

Economic Development Committee

Manhattan Community Board Nine

Serving the West Harlem communities of Morningside, Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill

Savona Bailey-McClain, Committee Co-Chair; Nicole Monegro, Committee Co-Chair; Jane Arrendell; Arnold Boatner; Carmen Morillo; Kimberly Cameron

Committee Meeting Minutes of December, 2011

The meeting was called to attention at by Committee Co-Chairs Nicole Monegro and Savona Bailey-McClain.

Present: Savona Bailey-McClain, Nicole Monegro, Arnold Boatner, Kimberly Cameron

Leave of Absence: Jane Arrendell, Nikoa Evans-Hendricks, Carmen Morillo

Board Members: Patricia Jones, Brad Taylor

Guests: Richard Marcano, ECDO, Yuien Chin, Hamilton Heights/West Harlem Community Preservation Organization,

Presentations:

Mr. Richard Marcano from Ecumenical Development Corporation presented his agency's youth training program to the Committee. Through the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, ECDO operates a Youth Employment Program (YEP) for young people between the ages of 14-21. Each summer participants receive \$7.50 per hour (paid directly by DYCD) for a seven week productive employment experience with companies and organizations who will provide a structured and well supervised work environment.

In addition to offering summer employment services to youth, ECDO also provides employment service activities that include educational/employment counseling, job readiness skills, on the job training and referrals. This program assists youth with achieving job search and investigation techniques, obtaining and completing job applications, learning appropriate workplace conduct, dress code and grooming.

Mr. Marcano left some literature for committee meetings and agreed to work with the other community partners who would help CB9 residents get "green" construction training.

Updates:

Columbia University's Employment Center has agreed to offer CB9 Board members, staff and West Harlem residents, access to their Customer Service trainings. These trainings are available in person and online. Columbia University has a database of over 2,000 courses online and this would be a free service to local residents.

CEIC also reached out to Strive International for Construction OSHA training. This is a ten hour course that is mandatory before being allowed on any construction site in NYC. The Horticultural Society of NY was instrumental in making these recommendations to the Committee. In addition, outreach was made to Literacy Partners which is located in Central Harlem to help West Harlem residents who may need help with reading or with improving their reading levels.

And the CEIC has agreed to incubate our budding West Harlem Food & Beverage Association. The goal for the association is to attract boat operators and tour operators who felt that our community didn't have a lot of restaurants. Columbia will get webcams so that owners who couldn't leave their place of business, could Skype into the meeting.

The deadline for running a West Harlem or East Harlem incubator is due in December. As was shared in the Committee's November meeting, NYC Economic Development Corporation put out a request for proposal. The agency is open to wide variety of options EXCEPT for a food incubator. EDC will not accept proposal for a food incubator. And the agency is pushing for these incubators to be up and running by the 1st quarter of 2012.

It was briefly shared how key Federal initiatives and local laws are being developed to support "green" retrofitting and construction. This is in line with what the Committee has been working on.

There was lengthy discussion regarding the Green infrastructure and retrofit training program. Issues were raised about certifications of participants and job referrals and placements. The Horticultural Society of New York has outreached to tri-state area contractors, landscaping companies and architects. These entities are interested in graduates from green training programs. Nothing is guaranteed but naturally as more opportunities present themselves, these candidates would have a chance for employment. There are several developments in West Harlem that will create green roofs or urban farms. The Broadway Housing project on 155th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue is looking to create an urban farm. The Taystee Factory project by Janus Properties will also create multiple green roofs and then Columbia University will create green roofs on some of their new buildings in Manhattanville. The discussion dealt with concern of funding cohorts for local residents and then having them disappointed. By training local residents with certifications, it makes our residents transportable. Residents can pursue projects in NJ, Connecticut, Long Island or even Pennsylvania. They would not be limited to just Harlem but can go wherever there are viable projects looking for skilled people.

The Committee Co-Chair briefly discussed how ENYA's competition for the former 135th Street Marine Transfer Station will close in mid-January and the Committee will look to organize a youth forestry training program in 2012. Unfortunately, many of our children are in charter schools and parents have planned their children's scheduled far in advance. That made recruitment tough.

The Committee voted to support a Letter of Support regarding a targeted "green" retrofit and infrastructure training program for West Harlem/CB9 residents in partnership with the Horticultural Society of NY. The letter is to help raise funding for the training and construction of demonstration training sites.

Under Old Business, there was a heated discussion regarding roles, responsibilities and expectations from Committee member Kimberly Cameron, Nicole Monegro and Savona Bailey-McClain. Committee meeting was adjourned so that the discussion could continue.