



**CB9 ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, February 2, 2026 – 6:30 PM**

Committee Members:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused	Recorded Minutes
Co-Chair Hon. Tina Lumley	x			x
Co-Chair Hon. Daria Hardeman	x			
Hon. Kristina Maria Lopez	x			
Hon. Shaunte Styles	x			
Hon. Walter T. Alexander	x			
Hon. Ilana Mercado	x			

**Call to Order: 6:30**

**Sub-Committee Reports**

**Artist Information** – 52 communications of events and art/culture opportunities disseminated to the distribution list. The Artist Information Subcommittee disseminates opportunities and performances to the community, and attendees were encouraged to add their contact information to the distribution list.

**West Harlem Arts Alliance** – Michael Palma secured 5 West Harlem Artists for the Harlem Fine Arts Show Feb 20 -22 at the Glasshouse. He explained how the Alliance participates in the community partners booth and the process of selecting artists, noting that while they invited about 30 artists, only 5 were available to participate

**Harlem Arts Alliance** – Voza Rivers legacy series begins at City College. Next HAA town hall scheduled for Feb 27 at Harlem School of the Arts at 10 a.m.

**Hamilton Palace/RKO Theater** – No update

**Arts for Seniors** – current project is the West Harlem Story Lab, an oral history initiative, which is being restructured to focus on relationship building and program design for a fall or winter launch.

**Arts for Youth** – Current project is a youth performance showcase at Riverbank State Park on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Finalizing the organizations that will participate

## Community Updates (3 mins or less)

### Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance – Martin Collins

- NoMAA Labs will resume on Tuesday, February 10th from 6-8pm w/ African Dance & live drumming led by Sylvestre Akakpo at NoMAAs Gallery, 4140 Broadway & W176th St. Join us for a great evening! RSVP at <https://www.nomaanyc.org> for this event & the following.
- 24th Uptown Arts Stroll poster contest is open till March 15th. Artists must reside or work from W125th-220th St. Grand prize \$2,000, 2nd prize \$1,000, 3rd prize \$500. Info & entry form on our website.
- 17th Women in the Heights exhibition opens 6-8pm Wednesday, February 25th at NoMAAs Gallery. See works by 42 northern Manhattan artists!
- And join us at the artists talk for Women in the Heights on Thursday, March 5th from 6-8pm in the gallery.

**Every Voice Choirs.** – Tessora Estrella, announced the opening of their choir programs for the spring semester for children ages 7 to 17.

**Harlem Swing – Barbara Grant** discussed plans for a youth event on May 17th at Riverbank State Park, hosted by MCB9, to celebrate local youth organizations

## Presentations

**Maysles Documentary Center** ([maysles.org](http://maysles.org)) Kazembe Balagun, Executive Director, and Steff Reid presented on behalf of Maysel's Documentary Center, introducing a new series called "Sacred Fire" on gospel, Black liberation, and resistance, with guest programmer Steff Reed discussing the films and their themes which features Black performance on film and includes gospel singing sessions, with screenings every other Sunday through June

**Harlem Stage** ([harlemstage.org](http://harlemstage.org)) Bethany Cintron, Manager of Education and Community Outreach, presented their Educating Endlessly program, which provides free student matinees with comprehensive arts education experiences, highlighted by the sold-out production "Freedom Riders" that included post-show dialogues with students from local schools. The conversation ended with plans to share promotional materials for the film series and potential future collaboration on an oral history project. They also set untold stories and free arts education across MCB9.

**Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling** ([sugarhillmuseum.org](http://sugarhillmuseum.org)) Chris Gioia, Director of Museum Operations, highlighted their 10th anniversary celebration, community mural, and various programs for children and families using an intergenerational approach. This organization engages youth in artistic and storytelling activities, with Sugar Hill Museum specifically mentioning upcoming events for Black History Month and Women's History Month and celebrating Faith Ringgold. They also have monthly art workshops with local artist. They also have artist residency

**FCBC Community Development Corporation** ([fbcnyc.org](http://fbcnyc.org)) Desiree Elder, Executive Director, presented their arts programming, including table reads, stage readings, and the Harlem Teen Shakespeare Intensive. She highlighted their commitment to paying artists and their work with various age groups. Desiree announced upcoming events including a Women's History Month performance and the Uptown Legacy Connect program for creatives over 50. Walter Alexander from West Harlem Older Adults Alliance expressed interest in collaborating, particularly for a Senior Resource Fair in May where an artist could perform a monologue.

**Art in the Park** ([artinthepark128.org](http://artinthepark128.org)) Shawnique Woolfalk – Is a non-profit organization that activates open spaces in under-represented Harlem communities, to expose youth to Arts & Culture, S.T.E.A.M., health & community initiatives, to help combat mental & physical disparities. They offer a free 6-week photography showing how to use your phone at Columbia. They average 10 youths in the workshop.

**Harlem One Stop** – Yuien Chen - [info@harlemonestop.org](mailto:info@harlemonestop.org), announced the upcoming events such as the Harlem Culture Crawl in May and a preservation conference in October. The group discussed the recently designated Harlem Cultural District and its boundaries based on a bill that recently passed. On Feb 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a zoom meeting to present and discuss ideas for an organizing structure that fosters inclusive, equitable and empowered creative economies and a collective that can advocate for the Harlem Renaissance Cultural District. The agenda will also include Harlem Renaissance 100 Open House: A Celebration of Harlem's Cultural Organizations (tentative weekend of October 17 and 18)

**Adjourned** – 8:30?