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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL FOLKLORIST AWARDED PRESTEGIOUS BOTKIN PRIZE***

***Dr. Kay Turner Recognized for Lifetime Achievement in Public Folklore***

**Brooklyn, New York – November 13, 2013** –[Brooklyn Arts Council](http://www.brooklynartscouncil.org) (BAC) announces today that its Folk Arts Director Dr. Kay Turner is one of two prominent American folklorists named by the American Folklore Society as the 2013 recipients of its prestigious [Benjamin A. Botkin Prize](#), given to recognize lifetime achievement in public folklore. Recipients are selected for careers that epitomize the best in public sector folklore. She was also recently inducted as a member of the Fellows of the American Folklore Society at the American Folklore Society Meetings held in Providence, Rhode Island in October. This accolade is reserved for a select number of eminent scholars each year.

In its report, the 2013 Botkin Prize Committee praised the outstanding contributions of this year's recipients to the field of folklore, noting:

“Few public sector folklorists have had as successful or varied a public sector career as **Kay Turner**. Dr. Turner began her public folklore activities in Texas during the 1980s, where she received a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin, and co-founded the Texas Folklife Resources (TFR)...Her innovative research-based projects have resulted in numerous hugely successful, multifaceted public programs that have focused public attention to and foster appreciation of the contributions of folk artists and performers in contemporary America.”

Since 2000, BAC Folk Arts has been directed by Kay Turner. Active in both the public sector and academic arenas of the folklore discipline for over 25 years, she teaches folklore courses in the Performance Studies Department at NYU and devotes additional time to fieldwork on weekends. As staff folklorist, Dr. Turner's approach is dialogically ethnographic and community-

centered with a strong emphasis on building relationships with artists and identifying art forms unknown to BAC. Under her leadership, BAC conducts and presents field research and programming around major themes and genres—such as the role of women in traditional arts, death/mourning traditions, Arab music, traditional storytelling, etc.—that have received little or no field attention locally, and connects these projects with a wide range of audiences and community partners.

Dr. Turner will be leaving Brooklyn Arts Council in early 2014 to pursue new projects. BAC will bid her farewell and thanks for her many years of service at its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual [Brooklyn Folk Arts Day](#), to be held on November 19 from 6:30 – 9pm at The Actors Fund Art Center in Downtown Brooklyn. The public is invited to attend this free event.

### **ABOUT BAC & BAC FOLK ARTS**

Founded in 1966, [Brooklyn Arts Council](#) (BAC) is the leading nonprofit organization serving Brooklyn artists and cultural groups in the visual, performing, media and literary arts, and ensuring Brooklyn residents have access to affordable arts experiences. Brooklyn Arts Council works with Brooklyn's traditional artists and their immigrant communities to preserve and present arts expressive of the borough's diverse living heritage—folk song, storytelling, social dance, foodways, material culture and more. [BAC Folk Arts](#) regularly presents traditional artists in concerts, workshops and panels; help them identify and apply for grants; consult with members of local communities to help preserve traditional ecologies; and educate the public about traditional lifeways.

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