



# Newsletter

Circulation 1; Vol 3

January/February 2018

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE, MR. PADMORE JOHN

CB9 is striving hard to resolve vital issues affecting the community. In the previous year the board passed several resolutions and support letters pertaining to Landmark Preservation such as the St. John the Divine Cathedral signage to the church exterior, the restoration design for 409 Edgecombe Avenue and the modification façades of the Hamilton Theater. Housing continues to be a challenge and CB9 is working tirelessly with the City Council Members, NYC Department Housing of Preservation and Development, and the Mayor's Office to solve the shortage of affordable housing within our district. The Board continues to monitor the delivery of City services such as sanitation and street maintenance; planning and reviewing land use applications including zoning changes; making recommendations for the yearly City Budget, and other concerns impacting the community. I deeply encourage all residents to be involved and be informed about social and political events occurring in this vibrant community. Please note, all meetings/events are open to the public. Spread the word and bring young people to the meetings. *"Education must not simply teach work—it must teach Life."* - W.E.B. Du Bois

## THE VIBRANT ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Arts and Culture Committee's mission is to highlight, enhance, support and sustain Community Board 9's creative community by promoting, collaborating and building a strong artistic network through the engagement of community stakeholders and its diverse residents.

Over the holiday season, the Committee worked with the local 125th Street Business Improvement District (BID) to plan activities and to decorate the space for the BID's annual Holiday Light It Up Children's Village event. The Committee will work with the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl to implement the Cultural Plan to increase support for the cultural life of low-income communities, underrepresented groups, and to promote greater diversity, equity and inclusion in the cultural workforce. Arts, culture and education are vital components of life, which provides youth the tools and outlets needed to guide them as productive citizens, and ultimately adults in a competitive global economy.

A goal of the Committee for 2018-2019 is to improve communication and collaboration potential through its efforts so that the community will be able to identify resources, obtain funding and develop new creative ideas, which will promote sustainability; continues to educate and empower its members with new technological skills so that the cultural community can be able to compete effectively with their counterparts in other districts.

The AC Committee will continuously support schools that focus on the arts, crafting initiatives that will bring the artist to school such as mentor days, gallery exhibitions and artist talks. It will strive to improve opportunities for creative expression, in a stimulating culturally sensitive environment that promotes business enhancement. This remains the heart and soul of the mission to serve and uplift the community activities in MCB9

*"What and how much had I lost by trying to do only what was expected of me instead of what I myself had wished to do?" -*

*Ralph Ellison*

## In This Issue

- Message from the Board Chair
- The Vibrant Arts and Culture Committee
- Shape Hamilton Theater's Future!
- Herman "Denny" Farrell Bridge
- The Vital Role of Strategic Planning Committee
- In Honor of Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
- Announcements



## SHAPE HAMILTON THEATER'S FUTURE!

The Hamilton Theater is one of few historic landmarks located in West Harlem at the corner of West 146th Street and Broadway. It was constructed between 1912-13 as a vaudeville house during the boom of the theater building in New York City. This magnificent building was designed by Thomas W. Lamb, a great architect during the pre-World War I era. It was developed by B.S. Moss and Solomon Brill, who were major developers and operators of vaudeville houses and movie theaters in NYC.

In 1943, Radio Pictures, under its ownership of the theater, eliminated the vaudeville, installed a sound system, and renovated the interior to convert the theater to a movie theater. In 1958 the movie theater closed and the Hamilton Theater has been leased to numerous businesses and later was bought by several entities. The theater remains vacant despite the local storefronts' frequent use of the space. Currently, the theater is owned by Ashkenazy Acquisitions Corporation who proposed alterations of the landmarked facades, and presented the plans to the Manhattan Community Board 9. At the November 15, 2017 General Board meeting, Manhattan Community Board 9 approved the resolution opposing the proposed modification of the Hamilton Theater landmarked facades.

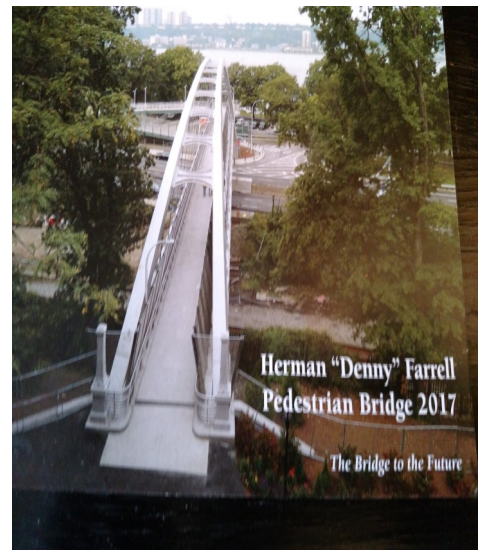
The Landmarks Preservation and Parks, Arts and Culture, and Housing, Land Use and Zoning committees worked jointly to plan a Community Envisioning Workshop, where the community attended and brainstormed on the future use of the theater as a community space for the arts, local retail, housing, etc. The workshop was held on Saturday, January 20th, 2018 at the City of New York University at City College, Aaron Davis Hall, Theater B, and the event was well attended.

The committees encourage residents to continue to send suggestions to the Community board 9 via email at [info@cb9m.org](mailto:info@cb9m.org) with the subject line **Shape Hamilton Theater's Future!** Or drop it in the mail: Manhattan Community Board No. 9, 16-18 Old Broadway, New York, NY 10027. For more information, please call (212) 864-6200

## Herman "Denny" Farrell Bridge

Prior to the construction of the bridge, Riverside Drive and Riverside Park at 151st Street were not connected. Visitors who went to the park would have to go down extremely steep stairs, and then walk through a dark tunnel.

Former-Assembly Member Herman Farrell, Jr. (known as Denny) allocated funds for the bridge to alleviate hardship for the community in accessing the Park. The bridge is pedestrian, bike-friendly and welcoming of families-It provides a stunning view of the George Washington Bridge. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the bridge was renamed in Denny's honor because of his years of advocacy, dedication and funding support for this project.





## THE VITAL ROLE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Strategic Planning Committee of CB9 (SPC) was developed to identify and examine specific issues affecting the West Harlem community. Its members are the chairs of the Board's standing committees that focus on specific issues such as housing, land use and zoning, senior issues, uniformed services and transportation, arts and culture, health and environment, youth, education and libraries, landmarks preservation and parks, and LBGTO. The committee works with local agencies and elected officials to improve the quality of life for residents, but the initial task of the SPC was to examine the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) between Columbia University and the West Harlem Community. SPC's role is to determine whether the CBA funds are being properly distributed, ensure that the community is fully aware of the benefits/benefactors/grantees and make suggestions on how improvements can be incorporated into the delivery of services from the CBA.

As a background, in 2005 Columbia University announced a 17 acre, 6.3-billion-dollar expansion of its campus at 110<sup>th</sup> and Broadway into West Harlem (Manhattanville), which is known as the Manhattanville Expansion Project. There were many concerns overall about the university's project, mainly acquisition of properties in a community plagued by displacement and increased income inequality. Columbia University hosted several meetings with the community to further discuss and develop a comprehensive agreement that would address the concerns of stakeholders affected by the project, this comprehensive agreement is the CBA. On May 18, 2009 the Trustee of Columbia University and West Harlem Development Corporation, a local non-profit formed for oversight of the CBA, signed the CBA. The CBA consists of approximately \$76 million dollars in cash and "In-Kind" benefits. For more information about the CBA, visit <https://gca.columbia.edu/content/community-benefits-agreement>

In addition to monitoring the implementation of CBA, the Strategic Planning Committee redesigned the MCB9 web site making it more informative and interactive. Currently, SPC is examining the impact of incarceration on the West Harlem community, reviewing the feasibility of a community bail initiative and re-entry services.



## IN HONOR OF ASSEMBLYMAN HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR

Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr., was the Assistant Director of the Mayor's Office in Washington Heights under Mayor John Lindsay, and later was a Confidential Aide to the State Supreme Court Justice, New York County, Civil Branch. In 1974 he was elected to State Assembly to represent the district that encompasses West Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood in Manhattan. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 he resigned due to health, age and the demand of the job.

Assemblyman Farrell, Jr. served from 1979 until 1994 as the Chairman of the Assembly Banks Committee and was also Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Financial Institutions of the National Conference of State Legislators. From 1981 to 1984 he conducted a course at the New York School for Social Research on Banking in New York. In 1983, Governor Cuomo appointed him to the Temporary Committee on Interstate Banking then in March of 1994, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver appointed Assembly Farrell Jr., Chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. He was also a member of the Rules Committee and the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic Task Force.

He is the champion of the Omnibus Consumer Protection and Banking Legislation Act, which provides the consumer protections in the auto leasing industry; the establishment of a toll-free number at the New York State Banking Department to enable consumers to receive free information on credit card interest rates, fees and grace periods, and a requirement that banks provide low-cost lifeline checking accounts, which prohibits discrimination based on residency in opening bank accounts. The legislation also requires banks to make annual reports of the number and amount of small business and small farm loans.

He sponsored a bill that required banks to disclose their interest rates and other pertinent information in chart form, clearly marked in boldface type on all mail solicitations. These state banking laws became the model for a federal bill. In April 1981 he was elected as the County Leader by his political party on a platform of speaking to the issues important to New Yorkers such as reproductive freedom, gay and lesbian rights, trade-in of Waterway funds and the restoration of federal monies for vital social programs.

His accomplishments speak volumes and began with the Neighborhood Preservation Companies Act, that enables the state to fund community groups to provide tenant advocacy and fight housing abandonment in their district. Assemblyman Farrell strengthened the anti-redlining laws by requiring stricter enforcement of community reinvestment provisions and was successful in passing legislation to monitor bank branch closings. He allocated funds for the construction of the pedestrian and bike-friendly bridge at West 151<sup>st</sup> Street and Riverside Drive. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Governor Cuomo renamed the Riverbank State Park and the newly constructed pedestrian bridge in honor of Assemblyman Farrell, Jr. Both the Riverbank State Park and the bridge are named Assemblyman Herman "Denny" Farrell.

The Assemblyman has been honored by the New York State Supreme Court Officers Association Man of the Year Award, the Harlem Week Committee, The New York State Psychiatric Institute, The State University of New York Educational Opportunity Center, The Harlem Commonwealth Council Foundation, Frank Scanlon Tenants Association, The Ralph J Rangel Tenants Association, The Federation of Negro Civil Service Organizations, The Chew Lun Association, The Child Memorial Church, Parole Officers, The New York State Affirmative Action Council, Boricua College, the New York State Court Clerks Association and the Muriel Silberberg Award.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- AARP Free Tax Help at the Hamilton Grange Library, 503 West 145th Street [between Amsterdam Ave & Broadway] on Tuesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. February 13th, 20th, and 27th; March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th; April 3rd, and 17th, 2018. For more information call (212) 926-2147
- State University of New York Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center provides free OSHA Training . Registration dates are on Wednesday, February 7th, March 7th, and April 18th, 2018. For more information, please call (212) 961-3231 or email to: [admissions@man.eoc.cuny.edu](mailto:admissions@man.eoc.cuny.edu)
- NYPD 30th Precinct Community Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22nd, 2018 at the 30th Precinct Station, 451 West 151st Street [between Amsterdam and Convent Avenues], 7:00 p.m.
- The Studio Museum Harlem in collaboration with the George Bruce Library present Studio Salon: Shapeshifts with Aimee Meredith Cox on Saturday, February 24th, 2018 at the George Bruce Library located at 518 West 125th Street from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information and to RSVP, visit [studiomuseum.org/calendar](http://studiomuseum.org/calendar)
- The Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park will hold its 21st Annual College Fair on Saturday, March 3rd, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. The Park is located at 679 Riverside Drive and corner of West 145th Street.
- New York County District Attorney's Office 2018 High School Internship Program is accepting application starting February 1st through March 12th, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. For more information or have questions, please email to: [HighSchoolInternship@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:HighSchoolInternship@dany.nyc.gov)
- West Harlem Development Corporation Arise Summer Youth Employment Educational Program is accepting applications starting February 1st through March 31st, 2018. To apply go to: [www.westharlmdc.org](http://www.westharlmdc.org) - Arise! SYEEP. For more information call (646) 476-3394 or mail to [abasyeep@westharlmdc.org](mailto:abasyeep@westharlmdc.org)
- The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture located at 515 Malcom X Blvd., presents Open Archive: Alain L. Locke and Harlem Renaissance, February 13, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information, please call (917) 275-6975 and for more upcoming events visit [www.nypl.org/events/programs/schomburg](http://www.nypl.org/events/programs/schomburg)
- NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board will hold a Town Hall Meeting "Police-Community Relations in Harlem" on Wednesday, March 14th, 2018 at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office located at 163 West 125th Street, 2nd Floor from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information or need assistance, please send an email to : [outreach@ccrb.nyc.gov](mailto:outreach@ccrb.nyc.gov)

## DID YOU KNOW?

**City Parking Rules:** The City suspends alternate side parking regulations for both street cleaning purposes and traffic flow, on legal and/or religious holidays...

Passover (1st/2nd Days) .....	March 31st - April 1st
Holy Thursday .....	March 29th
Good Friday .....	April 6th
Passover (7th/8th Days).....	April 6th - 7th

**Street Storage:** When parking is not otherwise restricted, no person shall park any vehicle in any area, including a residential area, in excess of seven (7) consecutive days.

**Call 811 before you dig:** Ever wonder what the different color markings on the ground mean? Wonder no more and keep information below for easy reference

**White** - Proposed Excavation

**Pink** - Temporary Survey Markings

**Red** - Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit & Lighting Cables

**Yellow** - Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum & Gaseous Material

**Orange** - Communications, Alarm, Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit

**Blue** - Potable Water

**Purple** - Reclaimed Water, Mitigation & Slurry Lines, Radioactive Material

**Green** - Sewers & Drain Lines

## CONTACT US:

Manhattan Community Board 9  
 16-18 Old Broadway  
 New York, NY 10027  
 Phone: (212) 864-6200  
 Fax: (212) 662-7396  
 Email: [info@cb9m.org](mailto:info@cb9m.org)  
 Website: [www.cb9m.org](http://www.cb9m.org)

## NOTE:

Our General Board meetings occur on the third Thursday of every month at Castle Gardens located at 625 West 140th Street (**unless otherwise noted**) [between Broadway and Riverside Drive] For the full monthly calendar of our scheduled meetings, please visit our website at: [www.cb9m.org](http://www.cb9m.org)

## TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Please send an email of your contact information to: [info@cb9m.org](mailto:info@cb9m.org) or [hzita@cb9m.org](mailto:hzita@cb9m.org)

