

# Trees tell 100 Bronx tales

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As artist Katie Holten was doing research for a small installation outside the Bronx Museum of the Arts to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Grand Concourse, she ran into some interesting characters.

"Being out on the street is a Bronx tradition," said Holly Block, executive director of the Bronx Museum, at a press preview on Wednesday. Holten, friendly by nature, took up chatting with people from the community as she worked, and after hearing their stories she realized her project was going to have to be a lot bigger.

Thus was born the Tree Museum. Comprised of 100 trees along the Grand Concourse, the project immerses visitors in the neighborhood. Each tree is labeled with a number you can call on your cell phone to hear a story. The stories range in theme from history to anecdote to facts about trees.

Many of the stories were found through serendipity and chance. For example, when you call the number on the tree in front of musician Fatima Sambo Schoenfelder's apartment, you hear a song she wrote about that tree. Holten found Schoen-



Street artists TATS CRU painted a mural at 166th Street in honor of the Tree Museum.

## ON VIEW

**The Tree Museum runs the length of the Grand Concourse through Oct. 12.**

- Print out a guide at [treemuseum.org](http://treemuseum.org).
- Take the B, D or 5 to any stop between 138th Street/Grand Concourse and Mosholu Parkway.
- Access the audio guide at 718-408-2501.

felder, stage name FeSS, by Googling "Radiohead" and "Bronx"; working on the Tree Museum, Holten was

inspired by the Radiohead song "Fake Plastic Trees."

The project encompasses all aspects of Bronx life,

from different points of view. Some of the storytellers include names you might recognize, such as architect Daniel Libeskind, former Yankee Bernie Williams and DJ Jazzy Jay.

The festivities kick off this Sunday, with a parade down the southernmost part of the Concourse. Holten will be on hand, and there will be performances, Afro-Caribbean food and, of course, plenty of stories to tell.