



The center of the neighborhood is The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel located three blocks south of Fordham University at the corner of Belmont Avenue and East 187th Street. Rex Hall is diagonally across the street on the corner of the equally fabled Arthur Avenue.



Anton Evangelista, Frank Franz and Victor Forbes discussing the future of Rex Hall.



The Ferragosto Feast in the Fall on Arthur Avenue is not to be missed. Here Riggi and her group rock the oldies in front of Pasquale's Rigoletto. They also perform every Saturday night in the restaurant.



"It's a platform for new voices, new artists — whether it's film, whether it's theater," said Artistic Director Anton Evangelista (l) of the proposed Arthur Avenue Performing Arts Center. "We want to be a mini-Lincoln Center," adds Frank Franz (r), Chairman of the Belmont Business Improvement District.

Belmont Society of Arts and Culture Rises in The Bronx

The Bronx is the only borough of New York City attached to the mainland of the USA and is comprised of a series of many unique neighborhoods. Perhaps the most unique of all is the Belmont section known internationally not only as the home of Dion and The Belmonts, but for the sheer number of establishments offering fine Italian-American foods, dining, housewares and other goods. Generations of Italian families give the area a special small-town character unique for an urban setting, while at the same time celebrating centuries old traditions.

The Belmont Society of Arts & Culture is dedicated to this tradition in their creation the Arthur Avenue Performing Arts Center, transforming a neglected catering hall into a multi-functioning space as a cinema screening facility, an exhibit hall, dance, recital, and theater space — a multi-media education center to provide up and coming and established artists a platform to express new works in theater, film, art and education in the creative arts.

The Belmont Business Improvement District (BID), headquartered at Rex Hall under the leadership of Chairman Frank Franz, has succeeded in turning Belmont into one of New York's premiere tourist destinations. It represents over 300 businesses and neighborhood landmarks including Fordham University, Our Lady Mount Carmel Church, Enrico Fermi Cultural Center and Arthur Avenue's Little Italy.

Rex Hall – A Bronx mini-Lincoln Center

The Belmont community has meant so much to so many over the last century and a half, serving as a home for wave after wave of immigrants in search of a new life, a new beginning. The [Arthur Avenue Performing Arts Center](#) is formed of that same tradition, to give a new voice to new ideas in the arts and culture of the community and beyond. Currently underway is a grass roots on-line fundraising campaign to transform this antique 4,000 square foot facility into a modern mini Lincoln Center. Formerly a banquet hall which held weddings and special occasions at which participants brought their own home-cooked food (as the place had no kitchen facilities), the revelry and loving energy of the merrymakers of old still permeates the environment. On a recent visit, Belmont BID Chairman Frank Franz and Artistic Director Anton Evangelista outlined their plans to *Fine Art* while a cast and crew of young comedians from nearby Fordham University were getting ready to film a few sketches there. "I'm very excited to be a part of helping to launch The Arthur Avenue Performing Arts Center in the neighborhood I grew up in. We hope many will join our efforts and extend financial support," said Evangelista, award-winning director/producer at Comprehensive Films, a production company that offers a personalized service in developing quality filmed stories that inspire, transform and enrich lives in an entertaining way. To participate in this cultural revitalization go to <http://www.bsoac.org>