

## Arts & Culture Committee Meeting

January 9, 2012 6:30pm

- Call to Order –
- Present – Linda Walton, Diane, Wilson, Debra Ann Byrd, Vicky Gholson, Christ Gesicke excused, Judith Insell, Patricia Ju, Penny Marie, Michael Palma, LeeAnn Pinder, Mr. Soulio, Mr. John Martin Green
- Motion to accept agenda with one change - #6 Presentations – missing “t”; and Ellen Baxter will present with Ofelia Rodriguez
- Minutes – coming; Patricia Ju has agreed to prepare minutes ongoing
- Report – Broadway Housing; [www.broadwayhousing.org/](http://www.broadwayhousing.org/)
  - Ana Ofelia-Rodriguez from Broadway Housing – Update on children’s museum part of Sugar Hill Project
  - 7 yrs – lawyers back and forth, no documentation, could not proceed; Faith Ringgold’s lawyer was not in agreement to lend her name to a museum if it was not exclusively hers; a non-for-profit cannot turn over a museum to a medium
  - BH decided to keep it simple, keep title of museum, name it after community – the Sugar Hill Museum of Art and Storytelling
  - Ellen Baxter – Faith actively involved in community, making quilt for Doris Day building, present at special events; BH organized 78<sup>th</sup> at Doris Day, 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at City College; 7 yrs attachment, difficult to have lawyers send paperwork back and forth no one agreed with; it was never intention of BH or Faith Ringgold to have the museum be only Ringgold’s artwork; her work belongs at the Met/MOMA/Guggenheim, new museum of 155<sup>th</sup> St is not where she envisioned it belongs; Ringgold feared the space would be a cultural center, not a true museum; it’s now up to BH to create an institution that does meet museum standards, engages artists to showcase their work; hopefully once standards are established, Ringgold may contribute some pieces
  - Was Ringgold bringing funding to the table; was their any funding depending on Faith being involved? No. New Market Tax Credit money
  - What did Ringgold expect, just to lend her name? Yes
  - Faith, Faith’s daughters, attorney, art rep, the Bergens – not good process to plan museum with family members arguing with each other; lawyer engaged late in process February to formalize discussion
  - Ofelia-Rodriguez still optimistic that Faith will be involved
  - Vicki Gholson – is there any way possible to change the color? That’s not what they’re here about – needs to be another meeting
  - John Reddick/Michael Henry Adams suggested as experts for BH to talk with regarding neighborhood

- Leslie Adams, Diane Carroll, Jill Nelson – people with capacity, talent for Sugar Hill history
- They are committed to museum standards 3-5 years to earn accreditation, loading dock; expenses for keeping a museum going – they have developed a business plan Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone for startup museum; phased-in operating budget
- Any request for BH to come address questions regarding color of building needs to come up through community board, not appropriate through A&C; address it to CB Chair
- Report - Angel Gardener – Dir of Communications, Nat'l Dance Institute; new residents of Harlem – W 147<sup>th</sup> St Oct 2011; 35<sup>th</sup> annual; provide arts programs to children in dance in public schools; currently in 31 schools; primarily 4<sup>th</sup> grade, some 5<sup>th</sup>, some early childhood; dance program – 2-3 individuals from each school Saturday program 10am-2pm all free dance classes; performances including the White House, TV promotions; Summer institute by audition July; [www.nationaldance.org](http://www.nationaldance.org)
- Penny Maria – Harlem Stage, 135<sup>th</sup> and Convent; Performing Arts Center Upcoming Spring Season; [harlemstage.org](http://harlemstage.org)
- Judith Insell – Open Arts Saturday, performances, talk to performance directors; partnership with Lion King project for kids; [www.hsanyc.org](http://www.hsanyc.org)
- Report - Argdash Alphons Project – Linda Miles, parent of student; program is a visual arts program open to kids 11-17, tuition-free, couple years old; planning to move to children's park; promote the vision of the kids involved; open house a week from Sat; [adarshalphonsprojects.org](http://adarshalphonsprojects.org)
- Committee Chair Report
  - West Harlem's Local Artist Survey <http://bit.ly/zmcw6f>
  - February mtg – Black History Month – will try to have at SOHA
  - Media Technology focus.
  - TEDxHarlem March 27, 2012 • The Apollo Theatre • Harlem, NYC; General information + registration: TEDxHarlem Press: All press requests should be sent to Marcus Glover: [pr@tedxharlem.com](mailto:pr@tedxharlem.com)
- John Henry Thomas - 400 W127th St, (2<sup>nd</sup> Mink Building); 9 applications for Exec. Dir WHDC; In process of dissolving WHDLC, assets to transfer to WHDC; being investigated by Eric Schneiderman Attorney General
- Old Business
  - St Nick's Pub proposed letter of support; unclear who owns the place
  - Ade Williams, Community Mgr Apollo – events upcoming
- Adjourn