

Manhattan Community Board 9
Youth, Education & Libraries Committee
September 12, 2018

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

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.

Presentations

Professor Stan Altman, Baruch College, School of Public and International Affairs

Technology is changing job opportunities becoming available, requiring education in STEM fields. Men and women of color are underrepresented, so there's potential to get people excited about these careers. Harlem Gallery of Science would provide interactive exhibitions to show how science permeates everyday life.

The college held a pop-up exhibition on the science of basketball at a Janus property. One exhibit had students measure how high they could jump and calculate their "hang time".

The target audience are kids in the 15-25 year old range: upper middle school, high school, and college students who can think about careers and majors in science.

The full time space for the gallery will be in the Taystee building, currently under construction, for which they have a letter of agreement. The gallery would expect thousands of visitors a year, and will create temporary build-out jobs as well as full time staff jobs.

The gallery will be a link between public schools, the college, and the community. The college hopes to bring more students from Harlem to the college. They already have a relationship with an Urban Assembly high school.

Professor Altman spoke about creating a pipeline to recruit young people into academic fields akin to the pipeline for recruiting athletes.

Victoria Mason-Ailey, Columbia University

Columbia University Collaborative of Youth and Family Outreach Programs is an open house convening on September 13 to showcase educational opportunities and youth enrichment programs for various schools in the area. The goal is to spread the word about programs available through Columbia, for example the Connecting Youth Initiative, which provides outreach to youth in the community 15-24 who are out of school and out of work.

The School at Columbia admissions process is beginning for the SY2019-2020 school year. The admissions process is a lottery. Families can enter between August 15 and October 15.

Columbia is holding an Early Education and Childhood Resource fair for children ages newborn to four years old. They are presenting a variety of childcare providers, including nannies and daycare centers. The event is October 9th from 4 to 6pm at Alfred Lehman Hall.

The Zuckerman Institute, part of the new Manhattanville campus, is holding Saturday science program with different themes throughout the fall. These are geared toward elementary age students.

Morningside Heights Library

On Saturday, September 29, all NYPL branches are holding a back-to-school event for kids.

Readers (and listeners of audiobooks) should know about a variety of electronic applications available to library cardholders including Libby, Canopy, and Flipster.

Leslie Davol, Uni Project

Started in 2011, the Uni project is driven by a desire to bring public resources like museums and libraries outdoors to make it more visible and accessible to the public. They work with community groups with parks, plazas, or events to put together appealing pop-up spaces, particularly to promote reading, creative, artistic, and educational experiences. Their signature program is a cart that unfolds into a portable reading room. They bring great experiences to the street to bring the community together.

They are very partnership friendly. All their programs are currently pop-up but they are working to replicate their kits for libraries, museums, and community groups. They have received funding for WHDC to enable work at local pools.

Raul Cervantes, Barnard College, Science & Technology Entry Program

STEP is a community program run by Barnard for over a decade that aims to create a pathway for underrepresented students into technical and licensed professions. They work with students from 7th to 12th grade, with a college version of the program for current Barnard students. It is open to New York State residents from underrepresented racial/ethnic group or economically disadvantaged background.

The program is a year-round enrichment program after school that includes homework or academic support, career exploration activities, college preparation and support, and guest speakers to give advice and life experience about college. The program looks to serve 100 students for the year.

Liz Shovers, Global Language Project

Global Language Project is a non-profit that works to promote the acquisition of world languages and is a WHDC grant recipient. One program enabled by the grant was a Mandarin summer camp at Manhattanville Houses. Their core work is teacher professional development, which happens in person and online throughout the school year. Currently the DOE does not have anyone overseeing world language professional development – the position has been unfilled for over a year – so Global Language Project is seeking to fill that gap. The Deepening Discourse program is available to CB9 teachers at low cost, with scholarships available. The organization is certified to provide CTLE, credits required for teacher certification.

Old Business

Polyphonic Charter School

Over the summer the committee submitted additional questions to the proposed Polyphonic Charter School, which had presented to the committee twice in the spring of this year. The

committee feels that charters should be held to a higher standard to serve more than just the students inside their building. The committee was ultimately satisfied by the responses they received and the track record of Brett Kimmel, who founded WHEELS, and motivated by the need for a music-focused middle school in our area. The letter was voted on over the summer by the CB9 Executive Committee and passed by a majority.

CEE/Know Your Educational Rights

The committee is continuing to pursue a partnership with CEE to hold a train-the-trainers style event around their Know Your Educational Rights curriculum. The committee has secured some funding from the Community Board and is working to secure more. The committee reviewed the budgetary considerations and agreed to circulate the budget and move forward planning for a one-day event.

New Business

The committee discussed a possible collaboration with Boys and Girls Club of Harlem for a spring fair along the 145th street corridor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.