

**Manhattan Community Board 9  
Arts and Culture Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday, 07December, 2020

**Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Members:**

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

**CB 9 Board members:**

**Attendees:**

Martin Collins - Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA)  
Zaed Ramadan – WHDC  
Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas  
Medis Jimenez - Broadway Houses Community Tenant Services (BHC)  
Jael Sanchel  
Yuien Main  
Marilu-In Galvan (sp??)

**Location:** via Zoom

**Meeting called to Order:** 6:38 PM

**Adopt Agenda:** Unanimously Adopted

**Adopt Meeting Minutes:** differed

**Presentations/Discussions:**

1. **Request to Create a New Arts Organization in Community Board Nine:**
  - a. Z Ramadan introduced himself as the new Interim head of the West Harlem Development Cooperation. He is talking to different entities to focus resources in Community Board 9.

- b. We do not have a focused entity for philanthropist or companies to provide funding for the artist in the community and he is trying to remedy that by requesting that CB 9 advocates for an umbrella organization for all artists in CB 9. We are losing money because we do not have this type of organization.
- 2. General Discussion
  - a. Funding to go to a specific organization, not the WHDC for all of Harlem, or Harlem Cultural Collaborative, or Harlem Arts Alliance
  - b. The ability to attract big funders
  - c. Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ) funding can be directed to a single organization benefiting West Harlem.
- 3. Motioned and second to request a resolution for a new independent organization to help receive funding to assist artists in CB 9. Tentative Working Title "West Harlem Arts Alliance". This was approved by the board members.
- 4. **Letter for SITES in Community Board 9:**
  - a. We will put together a letter of support to request a SITES (Smithsonian Institution) exhibition that has affinity with the West Harlem community. Examples would be the Billie Holiday in Sugar Hill and Betty Shabazz exhibitions. We also want our own arts organization.

#### **Old Business:**

- 1. Artist Circle – postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 health crises.
- 2. The 2020 Virtual Children Village, Reverend Thomas - This year the Harlem Holiday Lights Children's Village will be presented as an online arts project. (Previously noted in last month's minutes - Flyer distributed) Children village: <https://harlemlightitup.vamonde.com/posts/childrens-village/10457/>

#### **New Business:**

- 1. Presentations by attendees-
  - a. Medis Jimenez (BHC)
    - i. Shared link to the storytelling event on Sunday Dec 13th from 1:145 <https://www.sugarhillmuseum.org/online-programming>. [Online Programming — Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling](https://www.sugarhillmuseum.org/online-programming) ONLINE PROGRAMMING. Each month, Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling curates online virtual experiences to bring our creative community to your home. [www.sugarhillmuseum.org](http://www.sugarhillmuseum.org)
    - ii. Tutoring is available as well that it was not something new. Contact: Meldis Jimenez, Community Organizer at BHC please email me at [mjimenez@bhc.org](mailto:mjimenez@bhc.org) /Work Cell: 646-430-3627. For More information regarding the BHC Sugar Hill Homework Club FREE Online tutoring contact Waleska Cabrera, education advocate, email: [wcaabrera@bhc.org](mailto:wcaabrera@bhc.org)
  - b. Martin Collins - Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA) The **Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance** (NoMAA) is a non-profit arts service

organization whose mission is to cultivate, support and promote the works of artists and arts organizations in northern Manhattan.

- i. Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance is in the process of scheduling 2021 Technical Assistance Workshops for artists of all disciplines and would like your input in the planning process. Do you want assistance with website development, grant writing, producing videos, social media promotion, budget projections, resume writing, job searching, interview skills, or will you suggest other workshops? Also, what days/times for the workshops do you prefer? Please let me know by December 15th at [mcollinsnyc@yahoo.com](mailto:mcollinsnyc@yahoo.com). Martin Collins Uptown Arts Stroll Coordinator Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance 5030 Broadway, Suite 723 New York, NY 10034 [mcollinsnyc@yahoo.com](mailto:mcollinsnyc@yahoo.com) [www.nomaanyc.org](http://www.nomaanyc.org)
  - ii. SOUND WAVES & BRAIN WAVES Monday, Dec. 14th In this series we explore the intersections between jazz music and science, from how we experience sound and rhythm, to musical memories and the creative process. Join multiple Grammy nominee, Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellow Miguel Zenón for an intimate online performance combined with conversation with scientists from Columbia University's Zuckerman Institute, where Zenón is currently jazz artist-in-residence. Join us on Zoom Monday, Dec. 14th at 7:30pm [www.nomaanyc.org/events/communicating-through-music/](http://www.nomaanyc.org/events/communicating-through-music/)
2. Harlem International Jazz and Music festival
- a. (Developing and planning the future)
    - i. Discussed the grievances of the past so as to avoid future pitfalls going forward; Criticism of WHDC – lack of communication, no collaboration, no accountability of the funds from CB9 to benefit the community and build a truly International Festival, local artists not represented, CB9/Arts & Culture Committee was disrespected by WHDC. CB9/Arts & Culture Committee was invited only two weeks prior to the festival to find performers (only 2).
      1. There was discussion about the relationship of the Harlem Arts Alliance and the WHDC pertaining to a possible music festival.
    - ii. Response (WHDC) – The WHDC Board was upset when they found out that the festival mis-managed. The WHDC Board felt that they were misled. WHDC will fully engage with CB9 and welcomes their full participation; moving forward things will be conducted differently with transparency and inclusion. Issue of separate festival website. We need better communication and clear message.
    - iii. Going Forward CB9/Arts & Culture Committee wants “a seat at the table”; CB9/Arts & Culture Committee will be named in the contract with the organization selected to manage the festival (WHDC); CB9/Arts & Culture Committee has a vision to move forward; CB9/Arts

- & Culture Committee will submit a document to WHDC outlining their goals and "Vision"; When is the Start Date for 2021 festival?
- b. "The Road Map to Greatness" was presented to the meeting attendees by the Co-Chairs
    - i. Three keystones to a successful festival: Arts & Education, Economic Development and Finance & Literacy.
      1. Arts & Education
        - a. Support Galleries
        - b. Honor local Artists
        - c. Poster Competition
        - d. Provide living wages for the artists
        - e. How do we insure living wages for the artists and technicians
      2. Economic Development
        - a. Support local restaurants
        - b. Development artist marketplace
        - c. Development creating youth street teams
        - d. Develop specific activities at local restaurants
      3. Financial Literacy
        - a. Create workshops for artists
        - b. Outreach for artists
        - c. Organizational Development for artists
        - d. Create workshops in technology and social media for artists
      4. Address the whole community
    - c. Committee members felt that there should be no lapse in the Festival; other festivals are planning online/virtual performances (New Orleans Jazz Festival one example)
      - i. WHDC has not entered into any contract regarding the Harlem International Jazz and Music festival
      - ii. The need for an umbrella organization (such as proposed above) should be in-place and could manage the music festival as well as other events for artist exclusively for West Harlem. A single entity representing artists does not exist for West Harlem.
      - iii. CB9 should act quickly so not to lose potential funding.
      - iv. WHDC (ZR) – Stated that this draft document was a good start to preparing, developing and discussing the next festival.

**Next Meeting Scheduled for first Monday in January 2020, 01/04/20, at 6:30 PM.  
Location TBD**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:52 PM**

