

Manhattan Community Board 9
Arts and Culture Committee Meeting
Monday, 01 February, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members:

Co-Chair: Hon. Harriet Rosebud
Co-Chair: Hon. Daria Hardman
Hon. Walter Alexander
Hon. Anita Cheng
Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero (absent)
Hon. Tina Lumley
Hon. Ilana Mercado (absent)
Hon. Jonathan Sinagub (prepared minutes)

CB 9 Board members:

Attendees:

Victor Edwards – CB9, 2nd Vice Chair
Yuien Chin – Harlem One Stop
Arecis Mejia

Location: via Zoom

Meeting called to Order: 6:35 PM

Adopt Agenda:

1. Unanimously Adopted

Adopt Meeting Minutes:

Presentations/Discussions:

- a. Curt Stewart - Calliope Creative Foundation

Grantee Presentations:

1. Carol Brown - Harlem Opera Theater
2. Hannah Bailenson, Manager of Institutional Giving - Institutional Giving at National Dance Institute (NDI), hbailenson@nationaldance.org, <https://nationaldance.org>
3. Melvin McCray - The Digital Media Training Program, melvinmccray@gmail.com, 917 748-4122
4. Carolyn Halpin-Healy, Co-founder/Director - Arts & Minds, chalpinhealy@artsandminds.org, 646-873-0712
5. Nellie Escalante, Program Coordinator – Arts & Minds, nescalante@artsandminds.org www.artsandminds.org
6. Anne Hiatt, Exec. Director – Opera on Tap, anne@operaontap.org
7. Alex Naase, Programs Liaison – Doing Art Together (DAT), www.doingarttogether.org

Daria Hardeman on behalf of Martin Collins - Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA)
The **Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance** (NoMAA) , Art Stroll – Poster Contest is now open for applications; Deadline March 30, 2021; \$1,250 prize for winning submission; Theme – Nina Simone’s “Play to the times”

From the Co-Chairs: The Arts & Culture Committee of CB9 wants to encourage an on-going relationship with all art/cultural organizations who work in CB9; and, to attend frequently the committee meetings in order to better support the efforts of the art/cultural organizations and to use to better effect the resources of CB9.

Carl Stewart – Calliope Foundation

- Located in Riverside Church and performs at the Riverside Theater; founded 6 years ago to create summer stock for students 13-22 years old, emphasize training in theater; to fill the void in youth training in theater writing, acting/directing and production; year round excluding Nov./Dec. – during pandemic meet virtually; 6 out of 19 students from CB9; annual Summer Stock Festival in August; in the process to partner with G. Bruce Library; Question (fr. V. Edwards) regarding application period; Suggestion to connect with NYCHA Community Centers.

Carol Brown - Harlem Opera Theater

- Founded in 2001, they develop audience and potential artists of the future as we present “Opera for Beginners”, a music literacy project to enrich the lives of children through in-school performances in the NYC Public Schools; charter schools and after school programs; with saxophonist, tenor and prominent artist;
- During the pandemic offering 3 sessions of opera for beginners virtually;
 - CB 9 videographer programs offering in video;
 - Impromptu Harlem rehearsals; 27 contestants & 9 finalists; conversations with past winners;
 - Partnering with Opera Ebony, Harlem Chamber Players for 3x3 at Mt. Morris at the Mount Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church
 - Planning tribute to Vice President Kamala Harris
- Melvin McCray - The Digital Media Training Program, founded in 2013, trains students ages 11 to 22 in video, photography, animation, journalism, mathematics, engineering and 3D printing. The program also seeks to chronicle the rich history of Harlem through the creation of the Harlem Through My Eyes History Project, a video oral history archives and a series of multi-media projects including books, documentaries and exhibits.
 - Provides the opportunity for students to express themselves creatively; work with the Fortune Society to allow the participants to connect with who they are and reengage with the community
 - Projects/awards include: 2019 Documentary film “Harlem to Kilimangaro” (screened at Columbia University); interviews on WBAI and featured on WNET “Metro Focus”; 2016 Winners of the 3rd Annual White House Student Film Festival
 - Partners with the Fortune Society Foundation – 8 adult students @ Fortune Academy, 2 students from CB 9; and, A. Phillip Randolph High School; Metro Focus, WABC,

- Grants- from WHDC, \$15,000 for equipment; Silicon Harlem, 5 Chrome Books, Apple \$50, 000 for equipment; organization in need of equipment to further teaching the technical aspects of video editing
 - <https://vimeo.com/419019082> - PSA, "Put on Your Mask"
 - Plan to exhibit at Columbia University
 - Response from the Co-Chairs – The organization has a lot to offer CB 9 and we are here as a resource and look forward to working together in support of your work.
- Hannah Bailenson - National Dance Institute (NDI), partners with schools in NYC, Mott Hall (IS 223) since 1984, 6th grade, 4 classes, 80 students, with 3 teaching artists, 2 choreographers and 1 musician; PS 161, Pedro Albizu Campos , since 2011, 4th grade; Focus for 2021 to provide for social & emotional support/learning, virtual programming – what kids need, flexible programing, NDI Dance Mobile, ndiLive, Dream Project; teacher training workshops; 48 teaching artists & musicians full & part time (Q: how many from CB 9? Uncertain)
 - Response from the Co-Chairs – suggested to present to the CB9 Youth & Education Committee to try to reach out to more schools & students in CB9.
- Carolyn Halpin-Healy, Co-founder (with Dr. J. Noble) & Nellie Escalante, Program Coordinator – Arts & Minds, Not-for-profit organization (since 2010) committed to improving quality of life for all people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through engagement with art; Museum based experience; provides extensive training, ongoing support and mentorship to teaching artists, staff and volunteers in our partner museums: The Studio Museum in Harlem, sugar Hill Museum, The New-York Historical Society and El Museo del Barrio; teachers mostly have some museum affiliation and educators, training or experience; 2021 focus outreach to CB 9 to more Black and Latino communities, look to diversify and include artists and studio visits; showed video interview with a client's husband describing their experience with Arts & Minds.
- Alex Naase– Doing Art Together, Doing Art Together, Inc. (DAT), a nonprofit arts education organization, has provided award-winning, hands-on, arts-based curricula in New York City's public schools and alternative education sites since its founding in 1982; engage youth in the visual arts, enlist the participation of their families and building enduring partnerships with their educational community, provides hands-on programs to under-served audiences. DAT's programs build skills that enhance the ability to learn ; educational philosophy emphasizes process; integrated with school curricula; 2021 focus Restart reopening model for CB 9 – virtual community bubbles; Continue partnership with WHDC, grant recipient.
 - Response from the Co-Chairs – Provide teachers & Artists from CB 9 (currently there are none)
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- Hon. Anita Cheng, CB 9 Arts & Culture Committee member, shared a project that she is currently working on – a PSA for Covid-19, working with CB 9 Health & Seniors Committee, new project (with E. Torres, CB 9 Member) centers on testing and the vaccine; to be installed on NYCLink Kiosk network, on the street targeting CB 9 locations; she created a previous PSA on the census - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eQGGYhXrCc&feature=youtu.be> – “Census” .

Old Business:

1. Artists Speaks - from the Co-Chairs, Background to Project: Focus on individual artists and start conversation by initialing a video highlighting West Harlem artists and organizations; looking to collaborate with videographer; Q (Mr. McCray) – Create how pandemic affected artists – a personal expression and an opportunity to capture the moment; interviews with artists to capture what they are going through at this time- refer to the video The Digital Media Training Program produced “ Harlem Through My Eyes” interviewing residents of Harlem; conversation to be continued.
2. Update on “West Harlem Arts Alliance” Resolution data information (Hon. J. Sinagub) – Statistics show the need for such an arts organization need to be provided as part of the resolution. Facts need to be ascertained to support the resolution:
 - a. Contacted: Martin Collins @ NoMAA, Reverend Morgan-Thomas @ UMEZ and Mr. Ramadan @ WHDC.
 - b. Through NYC’s and NYS’s Open Data Portal was able to track some public funding of organizations from the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs, City Council and Borough president discretionary funds; and, NYS Council on the Arts funding;
 - c. Reviewed UMEZ 2016 report “Leveraging the Power of Cultural Investments A Report on Cultural Capacity Building”; a few key points:
 - i. UMEZ shaped its nonprofit investment strategy to develop organizational capacity by: supporting new staff positions and services needed to generate increased earned and contributed revenues; strengthening management planning and infrastructure; and supporting renovations or construction of new cultural facilities.
 - ii. From the Report: “Dedicated facilities for the arts can be found across the neighborhoods of Inwood, Washington Heights, Central Harlem and East Harlem.” (*no mention of West Harlem – JS comment*)
 - iii. A key strength for (any) cultural sector lies in its ability to create links between related sectors. Economic theorist Michael Porter describes how these entities exchange goods, services, and information, thus building upon each other’s ability to capture market dollars in a particular area, a process he termed ‘clustering.’
 - d. Y. Chin mentioned that her organization has identified 5 naturally occurring “clusters in West Harlem.
 - e. Further fact finding and discussions will take place with WHDC in the coming week.

New Business:

Next Meeting Scheduled for first Monday in March 2021, 03/01, at 6:30 PM. Location Zoom

Meeting Adjourned: 9:18 PM