



Manhattan Community Board 9

Chair Report June, 2019 General Board Meeting

It Was A Pleasure

As we prepare for the Summer break, it offers us the opportunity to review the accomplishments and challenges of the previous year. I hope board members use this time to take a load off to rest and recharge their batteries and come back prepared for the new session in September. Over the past year, we have worked with West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) and other local community based organizations to create the Upper Manhattan Collaborative for Justice to provide assistance to returning citizens and their families who have been impacted by the criminal justice system; we have cemented our relationships with our 2 local universities, Columbia Univ. and CCNY, to strengthen partnerships and secure greater collaboration in addressing on going challenges in the community; we have formalized 3 taskforces, addressing support for the LGBTQ community, addressing the film and movie industry numerous use of local areas and the disruption and negative impact on the community, and how this will balance with ensuring that the local economy can benefit from this industry in our community; we also formalized the need to undertake a comprehensive view of the transportation landscape and to be proactive in developing and working on solutions to our transportation challenges with Dept. of Transportation, other agencies and the community that is beneficial to everyone irrespective of their mode of transportation.

The board has also been faced with the challenges of deaths of residents from vehicular accidents that highlighted the need for comprehensive transportation overhaul and residents' deaths from gunfire, whether intended target or by-stander, there is a need to reduce the number of guns and violence in our community. We continued to address the challenges of housing in our community and engaged developers, city agencies and residents to institute changes that sought to preserve affordable housing and ensure development remained in line with the look and feel of our community as a village. We rallied around the challenge of a substance use program integrating on residential block, that lead to a larger discussion around the large number of these programs in upper Manhattan while also ensuring that those that need the assistance to stop using drugs, get the help they need. Our seniors, parks, artistic and economic communities were also well served as we sought to highlight challenges facing these communities, to encourage discussion, to engage in equitable decisions to create communities that were best served within our district. So we can take a breath, rest, and come back fully charged to engage with all these challenges and new ones. At that time, leadership of the board will be different, and we should rest assured that the work done will only be improved and that the strides that have been made will only be added upon as the Board make conscious decisions to improve the quality of life in Manhattan Community Board 9. I have been my pleasure to have led the board over the past years addressing these challenges and working hand in hand with board members, city agencies, elected officials, non-profit organizations and the community in meeting these challenges head on.

Census2020

In preparation for a complete census count in our district, the executive committee has decided that they will act as the organizing taskforce and to extend it to the committees and organizations that will be presenting before the committees. The intent is that the message will be carried throughout the district that it is imperative that everyone is counted, and that all efforts are made that will allow for everyone to be counted. We are aware of the Federal Gov't lack of commitment to ensure a complete count by including the citizenship question as well as the lack of funding that has been dedicated to this effort.

The constitutionally mandated decennial Census counts every person living in the United States every 10 years. Census data is used to determine the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities affecting the viability of key programs such as Medicaid, Head Start and the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, Census results are used to redistrict the House of Representatives and determine how many seats each state gets as well as determine how state and local legislatures are redrawn. The stakes are higher than ever in this Census and our collective efforts to achieve a complete and accurate count will be the difference between losing 1 versus 2 Congressional seats as well as securing more to \$75 billion in future federal obligations to New York State alone.

In conjunction with the taskforce, the Boro. Pres. will also be creating a Manhattan Complete Count Committee will focus on four key areas:

- A funding initiative: my office will make discretionary funds available to community-based organizations that have a creative plan to reach hard-to-reach populations. The funding application will be available July 2019.
- A laser-focused approach that will target traditionally hard-to-reach populations such as roommates, children under 5, immigrants, NYCHA residents, and others
- A comparative study of census tracks and addresses that have gone uncounted in the past, as well as a deep dive into new addresses as well as those that may have issues regarding their assigned address
- A series of workshops and trainings on how to use Census data for non-profits, schools, faith based institutions, small businesses to better understand the political and economic importance of the Census.

Community Engagement Workshop

I had the opportunity to represent the board at a collaborative workshop at Columbia University on Monday, June 3rd, 9-11:30am.

Several faculty at CU are proposing a fundamental research program that leverages technology to improve the quality of life, public services and educational job training.

This would include a sophisticated network of sensors and data processing to improve efficiency and effectiveness of what goes on in the street in four ways:

- Road safety
- Ethical security in public spaces
- Last-meter logistics

- Future of outdoor work

The intent is to create a high speed network supporting a comprehensive database that would allow integration of a variety of current city and private databases to integrate and provide real-time information for decision-making. I asked that privacy, equity, health impact and potential cyber disruption being included in planning. Furthermore, that the board and community be continued to be integrated in the discussion in shaping how things will be moving forward.

Measles

On June 13, 2019, the New York legislature passed bill (A2371) to repeal the religious exemption to vaccination through both the Assembly and Senate, with Governor Andrew Cuomo immediately signing the bill into law. 2 3 The Assembly narrowly voted 77 to 53 to approve the bill, after passing with a margin of only one vote out of the Assembly Health Committee, and then the Senate approved the bill 36 to 26.

About 24,000 children in New York currently attend school with a religious exemption to vaccination (0.8 percent of all students). 8 Those children now will have to immediately get all state mandate vaccines according to the schedule published by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or be home schooled next school year. 9 Some families have said they will have to move out of the state because their children are already vaccine injured or have brain and immune system disorders that do not qualify for medical exemptions under narrow federal vaccine use guidelines.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Padmore John
Chair

UMEZ Update

UPPER MANHATTAN EMPOWERMENT ZONE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Comments to Materials for General Meeting of Manhattan Community Board 9 Thursday, June 20, 2019

UMEZ MICROLOAN PROGRAM WITH GRAMEEN AMERICA

- In February 2019, UMEZ closed a \$4 million microloan program with Grameen America, Inc. The new program recommits capital to home-based entrepreneurs in the Washington Heights and Inwood communities as well as expands access to micro-loans for entrepreneurs in East Harlem

UMEZ and Grameen America also have a pilot microloan program focused on West Harlem. To date, the West Harlem UMEZ loan funds have served approximately 700 borrowers helping to create over 700 jobs.

Contact information for the Harlem Branch with dates for information sessions is available on the flyers in the back of the room. In addition, the materials provide information about what is needed to join the Grameen community. (Contact information for the Washington Heights Office is also available on a separate sheet. Feel free to go to either branch.)

UMEZ ARTS ENGAGEMENT GRANT (UMAE)

The UMEZ Arts Engagement program deadline is in September 10, 2019, and it is designed to enhance the diversity and frequency of cultural presentations in Upper Manhattan.

This program provides grants of up to \$10,000 to Upper Manhattan's artists and nonprofit arts organizations to present their work to the public. The projects can be in the performing, literary, media, and visual arts, ranging from traditional forms to contemporary and socially-engaged artistic practices.

- Recommendations for awards are made through a juried selection process composed of artists and arts leaders whose expertise reflects the cultural and creative community of Upper Manhattan.
- To administer this program, UMEZ has partnered with the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), which also regrants funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs throughout the entire borough of Manhattan.
- The application process for grant support in calendar year has just been announced. Proposals are welcome from artists and arts organizations that are 1) based in based in Harlem, East Harlem, Washington Heights, and Inwood, and 2) presenting arts projects or programming in Upper Manhattan between January 1 and December 31, 2020.

First time applicants for a UMEZ Arts Engagement grant are required to attend an Information Session. These Information Sessions include a review of the guidelines and useful information to all applicants.