

DAILY NEWS

History in the making for 6 boro locations

BY MIKE JACCARINO

USUALLY, AWARD ceremonies honor a person or persons. This one will herald Bronx places.

City Lore and the Municipal Art Society will pay tribute Thursday to six spots in the borough they see as repositories of local culture and history.

These places "hold memories and anchor traditions for communities and help tell the history of the city," said Steve Zeitlin, executive director of City Lore, a nonprofit that researches and documents the grass-roots culture of New York City life.

This year's Bronx honorees are:

■ 52 Park, on Kelly St. and Leggett Ave. in Longwood, was once a danger zone for local residents. But in 1980, the group 52 People for Progress committed itself to reclaiming the small recreational ground and transforming it into an urban oasis.

■ In 1926, Abraham Kazan, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, founded the first limited-equity housing cooperative in the United States. It still houses more than 1,000 families, in the form of the Amalgamated Housing Cooperative, abutting Van Cortlandt Park in the Kingsbridge section.

■ The Arthur Avenue Retail Market in Belmont is one of the few remaining indoor markets in the country and remains a favorite destination for locals and tourists. The market opened on Oct. 29,



Rincon Criollo is on the list of historic borough sites honored by City Lore and the Municipal Art Society. Photo by Mitsu Yasukawa

1940, in the "Little Italy" section of the Bronx, and continues to thrive today.

■ The Bronx River Houses in Soundview is known as the epicenter of the musical scene in the Bronx, and the starting point for such acts as Zulu Nation, Ronnie Mack and the Chiffons.

■ Casita Rincon Criollo, at 499 E. 158th St. in Melrose, is one of the city's oldest casitas, or small houses surrounded by gardens, reminiscent of the Puerto Rican

countryside. Neighbors use the casita to gather, garden, hold community events and pass down musical and cultural traditions.

■ Considered by fans the world over as the birthplace of hip hop, the General Sedgwick Houses, at 1520 Sedgwick Ave., is where DJ Kool Herc (Clive Campbell) first played his "breakbeats" at a house party in the recreation room. In 2007, it was declared eligible to be a

state and federal landmark.

The second-annual Place Matters Awards ceremony, open to the public, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Longwood Gallery at the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, 450 Grand Concourse.

A reception featuring music by Trio Los Platinos will follow the ceremony.

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