

Arts and Culture Committee
Manhattan Community Board 9
Monday, October 4, 2010
Dance Theatre of Harlem
466 West 152nd Street

DRAFT

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Debra Ann Byrd Dr. Vicky Gholson, Christa Giesecke, LaQuita Henry, Diane Wilson, Linda Walton,

Public Members: Pamela Babb, Stephanie Berry, John-Martin Green, Judith Insell, PennyMaria Jackson, Lee-Ann Pinder

Meeting Minutes
D-R-A-F-T

The October Arts and Culture Committee Meeting took place at Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH); it was the kick-off reception launching Harlem Arts Alliance's Arts Advocacy Week. Our committee members participated in many of the Arts Advocacy events held from October 4-9, 2010.

This integration of our meeting into this important event demonstrated the Committee's desire to network and to support the arts and community endeavors in Harlem by connecting to artists and arts group outside of the committee meeting setting to forge stronger relationships and to raise the profile of Community Board 9.

During this week, the Harlem Arts Alliance in collaboration with community boards, arts organizations, cultural institutions and related businesses throughout Harlem, sponsored special events, panel discussions, presentations and art exhibitions designed to advocate, inform and provide resources for arts and cultural agencies.

The opening reception at DTH, site of our meeting, included several Harlem artists, arts groups and institutions including Maysles Film Institute, The Riverside Theatre, Harlem One Stop, NYC & Company, Columbia University, special guests, Tamara Tunie (Actress, "Law & Order" SVU) and a presentation by our hosts, DTH's Laveen Naidu, Executive Director and the new Artistic Director Virginia Johnson.

Highlights of Advocacy Week included, *Preserving a Sense of Culture in a Changing Community*, a panel discussion held at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in collaboration with Manhattan Community Boards 9 & 10. Among the panelists were Community Board 9 advocates and arts and culture partners, Pat Cruz, Executive Director, **Harlem Stage** and John Reddick, Publisher, **Harlem One Stop**; Linda Walton, Chair of the CB9 Arts and Culture made closing remarks at the Schomburg and moderated another panel discussion, *Arts Organizations Speak Out*, at the Harlem Arts Alliance monthly meeting at The Riverside Theatre. A two-part arts and business discussion, *Culture is Harlem's Business* was another noteworthy discourse.

After the DTH reception, several committee members continued the advocacy conversation, focusing on issues relevant to our Committee: implementing outreach strategies to identify and involve artists, cultural organizations and service providers in our district; fine-tuning a survey for integration on the new CB9 web-site, and reporting on the work of our A&C Task Force as it relates to preventing the chronic loss and closures of arts and cultural institutions in West Harlem.