

DRAFT MINUTES  
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE  
DATE March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Committee Members:

Joyce Adewumi, Chair ~ present,  
Harriet Rosebud, Co-Chair ~ present  
Daria Hardeman ~ present, Ilana Mercado ~ present, Monique Hardin Cordero ~ present, Maxine  
Best ~ excused

Other Attendees Present:

*Cathleen Campbell, Melvin McCray, Jackson Chen, Yuen Chen, Jessica Chornesky, Carol  
Brown*

The meeting was called to attention by Ms. Joyce Adewumi at 6:42pm

Introductions/Presentations/Announcements

Mr. Melvin McCray

Mr. Melvin McCray is a 6 time WHDC grantee and director of the digital media training program at Columbia University School of Journalism and won the White House student film festival three years in a row. He has gotten his students' films on channel 13 and they featured one of his students from A Philip Randolph High School to talk about films. He presented his project called Harlem Through My Eyes, which will tell the story of people who live and work in Harlem. He is looking for suggestions on who to interview for the film. He would like more young people and Latinos and would like to get young people to interact with their community. Website is Harlemyes.com. He wants to have young people interviewing luminaries but not just luminaries, people with interesting stories to tell.

He also has a grant to take young Harlem filmmakers to Tanzania East Africa. He would like to take people in the community and has funding for 18 to 24 year olds. The trip is fully paid for but for Visa fees, airfare and everything else is paid. It is suggested that he reach out to Maysles Film School, however, looking for CB9 residents. Also, suggested that he work with the Board of Education. Try to reach out to the larger community within CB9. He has already identified four to five people. Possible contacts from Cathleen and Yuen at City College. They have a good documentary program. Joyce says if you have an advertisement, we can promote it.

Harriet suggests that he come to the artist Circle event in June so that he can get to know artists in the community. For the documentary Harriet suggest interviewing the Harlem Lana Turner, a Harlem fashionista for many years for her outstanding contribution to fashion. Also, the owner of Paris Blues is a Tuskegee Airman, another interview suggestion. It is suggested that the Alianza Dominicana also be contacted for Latinos in West Harlem.

Meeting is called to order by Ms. Joyce Adewumi at 7:12 p.m. agenda is adopted.

Jessica Chornesky

Jessica Chornesky runs the NYC Kids Fest. She is also a documentary film director. The NYC Kids Fest is a performing arts festival in its 14<sup>th</sup> year. She used to be in the music business in LA and moved to 112<sup>th</sup> and Frederick Douglass Boulevard in 2001. She wanted to do a music festival for the kids. It is the third Sunday of June and it is free and features dance, theater spoken word, face painting, etc, and they're always looking for performers. They also work with PS 180 and the Harlem School of the Arts students for performers. Performing artists get paid not the students. Because it usually falls on or around Father's Day there are a BBQs in the park and they try to make it about dads and kids. They are looking to expand to Saint Nicholas Park, however, sound cannot be amplified there, so they are thinking of staying in Morningside Park for now. Yuen says they can still try Saint Nicholas Park because she is a member of Friends of St. Nicholas Park. Harriet asks because there's funding from WHDC how many in attendance, Jessica says usually 1,000 because it's from 12 to 6 pm. The website is NYCKidsfest.org.

Harriet wanted to know how we figure out how many kids are served in cb9. They count direct recipients from cb9 as kids who are performing but not the audience and because the kids come from PS 180, HSA and non-profits etc, they can track the CB through these organizations.

Jessica also has a documentary film about being a white person moving to Harlem and living there for 20 years. The film explores gentrification and racism and how it is a white person's problem and the issues of accountability and white privilege. It has been a hard sell because it is a very controversial issue and she wants to include in the screening a discussion regarding gentrification with a Q&A panel and with community leaders. Daria suggest West Harlem skills development as place where the film could be presented. Cathleen says that it's not a good place because they don't have a screen setup and suggests that Columbia might be the best place to present it, perhaps the Lenfest Center. Joyce agrees with this maybe City College or Columbia to get to the minds of young people. The Arts committee agrees that we would like to see the entire film before we can assist with selling it.

### Harlem One Stop

Harlem One Stop, cultural institutions from all over Harlem the Harlem Renaissance 100, effective through 2019 to the summer of 2020, is a series of events regarding the Harlem Renaissance. Over 30 cultural institutions with programming over next two years. There will be a luncheon from Harlem One Stop to discuss the Harlem Renaissance and funding from WHDC and the tour guide training program in April. There is a tour guide training program for weekend walks on Amsterdam Avenue June through September. The tour guide training applicants should be fluent in French or Spanish and it's a six-week program that helps them getting their license through the internship. Tours run every day at 10 a.m. it's only a part-time job on demand they will connect successful candidates to tour company partners if you qualify.

### Carol Brown

Carol Brown from the Harlem Opera theater. Student concerts from the National Association of negro musicians, which is a hundred years old. Two singers went on to the Metropolitan Opera and sang at Aretha Franklin's funeral. They are trying to go into schools with Opera for Beginner's program in April and May of 2019.



## Old Business

MCB9 Artists Traveling Exhibition Showcase.

Cathleen Campbell's photographic exhibit was the first exhibition at the West Harlem Skills Training Center. Cathleen spoke about the importance of an artist being able to have their own show, where they are exclusively featured. CB9 continues to support local artists via the traveling exhibition showcase.

## CB9 Artist's Circle

Recap of the Artist's Circle event. The event brought artists from different disciplines together to discuss using resources and what resources are needed in CB9. Panel discussion with a variety of artists, visual, theatrical, and musical disciplines. Panelists spoke about their own success stories and the challenges they faced. The event ended with breakout sessions based on the different disciplines represented and notes were taken on what each would like to see in CB 9.

This year we should have more attendees because of the upper Manhattan grant discussion.

We will need paper plates, napkins, cups, utensils, print signs, paper, pens, boards from last year for breakout sessions, name tags, coolers, ice, table clothes, flyers and postcards.

Food, drinks, peach tea

Capacity =100 people. Budget for food for now without drink, \$1200.

\$1,435 total

Same space as last year

Last year borough president's office supplied breakfast.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm

## New Business

No new business