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**NYC Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito and El Museo del Barrio
Present**

'JULIA DE BURGOS DAY' ON EAST 106TH STREET

Public Invited to Join Celebrations on Friday, March 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 8, 2007 – Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito and El Museo del Barrio will celebrate Women's History Month in East Harlem by declaring Friday, March 16 as "Julia de Burgos Day" in honor of the late Puerto Rican poet. Public programs planned include an official street-naming ceremony, an afternoon reception at Taller Boricua and an evening of poetry readings at El Museo del Barrio. These events are co-sponsored by Hope Community and the East Harlem Preservation Organization.

An initiative pioneered by El Museo's Director Emerita Susana Torruella Leval and wholeheartedly supported by New York City Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito, the official street naming ceremony will declare 106th Street between Fifth and First Avenues as Julia de Burgos Boulevard in order to expand the poet's cultural legacy and influence on the arts. The event celebrating this key cultural artery of El Barrio and its rich history will take place **Friday, March 16, 11:00 a.m. at the corner of East 106th Street and Lexington Avenue**, facing the Julia de Burgos Cultural Center and across the street from the newly installed mosaic portrait of the poet by artist Manny Vega. The public is invited to accompany Julia de Burgos' family, Councilmember Mark-Viverito and other elected officials, El Museo del Barrio, Community Board 11, Hope Community, East Harlem Preservation Organization and the East Harlem Board of Tourism, along with residents from *el barrio*, to officiate this naming.

To continue celebrating this occasion, ***An Evening of Readings in Honor of Julia de Burgos* will be presented at Teatro Heckscher of El Museo del Barrio that evening, Friday, March 16 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.** Her poetry will be presented in Spanish and English by poets Carmen D. Lucca and Alma Villegas, among others. Light refreshments will be served after the presentation. Admission is free and advance registration is encouraged by sending an email to public_programs@elmuseo.org.

Born in 1914, de Burgos was one of the foremost poets to come out of Puerto Rico in the first half of the twentieth century. Modern critics have noted that her poetry anticipated the work of feminist writers and poets as well as that of other Hispanic authors. A resident of El Barrio, Julia de Burgos died here on July 6, 1953 at the age of 39, and she continues to represent the many artistic and cultural contributions of Latinos in New York City.

Councilmember Mark-Viverito and El Museo del Barrio sincerely thank Community Board Eleven and its staff for the approval of this street naming project. Support for this important cultural and community endeavor was also generously provided by Nicholasa Mohr, Marina Ortiz, Deborah Quiñones, Carmen Vasquez and the Staff of Councilmember Mark-Viverito's office, East Harlem Preservation Organization, the East Harlem Board of Tourism, and Hope Community, Inc. The street-naming was also made possible in part by over 1,100 residents of East Harlem who signed a petition and 45 businesses, schools, churches, medical offices, arts and entertainment organizations who provided letters of support.

El Museo is located at 1230 Fifth Avenue between 104th and 105th Streets and may be reached by subway: #6 to 103rd Street station; #2, #3 to Central Park North/110th Street station or by bus: M1, M3, M4 on Madison and Fifth Avenues to 104th Street; local crosstown service between Yorkville or East Harlem and the Upper West Side M96 and M106 or M2. Museum hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Monday and Tuesday. Suggested museum admission: \$6 adults; \$4 students and seniors; members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult enter free. For more information, contact www.elmuseo.org or 212-831-7272.

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