

ARTS AND CULTURE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2, 2024

Committee Members:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused	Recorded Minutes
Co-Chair Hon. Tina Lumley	x			
Co-Chair Hon. Daria Hardeman	x			
Hon. Walter T. Alexander	x			x
Hon. Sojourna Collier		x		
Hon. Carlton Davis	x			
Hon. Tiago Kiel			x	
Hon. Ernesto Graham		x		
Hon Ilana Mercado	x		x	

I-Call to Order @6:42pm

II-Adopted Agenda

III-Adopted Minutes

IV-Committee Reports

- Strategic Planning-No Report
- Arts for Seniors-No Report
- Art Therapy-Definition was presented. Update of committee forthcoming.
- Artist Dissemination Committee-11 items sent out, five current and was printed out.

V-Presentations

A-Dan Levantino-Trinity Church

- Invited all to our December 15th event to honor Clement Clark Moore, the author of a Visit from Saint Nicholas, better known as The Night Before Christmas. He is buried at our cemetery at 153rd and Broadway. We do a reading of the poem at the church at the intercession, and then we do a candlelight walk down to the grave of where we sing silent night, and then we have a little hot chocolate and cookies reception with some Christmas music, and we'll have some jazz performers

B-Martin Collins-Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance

- We invite everybody to join NOMA this Thursday for our First Thursdays from 6 to 8 Pm. We'll have Artist Jose Hernandez's workshop Intro to hand. quilting which is open to everyone at NOMA's Gallery at 4140 Broadway and West 176 on December 12th along with several community partners. We'll have a holiday market at the United Palace Tree Lighting in the Plaza, There will also be toys for tots and an open mic in the United Palace Grand Foyer and some dozen artisans from West Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood all starting at 4pm until 8 Pm on Thursday, December 12th for the 23rd Uptown Art Store Poster Contest will launch on Monday, December 16th. This year the Grand Prize gets \$2,000. second prize is 1,00 and the 3rd prize is \$500. Details will be posted on our website and Instagram. We will have a call for the 16th Annual Women in the Heights which will go out at the end of

December-see our website and Instagram for more. We have calendars and merchandise for sale, and you can become a member by December 31st for only \$35 and get a free calendar while supplies last. We have affordable studios, as I mentioned before, for artists and priced with arts and arts organizations which you can book from NOMA.

We will have a New Year's party planned on Thursday, January 9th at NOMA's Gallery 6 to 8 Pm. Everyone is welcome. We'll have free refreshments and small bites.

- We have a current exhibition up with 43 artists from Opera Manhattan. That will be on display through February 6th gallery hours are 4 to 7 Pm. Thursday, one to 5 Pm. Saturday, except holidays, and we encourage you to see.
- Finally, we have a pre-stroll concert with Emmy Award winning jazz impresario Emmett Cohen at 7 30pm Tuesday, May 20th at the Harlem School of the Arts on St. Nicholas Ave at 141st Street. See our website to reserve your tickets (150 person capacity).
- The opening reception for the 23rd uptown art store will be on Friday, May 30th at the Forum on 125th Street and Broadway on Friday, May 30th from 6 to 8 30 Pm. We will have Honorees that evening from West Harlem and Washington Heights.

C-Logan Treadway=Mama Foundation

- This Saturday, December 7th at 3pm we are celebrating our students in our Professional choir at the 2024 Winter Benefit Concert that is being held at Bethel, Gospel Assembly, here in Central Harlem. It is a celebration of music, education, community empowerment, and the preservation of African American musical traditions. Again, it's this Saturday, December 7th At 3pm. The event is entirely free. Come celebrate all of our students. Hard work. Tickets are available at mamafoundation.org. It just requires RSVP. If you know anyone in the community. Also, if you have any family or friends ages 7 and up, we are accepting students year round to sign up for these programs again at mamafoundation.org, and you can see our professional choir anywhere throughout Harlem and New York City. To stay up to date with those events just subscribe to our newsletter. Everything can be found@mamafoundation.org.

D-Gwendolyn Black-Arts and Jazzfest NYC

- To celebrate our 21st year for arts and jazz fest New York City, we are presenting our year in holiday celebration, which will be at the Denny Farrell, Riverbank State Park on Saturday, December 21st. We will have a flyer to send out soon.. We encourage everyone who would like to join us for Christmas Carols. I'm happy that we're going to be partnering with

Denny Farrell this year and we'll be going throughout the facility and we'll have holiday crafts starting at 12 noon throughout the day we'll have activities with the live jazz band and karaoke. The caroling will start at 5.

E-Rachel Davidson-Dance Theater of Harlem

- First of all I want to thank everyone that came out and supported our 1st round of open classes here at Dance in Harlem. It was an amazing time was had by everyone. I also want to announce that our next session will be happening on January 21st so come on get your groove on. You know you've done all that eating over the holidays. Now it's time to shimmy it way off. So hold the date...January 21st here at Dance Theatre of Harlem. It's on Tuesday nights and Saturdays from mid-morning to early afternoon. Last thing, I believe we are still having auditions. If you know young people who are still interested in dancing professionally in the genre of ballet in particular, we still are accepting students for that as well. Go to the website for that. It will give you all the information.

F-Every Voice Choirs

- I am an outreach assistant for Every Voice Choirs and I'm here to talk about our core programs that we have offering with Every Voice Choirs. First things I wanted to talk about are the kids choir and the youth choir. We accept students from ages 7 through 17, and everyone is welcome. So you don't have to audition to be a part of both choirs, and we mainly focus on teaching the kids how to use their voice specifically with classical technique as well as some contemporary technique. We require their commitment and full participation for all rehearsals. We focus on developing the kids as creative artists. Some fun things that we like to do with the kids choir are improvise. They start singing their name, and then we repeat it back. And it's like this fun way for them to learn how to improvise. We meet on Thursday afternoons at the Riverside Church,
- The next choir that I want to talk about is the concert choir. We accept kids from ages 11 through 17. And you do need to audition for this choir. And it's really important because we get to perform with adult choirs and orchestras. We have had 8 performances at Carnegie Hall. We actually have a concert happening this Saturday, December 7th at 8 pm. And they're going to be performing with the Cecilia Chorus of New York City and singing Leonard Bernstein's Mass..
- The next choir that we have is the EBC Cornerstone Intergenerational Choir. We accept students from ages 7 through 97, and everyone is welcome. We're still looking for members. So if you know anybody that is interested in being a part of it. That would be fantastic. So we have the students with their parents or their grandparents, and they get to sing in a choir together. We're learning some gospel music actually, right now, and some Spanish songs too!

G-Aaron Simms

- Holiday concert featuring arrangements by a local composer and Ranger Gil de Jean. Then on Friday the 20th we'll have a screening of a Christmas Carol. The 1951 Alistair SIM version, which is pretty awesome. On the 25th we include submissions for the Inwood Film Festival. We're in our 8th year you can live in Inwood Washington Heights, Northwest Bronx, wherever and, you know, make films there, or you can be from wherever in the world, including West Harlem, Upper West Side, wherever, and make films and make part of your films. The neighborhood and submit your films. We have student film categories, we have documentary feature, short films, all are included up to December 25th is the regular deadline. Then we have a late deadline, which is mid-January. So I'm just letting everybody know about that but all in all for those of you aren't familiar with our organization. The just a general website link is there in the chat? You can find out more about what we do. We give out grants to local filmmakers as well. The fact that they're unrestricted grants to go out to anybody who wants them. And we just yeah, we're giving away \$40,000 this year to local filmmakers, to green light their films. These are people who live here in our neighborhood, and that money goes right back to the local economy. They use your bookstores, they use your restaurants, they use your houses of worship, and wherever to shoot their films and apartment buildings and the money usually all stays in the community, and they hire local folks, which is great for the most part. So let's let anybody know about that. And then the summertime. Looking forward to next year, for instance, we did a where our film works Al fresco program brought free outdoor bilingual movies and live performances to the Hispanic Society at 155, all month of September, and we're looking forward to doing more with the West Harlem Arts Alliance of Michael and many others down there. So if you're looking to partner and film stage visual arts, we've kind of done it all. We've taken dormant commercial space and turned to pop up art galleries. We've turned, or any kind of performance spaces. We've done live theater. We commissioned a world premiere dance piece called Strangers, a new ballet this past June for our local lower Washington Heights, West Harlem Resident, Brian Morales. So we've done a lot and we can, and we will continue to, and we welcome any kind of collaboration. And hopefully, keeping uptown art strong. So thank you very much for your time. Greatly appreciate it.

H-Sophie Wang-National Dance Institute

- I'm here to present on a program we have at Ps. 161, just a walk that way. So NDI was founded in 1976 by New York City ballet dancer, Jacques Denois. And we've since grown to have programs at 53 schools across the city. And these are weekly classes for elementary schoolers where we teach dance and accompanied by live

music? So I could talk on and on about it. But I want to also show a video (video shown).

- NDI is Life National Dance Institute was founded in 1976 by Jacques Dembois, who was a principal dancer in the New York City ballet. He believed deeply that an education is not complete unless the arts are part of it and was determined to give every child access to quality arts programming as part of their in-school learning. Ndi has now reached over two million children over the decades, inspiring children everywhere to excellence through the arts. The in school program is the heart and soul of NDI. Each week we teach children in schools across New York City. The classes take place during the school day, and they are not a substitute for gym class or recess. They are one of the curricular subjects of the day, because we believe that arts are every bit as important as science and math. The in-school program takes place once per week and every child in the selected grade level participates. We offer programming across multiple grade levels and work with each school partner to determine which grade or grades would be the best fit. Ndi is really a breath of fresh air. It just brings so much out of them. In my class we have lots of children from different backgrounds, different experiences, different socioeconomic levels. You do not know what it's like when you see a kid who hardly wants to take his hat off his desk, get on the stage and then dance. It is important that Ndi happens during the school day because it gives all students access to it. Education is not just about reading and writing. It is also about expressing yourself through music, through dance skills that children develop by participating in Ndi include resilience and ability to meet challenges with joy and determination. Ndi builds teamwork and empathy. It helps children understand other people who are not like them, other cultures that are not their own. And it is also a window into themselves. It is building confidence in kids. I know for myself. Being a child in a program. It made you feel like you are an important piece to a bigger whole. I never wanted to miss class. It felt like rehearsal could not go on because I wasn't in my spot. We are a school that values respect, integration and equity. What we are always trying to do is to move towards more progressive models of teaching.

New Business-Walter brought up the RKO Hamilton Project that seemed to disappear. He plans to bring this to the Exec Board as well as the General Board. The New Heritage Theater, which turns 60 this year is having their gala on December 16th at Aaron Davis Hall Complimentary tickets are available on Eventbrite.

Old Business- We've been talking about getting all the artists in our fabulous community together, the artists and the arts organization and trying to do a festival or something. But we were talking about starting it as perhaps a weekend. Daria actually talked to Vosa at Harlem, Harlem Arts Alliance. He will come to our next meeting.

Motion to Close passed. Next meeting will be held in a virtual format January 6, 2025