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February 3, 2014

Attn: Mary Mears
U.S. EPA, Region 2
Environmental Education
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866

Dear Ms. Mears,

We write to affirm the partnership of the Bronx Council of Environmental Quality (BCEQ) with GrowNYC under the 2013 EPA Environmental Education Model Grants solicitation, should they be awarded funding. GrowNYC, in partnership with the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (FVCP), is proposing a broad environmental education and parkland restoration project involving students in grades 5-12 from local schools.

The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership organization located in NYC's only mainland borough — The Bronx. We are a diverse collection of individuals all seeking to leave our great grandchildren better air, land, and water quality than we have at present. Bronx Council for Environmental Quality agrees to provide technical assistance and expertise for classroom restoration projects in the areas immediately surrounding the schools participating during the 2014-2015 school year. If funding is awarded, BCEQ will receive a subgrant of \$5,000 for their time and efforts spent providing this technical assistance for this program.

Since 1971, BCEQ has sought to establish — as an Inherent Human Right — a sound, forward-looking environmental policy regarding an aesthetic, unpolluted, environment protecting a natural and historic heritage. Since 2001 we focused on Harlem River issues to develop connections to and along the Harlem River and create on-water access and activities in an effort to improve water quality. For the past two years, we hosted a week of canoe rides for school children at Roberto Clemente State Park. We also conducted scientific and planning activities, including the WCS-NOAA project at Pier 5 and the NYS Brownfields Opportunity Area project, both on the Harlem River. Years ago, BCEQ worked on a special project funded by the Region 2 EPA in the Croton Watershed by educating elected officials (NEMO) on low impact development protections.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of GrowNYC's application.

Sincerely,

Karen Argenti

Karen Argenti

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Dart Westphal

Co-Chairs, Water Committee, BCEQ