

**Youth, Education, Libraries Committee**  
**September 13, 2017**

**Committee Members Present:**

Deirdre McIntosh-Brown (Co-Chair), Alec Barrett (Co-Chair), Edgar Avalos, Derrick Johnson, Ken Miles

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm.

**Presentation: Bijan Kimiagar** from the Citizens' Committee for Children of NY about a current research project.

Mr. Kimiagar spoke about the existing data resources the CCC provides, including a community risk ranking, and child and family wellbeing metrics. These and other information can be found in their Keeping Track database.

His team is in the middle of a seven month research project into Washington Heights, Manhattanville, and Central Harlem, similar to one they previously published on Brownsville in Brooklyn.

Mr. Kimiagar spoke to Mr. Barrett over the summer, on whose recommendation he spoke to Dominique Jones from the Boys and Girls Club of Harlem, and to the Manhattan Borough President's Office.

Their effort is to augment existing data from the census and city agencies. They've conducted focus groups with caregivers and young children using a participatory, activity-based approach. They have found interviewees by visiting programs that already have young people coming together.

The target audience of the report will be policymakers, community boards, and other local organizations. When they reveal a trend in a neighborhood, they don't necessarily find the cause, but work to highlight the trends and ask stakeholders to help make sense of them.

Their work is not academic research, but they have spoken to schools of social work and public health about possible avenues of future research. He will also seek community feedback after they release initial findings in the fall, and will publish in December or January with a launch event in the spring, and an executive summary (at least) published in Spanish.

**Presentation: Jirina Ribbens** from Ice Theater New York about their programs to introduce school children to ice skating.

Ms. Ribbens described their program, which originated and continues to operate at Riverbank State Park and now has operations in the Bronx and Queens as well. They introduce ice skating as an art, sport, and performance through a program that classes and schools can attend during the school day (when Riverbank is not otherwise in use). The program consists of a performance followed by an opportunity for children to experience skating themselves. ITNY serves around 3,000 students a year.

Teachers just need to call them to participate -- it's free to participate, though Riverbank charges a skate rental fee. ITNY also partners with Starbucks, which provides free hot chocolate and volunteers to help kids tie on their skates. ITNY likes to get a range of ages, usually K-8 but with some legacy high school participants, because then there are more skates of different sizes to go around. About 500 students can participate in a single session, though only about 150 can be on the ice at a time.

The program helps kids to find a passion through sports/activities. Some kids who started skating through the program now work on the ice rink at Riverbank. ITNY also puts on a free professional figure skating show in December.

**Announcement:** **Maggie Craig** from the Hamilton Grange branch of NYPL promoted their Library HotSpot program, which allows students to check out a wifi hotspot to bring home that allows them to have temporary internet access in their home for the duration of the school year.

**Announcement:** **Victoria Mason-Ailey** from Columbia University announced Teachers College's applications to two grants: a Promise Neighborhood Grant and a broadband research grant from NSF. She also announced the upcoming lottery for The School at Columbia, their upcoming early education fair, and the opening of the Wallach Art Gallery in the new Lenfest Arts building on their Manhattanville Campus.

**Discussion:** the committee discussed the proposed budget for the Know Your Educational Rights workshop series that the committee plans to run with the Center on Educational Equity at TC. The committee brainstormed sources of funding and ways to promote the event to parents at high-needs schools in Districts 5 and 6.