

Manhattan Community Board 9  
Arts and Culture Committee Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2020

Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members:**

Co-Chair: Hon. Harriet Rosebud  
Co Chair: Hon. Daria Hardman  
Hon. Walter Alexander  
Hon. Anita Cheng (excused)  
Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero,  
Hon. Ilana Mercado  
Hon. Jonathan Sinagub (prepared minutes)

**Location:** via Zoom

**Meeting called to Order:** 6:35 PM

**Adopt Agenda:** differed

**Adopt Meeting Minutes:** differed

**Presentations/Discussions:** none

**Old Business:**

1. **Artist Circle** – postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 health crises.

**New Business:**

1. Hon. Harriet Rosebud opened the discussion relating her participation in an online meeting held by the Borough Presidents Office pertaining to initiatives for the Art Community.
  - a. artists organizations such as the National Black Theater, Apollo and the Dance Theater of Harlem talked about their situation.
  - b. WHDC is processing existing grants.
  - c. The Co-Chairs will try to obtain a tape of the meeting.
  - d. It was emphasized that the focus of the meeting was on artists groups/organizations.
2. Many questions remain as to how smaller theaters and individual artists have access to financial support and grants.
  - a. What funding sources and support does the Small Business Administration provide?

- b. Are there other sources for support such as through [www.CreativeCapital.org](http://www.CreativeCapital.org)?
  - c. What sources are there for individual artists, gig workers and freelancers?
  - d. What can community leaders and politicians need to do to reach out to Artists to facilitate the support process through available grants?
  - e. For Gig Workers, displaced from their job- Can they apply for unemployment benefits? Have the rules changed? What are the options to support Gig Workers?
  - f. A major issue is “rent”. What actions are being taken to help Gig Workers and Artists to pay or defer rent? Council Member Mark Levine and Congressman Adriano Espaillat have addressed these issues.
3. The members of the Arts and Culture Committee unanimously agreed to dedicate the next committee meeting ( May 4, 2020) to issues pertaining to individual artists, gig workers and freelancers by bringing together individual artists and local representatives to discuss specifically issues related to the independent artists and workers.
- a. Committee members would invite Individual Artists to the meeting. The conversation would focus on the needs of the individual artist.
  - b. The following Committee members would invite local representatives:
    - i. Walter Alexander – Mark Taylor
    - ii. Daria Hardman – Athena ???
    - iii. Monique Hardin-Cordero – Mark Levine
    - iv. Harriet Rosebud – Bryan Benjamin
    - v. Ilana Mercado – Mayors Office of Media & Entertainment (Film & Television)

**Next Meeting Scheduled for Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 6:30 PM. Location TBD**

**Meeting Adjourned:** approximately 7:30