



Yaelle Amir (l.) and Jeanne Gerrity curated the exhibition "Sound Off," now at the BRIC Rotunda gallery in Brooklyn Heights. Photo by Aaron Showalter

## City offers free help to job seekers

BY FRANK LOMBARDI  
DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU

FINDING A JOB can be tough work these days, so a little bit of help from job placement experts can be a big help — especially if the assistance is free.

Raul Figueroa, 24, of Tremont, the Bronx, got such help recently from one of the city's Workforce1 Career Centers, a job placement assistance program administered by the Department of Small Business Services.

There are seven such career centers throughout the city — two in the Bronx, two in Queens and one in each of the three other boroughs.

Figueroa said he had been looking for a job on his own for about six months with no luck before a friend told him about the Workforce1 Career at 1029 E. 163rd St. in Hunts Point.

He visited the center and got help updating his resume, lessons in job interviewing, and assistance in applying for jobs.

He's now working as a sales representative at a Hunts Point AT&T Wireless store, and credits the help he got from the career center.

"I was trying on my own to get a job, but it was really hard," Figueroa said Monday as he helped Mayor Bloomberg and other city officials announce that the seven career centers will have expanded hours starting this week.

Normally open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. only on weekdays, the centers will now remain open until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. They also will be open every other Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Small Business Commissioner Robert Walsh said that the centers helped 17,000 job seekers get work last year, of the 80,000 candidates who sought help.

Walsh was still optimistic about achieving 17,000 placements by the end of this year despite the scarcity of jobs now.

For information, call the city's 311 hotline or visit the city's Web site, [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov).

The locations and phone numbers of the other six centers are: Bronx: 358 E. 149th St., (718) 960-7099; Brooklyn: 9 Bond St., (718) 246-5219; Queens: 168-25 Jamaica Ave., (718) 557-6755, and at LaGuardia Community College, 29-10 Thomson Ave., (718) 609-2130; Staten Island: 60 Bay St., (718) 285-8388, and Manhattan, 215 W. 125th St., (917) 493-7000.

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# Art of indie curating

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GO TO a museum to see an exhibit, and you're probably most interested in what's on the wall, not who decided to put it there.

But a behind-the-scenes person devotes a lot of time to making those decisions. And traditionally, the curator has worked his or her way up through the museum's ranks to get the coveted job.

Two Brooklynites — Yaelle Amir and Jeanne Gerrity, both 29 — are taking a different route. They work as independent curators whenever they can while holding down full-time day jobs.

The women's most recent effort, "Sound Off," is now at the BRIC Rotunda Gallery in Brooklyn Heights. The gallery selected their multimedia project over 20 other proposals.

"We're honored to have this opportunity," said Amir, who lives in Park Slope and works as a curato-

## Upstart duo unveils activist exhibit at Rotunda

rial assistant at the International Center for Photography in Manhattan. "There are very few opportunities for curators trying to make it on their own."

Gerrity, who lives in Cobble Hill and works as a program manager at Smack Mellon Gallery in DUMBO, said even though she and Amir were unknown as curators, they had no trouble getting artists to participate in their project.

"A lot of people have heard of Rotunda," said Gerrity. "The artists were more willing to work with us because of the gallery's name recognition."

"Sound Off" is devoted to "artists who also function as activists," said Amir.

There are works by six artists, including Daniel Heyman of Philadelphia, who went to Turkey and

Jordan to do a series of drawings on former detainees, including some from Abu Ghraib.

There are excerpts from a documentary by Ashley Hunt of Los Angeles, who looked into the handling of inmates abandoned in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.

Gerrity and Amir also selected photos, and accompanying audio, from the "Lockdown" project done by Dread Scott. His activism dates back to 1989, when, as a student in Chicago, he raised eyebrows and ire with his installation, "What is the Proper Way to Display a U.S. Flag?"

The BRIC Rotunda gallery supports exhibits by promising young

curators twice a year, through a program honoring the late Lori Ledis, a Brooklyn art dealer and music producer.

**'We're honored to have this opportunity.'**

Yaelle Amir

"Sound Off" is an excellent example of the value of this program in giving those interested in careers as curators an opportunity to demonstrate their talents," said Elizabeth Ferrer, director of visual arts programs at BRIC Arts.

"Sound Off" will be on view at the BRIC Rotunda Gallery, 33 Clinton St. in Brooklyn Heights, through Dec. 19. Hours are noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free.

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