The Club Cubano Inter-Americano's Social Club (circa, late 1940s - 1960s) on Prospect Avenue with its events, parties and social gatherings featuring live bands, orchestras and performers directly from Cuba, many in the U.S. for the first time, was a forum and an unofficial school of Cuban Music for young neighborhood talent. Some of the performers included, La Orquesta Aragón, Arsenio Rodríguez, Beny Moré, Miguelito Valdés and Celia Cruz. Some of the local youth interested in music who frequented the social club with names like, Tito Puente, the Palmieri brothers—Charlie and Eddie, Johnny Pacheco and Ray Barretto, later went on to become famous in their own right. ■

For more info about the BMHC, please contact info@bronxmusic.org or visit bronxmusic.org.