

Draft

MEETING MINUTES AND RECAP FOR APRIL 6, 2026

Arts Committee Introductions and Updates

The Arts and Culture Committee meeting began with introductions from Tina Lumley, Cam, Christina Lopez, Jasmine Smith, and Melissa Molinart, who shared their backgrounds and reasons for joining the community board. The committee discussed the agenda, noting that the culture order was postponed due to insufficient attendance, and decided to adopt a simplified agenda focusing on brief introductions and networking. The meeting also highlighted Melissa's summer pilot program, *Creative Unbothered*, aimed at empowering youth through self-awareness and creative life skills.

Arts Committee and Upcoming Exhibitions

The meeting introduced members of the Arts and Cultural Committee, including co-chair Daria Hardeman, who discussed their roles and backgrounds in the arts and community. Martin Collins, the Uptown Art Stroll Coordinator, announced a call for art and an upcoming exhibition, "Women of the Heights," while also noting the deadline for the printed guide on May 1st. Michael Palmer, the Executive Director of the West Harlem Arts Alliance, highlighted his long-standing involvement with the community board and his work on the 197A plan and arts space component with Columbia University.

Community Arts and Events Update

The meeting began with introductions, including Alethea Brown discussing her current exhibition at Aaron Davis Hall and Pierre Voltaire introducing the Harlem Public Arts Project's upcoming event, "It's My Park" in Hancock Park on April 25th. Manhattan explained the role of Community Board 9, highlighting its function as a voice for the public and collaboration with public officials, while also discussing the dissemination of information to the community. Walter provided updates on various arts and culture events in the area, and Hamilton mentioned ongoing efforts to reach out to Hamilton Palace regarding a potential project. The conversation ended with a reminder about the upcoming executive meeting in May.

West Harlem Arts Festival Updates

The West Harlem Arts Alliance shared updates on upcoming events, including a technical assistance workshop in collaboration with the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance featuring artist Tom Sanford, and the Jackie Robinson Day Festival on April 18th. They announced a workshop for women called "Blooming as an Artist" on April 17th, and the 4th annual West Harlem Summer Jazz Festival starting May 2nd, which will commemorate the 100th anniversary of jazz legends Miles Davis and John Coltrane. The alliance also plans to open an arts exhibition titled "Rooted" on May 7th, and Walter inquired about the distribution of event information, which Michael confirmed would be sent out.

Upcoming Harlem Arts Events

Hon announced several upcoming events, including a free webinar on SEO on April 9th, a Harlem Arts Alliance film screening on April 11th, and a theater production on May 3rd. Manhattan inquired about the availability of event information on the website and requested that Hon forward future updates. They also discussed an upcoming Arts for Youth showcase featuring performances by Harlem youth on May 16th.

Youth Performances and Community Service

The meeting discussed an upcoming indoor event at the Frederick Robert Smith theater in Riverbank Park, which will feature performances by youth and seasoned organizations. Manhattan explained the event's purpose, which was initiated by the Arts and Culture Committee to provide additional performance opportunities for young artists. Pierre Vortier presented details about a community service event at Hancock Park, scheduled for Saturday from 11 to 2, which will include activities such as weeding, planting, and art workshops for families, with a focus on intergenerational exchange and community pride.

Arts Alliance Updates and Distribution

The meeting discussed the distribution of a soft copy of information to be sent to a distribution list, with Pierre agreeing to handle this task. Manhattan provided updates on the North Manhattan Arts Alliance CB9 report, including details about the America the Beautiful exhibition and the Uptown Art Stroll, which features events and open studios. Congratulations were extended to West Harlem artists for their poster contest wins. The group also discussed the logistics of presenting a video link during a future presentation, with some uncertainty about the process.

Art Exhibition and Workshop Plans

Alicia Brown discussed her upcoming art exhibition at Aaron Davis Hall, which runs from March 17th to June 30th, with a poetry performance on April 21st from 6:30-8pm. She explained how her burlap art series evolved from family stories about her grandmother's farm life in South Carolina, and detailed her monthly art workshops at the Children's Art Carnival where she teaches adults and seniors. The workshops cost \$48.50 and include art supplies and refreshments, with tickets sometimes being donated to those who cannot afford them.

Community Programs and Events Update

Manhattan presented information about an upcoming gallery exhibition and workshop, including ticket prices and availability of sponsored tickets. She also discussed her work with seniors and young people in Harlem. Melissa Bolinari then presented her Creative and Unbothered program, an 8-week after-school pilot program using art for self-awareness and confidence-building in junior high and high school students. Walter announced the Senior Action Committee's fourth annual Senior Resource Fair on May 8th, and Tina mentioned Community Board 9's involvement in the Jackie Robinson Day event on April 18th. The conversation ended with a reminder about the public Health Forum at City College on April 11th.