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Borough President

OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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February 3, 2004

Dear Bronx Student,

I am so pleased to learn that you will be participating in the Digital Documentaries program. Video is a powerful tool and I know that wonderful things will happen when we put the camera in your hands. While there are many ways to use it (like music videos, movies, TV shows and other entertainment), it can also be a powerful tool for affecting social change and improving our community. For example, many people believe that in the 1960's, that it was the video footage shown on TV of African Americans fighting for their civil rights that helped to persuade political leaders to change laws which discriminated against minorities.

Our struggle for civil rights is only one of the many important issues that have been impacted by the use of video. You now have an opportunity to have an impact in your own community. With your teacher, you can decide to video a single person and let them share their history through a personal narrative; you can document an important social issue, like civil rights, or you might take a stand and try to convince people and challenge them to take action! The Bronx is full of great stories waiting to be told and I am pleased to be able to offer your classroom a few tools to make this possible.

I look forward to seeing your videos at our first ever Bronx Film Festival in June!

Sincerely,



Adolfo Carrión

