

Manhattan Community Board 9

Youth Education & Libraries Committee

October 10, 2018

Members Present: Deirdre McIntosh-Brown, Alec Barrett, Ken Miles, Shaneeka Wilson

Meeting called to order at 6:40pm.

Presentations

Maria Gracia Asayag from Columbia Undergraduate Admissions

Columbia Undergraduate Admissions handles applications from students who are just graduating from high school. Columbia receives 40,000 applications per year.

Applications go through a holistic review process: looking at the entirety of application, not just grades or SAT scores, to determine fit and appropriate intellectual match for Columbia. This includes all high school (4 years) information including courses and grades including senior year to assess academic preparedness: can the student do the work at Columbia? Standardized tests are also considered: SAT or ACT. Student's voice through essay, extracurriculars, letters of recommendation, and Columbia-specific writing supplement. The school wants to see a compelling reason for wanting to attend Columbia in particular.

Students can apply early decision or regular decision – under early decision it is the student's top choice, and are bound to attend if accepted. The admissions office offers daily admissions sessions and campus tours, three times a day including Saturdays during the academic year and parts of the summer.

Every year (this year, May 11) the school hosts a multicultural open house from the New York area to experience campus, talk about what the community looks like, and talk about resources for transitioning to college. Every summer the school hosts a college fair for over 1,000 students and 100 universities represented for any student interested in college.

Scholarships and financial aid are need-based, rather than academic or athletic scholarships. The school provides grants – money that does not need to be paid back – covering tuition, room and board, travel costs if applicable; some students receive a book and laptop stipend via HIOP. Students apply through FAFSA. For families with a combined income of 60K or less, the family is not expected to pay anything. For families with 60-100K, there is a significantly reduced family contribution.

NYC public school students who are successful applying to Columbia tend to be those taking advantage of opportunities at their schools beyond the basic curriculum, for example including College Now, AP, IB, and working with CBOs providing summer programs like Brainiac, SEO Scholars, Double Discovery program.

Columbia has exceeded enrollment goals for the Community Benefits Agreement's opportunity program since the program's inception. Columbia is talking about the college planning process to local students as early as 9th grade in the fall and the spring. Students in the ZIP codes that fall under the program get multiple looks in the admissions process. Columbia is also a partner school of Questbridge, a non profit that helps students pay for college.

The deadline for early decision applications is November 1 – decisions announced in mid-December – and regular decision is January 1 – students are notified by mid-April.

Dr. Nicole Becker, Every Voice Choir

Children's choir program based inside Columbia Teachers College – originally started inside the school, and became an independent non profit in 2012. No audition is required, and the singers have the opportunity to work with faculty and graduate students at Columbia. The choir does a community concert for MLK Jr. Day in January. The organization has one audition choir.

They have received a grant from WHDC and is working to reach students in CB9, particularly by sending messages to principals and parent coordinators. The WHDC grant provides scholarships earmarked for kids from CB9.

The choir meets in two semesters, Fall (September – January) and Spring (January – May). Families can enroll their children for just one or both in a given year.

Harriet Rosebud, CB9 Arts & Culture Committee

The committee is holding an annual Children's Village during the holiday lights event on 125th street. Organizations have a hard time reaching our community, and especially WHDC grant recipients are expected to serve CB9 residents.

The committee would like to send letters to organizations and schools in CB9 to invite them to participate in the event.

Ms. Rosebud introduced ACT:

Jen Gowers and Marie Del Tejo, ACT

The program is based at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and has been around for decades, providing youth development activities for local children. They are holding a free movie night at the Cathedral showing Coco this upcoming Saturday.

The organization's mission is to raise children who are great citizens of their community. They offer programs that take children away from their digital devices and help them connect to their community and peers. Their after school program serves children from all schools – public, private, homeschool, special needs – together. Their programs are currently under-enrolled and they are reaching out to the community.

The program teaches social skills and leadership skills, and engage with natural sciences using the Cathedral's campus as well as current popular culture. They offer financial aid and do not interview families, families only need to apply. The program is non-sectarian and completely secular despite being located at the Cathedral.

Zach Lewis, Behind the Book

Behind the Book is a pre-K through 12th grade children literacy non-profit around since 2003, and has served 15,000 students in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. They are a WHDC grant recipient and work with Title I schools. They bring books into the classroom as part of a comprehensive literacy curriculum, with an emphasis on bringing in books that reflect the

diversity of the community so students can see themselves reflected in the books they are reading. Currently working with third grade in PS125. They ask the school to pay \$1000 for the program to offset costs. They are looking to work with middle schools, where literacy work is currently underrepresented.

Located at 216 W 135th next to Thurgood Marshall Academy, where they give away books for kids.

**Camille Santistevan, Kendra Krueger,
Illumination Space at Advanced Science Research Center at CUNY**

Advanced Science Research Center at CUNY built about four years ago. Illumination Space presents the work of scientists working in that facility in the areas of photonics, nanoscience, structural biology, environmental science, and neuroscience. The space is interactive and high tech, and includes exhibits and a classroom space. They are looking to receive high school field trips (up to 30) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. They are targeting a college bound population to show the opportunities available at CUNY. Students will meet with scientists at the facility.

They also hold community hours once a month to welcome people in the community. They are still exploring what is possible with the space. They are state-funded and are looking for students from all over, but want to prioritize Harlem. The sneak peak celebration is Monday, October 29. The program is free.

Timothy Herrell, Civilian Complaint Review Board

CCRB is holding a youth summit at NYU on February 5, 2019 (not a school day – Lunar New Year). This will be an effort to improve police-community relations. The summit will include a panel with youth in conversation with NYPD officers. The board can make recommendations to change police policy and procedure based on recommendations that come from the community.

CCRB investigates and, if appropriate, prosecutes allegations of police misconduct. You do not need to be the victim of a negative encounter to report misconduct. You can report via 311 who will connect you to the CCRB. The goal of the agency is equal policing, and CCRB makes recommendations to the City Council and NYPD for policy changes.

**Old Business
KYER Planning**

The co-chairs are working with Joe Rogers from CEE to schedule a date in November for the workshop, and with the CB9 office to establish funding for the event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.