

ARTS AND CULTURE MINUTES FOR November 6, 2023

Daria Hardeman, Co-Chair; Tina Lumley, Co-Chair (Excused); Members: Walter T Alexander, Carolina Ramirez, Carlton Davis, Juan Colmenares, Ilana Mercado, Sharon De La Cruz (absent), Tiago Kiel (on leave); also Pierre Voltare, Ranardo Domenico-Grays, Barbara Grant, Juan Aguirre, Osaliki Sepulveda, Brittany Couch, Janny Gonzalez Velasquez

I-Call to Order @6:49pm

II-Adopted Agenda

III-Minutes were not available

IV-Announcements

A-Discussion on the promise of 5000 square feet from the Community Benefits Agreement

B-Introduction of those in attendance

C- Janny Gonzalez Velasquez-Jazz Power Initiative

- Recently received a grant to bring the Program to West Harlem next April
- Flyer for the upcoming program will be forwarded to Ms. Price for distribution

V-Sub-Committee Reports

A-Artists Dissemination

- There were 29 disseminations from October 3rd to today, of which 14 are still active

B-Hamilton Theater Update

- There has not been any movement in quite some time. Our contact Dan Cohen states the owner of the Theater has not been responsive to our requests for updates. As such, this sub-committee should be on hiatus until further notice.

C-Harlem Arts Alliance

- just finish Marathon week.
- they're now working on Harlem restaurant week and International Food Festival for Harlem.
- Received the resolution last month from MCB9 about the promise of 5,000 square feet space promised by the Community Benefits Agreement with Columbia University
- As Michael Palma is out of town, the West Harlem Arts Alliance update will resume next month
- The Community Benefits Agreement can be found online

D-Montefiore Park Tree Lighting

- As Mr. Palma is out of town there is no update

E-Strategic Planning Committee

- No one attended the last meeting so there is no update

VI-Presentations

A-Juan Aguirre-Mano a Mano

- Conducts workshops in Mexican arts & crafts, including pinatas and jewelry
- Doing 40 hours of crafts as well as 10 hours of music
- Janny Gonzalez Velasquez says she can provide musicians if needed

B-Brittany Couch-Pentacle

- An art services organization primarily dealing with dance and we have our teaching artist, Leah Tubbs at Urban Assembly High School for the Performing Arts
- she's teaching ballet for ninth through twelfth grade. We've just started classes this year
- we pride ourselves in teaching artists that are really working in their own on their own practices, while they're teaching artists their entrepreneurs and are really active in the community. And we realize that these students, most of them, have never seen a live performance
- Dispelling the myth that ballet is boring and strict. 10th grade struggles with attendance; 11th grade attendance is better, but in the 12th grade attendance drops off again
- Performance will be in December

C-Osaliki Sepulveda-Collectives for Arts, Music and Dance

- A culture organization dedicated to providing low income communities with holistic, sustainable and authentic cultural programs and wellness education that challenges the mind and activates the body.
- created in the South Bronx in 2019 by a group of young people who had a profound interest in continuing their cultural heritage and a learning experience
- A dance ensemble that could continue exposing these young people to learning more about their culture roots and to create a platform where they could be ambassadors to the culture.
- Serves over 150 young people, ages 7 to 13, in activities such as art and crafts, folk dance and popular dance activities. Our summer cultural hub runs for 6 weeks Monday through Thursday, starting in July and ending in August
- Our constituency is a multilingual and interdisciplinary community that includes a diverse audience from urban to rural communities. All programs are free

D-Sophia Wang-National Dance Institute

- We go public schools around New York City and offer to teach children there for free as long as it was part of the curriculum, because we believe that was the only way you could reach all children is to go into school day and engage all children in classroom. And since then we have expanded to have 47 partner schools.

- We are now reaching 65 students this year. Every Monday they'll gather in the auditorium for classes with our teaching artists, one of whom is an alum himself, and is now a teaching artist and board member at NDI.
- the classes that we reach include bilingual classes
- This year and every year we choose a curricular theme, and this year it's the environment change
- This is a full year Residency. We believe in not just coming in one day doing a dance class with the kids and heading out. It builds upon itself. So in the beginning, they're learning movement; towards the middle they're learning sequences of movement and memorizing counting beats and then there's always a year end performance

E-, Ranardo Domenico-Grays-Visions Contemporary Ballet

- I'm the founder and artistic director in the business of contemporary ballet. I started the company in 2007
- My mission is to share work that comes from my experience as a choreographer to be able to move people through the art of dance, to give people hope, even if it's just that one performance.
- We've mostly been presenting work over at the Riverside Theatre
- Part of my mission is to make sure that I am bringing work to the community that is affordable. So, there are discounts for seniors and students. I even give out free tickets! The performances are the 17th through the 19th at the Riverside Theater

F-Tova Peterson-Tailoring Volunteer Project

- I work in a tailoring shop, My desire is to give back to the community my skills and knowledge in tailoring. I have this dream of doing this in the summer. I just got to figure out a way to start this, so I've been going to meetings and talking to people, and I'm trying to find a place where I can teach tailoring to youth, and formerly incarcerated people. I'm looking for a space with sewing machines that we can use, preferably for free
- Pierre states he taught fashion design at the Fortune Society. He will contact Tova offline about this as he was the founder of Brooklyn Fashion Week

VII-Old business-none

VIII-New business

- Daria will inform us when and where her photo exhibit will be at the Dwyer Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm. Next Meeting will be December 4th in hybrid format