

Youth, Education & Libraries Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Alexander Barrett, Deirdre McIntosh-Brown, Ken Miles,
Jen Silverman (Public Member)

Excused - Derrick Johnson

Meeting called to order by Committee Chair- Deirdre McIntosh-Brown at 6:44 P.M
Introductions were made by all present.

Presentation: Morningside Area Alliance
Executive Director, Jennifer Bessier

The focus of Ms. Bessier's presentation was to outline the West Harlem Education Fund's \$50,000 grant initiative made possible by the West Harlem Development Corporation to support teachers, school-wide and professional development projects in selected West Harlem Public Schools within Community Board District Nine. The schools selected are: PS 028, PS 36, PS 125, PS 129, PS 161, PS 209, PS 286, PS 517, PS 540. Of the \$50,000 grant, Ms. Beisser said around \$35,000 would go to grants, with the rest used for outreach and consulting fees. Grants will be specifically directed to teacher fundraisers on DonorsChoose.org, where outside contributions can also be used to increase the grants' impacts.

Ms. Bessier informed us that teachers would be able to apply for a variety grants ranging from \$600 up to \$3,500 to aide with books, supplies, projects, trips and professional training.

Applications can be found on the WestHarlemEducationFund.org website. There will be two rounds of review April 30, 2017 and September 30, 2017. Please see attached flyer for additional information.

Presentation: Jonathan Thomas

Community Board 9 member Mr. Jonathan Thomas presented us with a glimpse into the Board's Social Media Marketing Plan and how we could best optimize our social media usage in order to disseminate information and engage with our community, particularly our youth population at our fullest potential. MCB9 has recently reconstructed and relaunched the Board's website. The YEL committee spoke with Jonathan about how to implement the plan in a sustainable way, by clearly assigning responsibility for the accounts and updating them frequently enough to be relevant but no so frequently as to be an overwhelming task. YEL suggested a standardized format that all CB9 committees and task forces could use to submit news and events to be shared on the website and social media.

Community Presentations:

Morningside Heights Library, Maura Clifford (Library Rep)

Ms. Clifford presented highlights from the March calendar

<http://www.nypl.org/locations/morninside-heights>

George Bruce Library, Melissa Koszer (Library Rep)

Ms. Koszer presented highlights from the March calendar, she also discussed the 4th annual Neighborhood Library Awards and urged attendees to circulate their events calendar. The library currently has an exhibition of work from a talented neighborhood child artist.

Presentation: New York County District Attorney's Office: Jennifer Aruajo

Ms. Aruajo presented updates on the ongoing Community Initiatives in the Manhattan DA's office, specific Harlem and Washington Heights. She informed us about upcoming high school and college students paid summer internships for which applications are now available on the website at manhattanda.org. She discussed programs funded through the Manhattan DA's office such as the Saturday Nightlights program for youths aged 11-through 18.

Ms. Araujo also informed us of available community funding for programs and the upcoming application process for RFP's. These can be found at CJII.org, a partnership between the DA's office and CUNY.

Presentation: West Harlem Development Corporation Arise ! Summer Youth Employment Education Program - Ken Miles

Mr. Ken Miles YEL Committee and CB9 Board Member and one of the Project Managers for the WHDC's Summer Youth Employment and Education project presented information on the ongoing initiative that will not only provide employment for youths ages 14-18 within the West Harlem Community but will also offer an all day weekly educational enrichment component through their collaboration with Our Childrens Foundation. Applications are now being accepted and can be found on the WHDC's Webpage and in the Community Libraries.