

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

Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members:**

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

**CB 9 Board members:**

**Attendees:**

Victor Edwards – CB9, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas – CB 9 Member, UMEZ  
Yuien Chin – Harlem One Stop  
DR. Marilu Galvan– Co-Founder & Executive Director, Centro Civico Cultural Dominicano  
Martin Collins – NoMAA, Uptown Arts Stroll Coordinator  
Michael UnThank – Executive Director, Harlem Arts Alliance (HAA)  
Robin Bell-Stevens – Executive Director, Jazz Mobile  
Manuel Acevedo  
Zead Ramadan – Interim Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corp. (WHDC)  
Jonna Castro – Director of Programs, West Harlem Development Corp. (WHDC)

**Location:** via Zoom

**Meeting called to Order:** 6:34 PM

**Adopt Agenda:**

1. Unanimously Adopted

**Adopt Meeting Minutes:**

**Presentations/Discussions:**

1. Martin Collins – NoMAA, Uptown Arts Stroll – Artist Stroll Poster Contest- West Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood artists are invited to enter the 19<sup>th</sup> Uptown Arts Stroll Poster Contest. The grand prize winning artist will receive \$1,250 and the banner on all

publications, second prize winner receives \$500 and third prize \$250. Deadline March 30th. Please see [www.artstroll.com](http://www.artstroll.com) for complete information.

- The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Women in the Heights exhibit online opening is Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please join us and see [www.momaanyc.org](http://www.momaanyc.org) for info.
2. Melvin McCray & Hon. Daria Hardman - The Digital Media Training Program, [melvinmccray@gmail.com](mailto:melvinmccray@gmail.com), 917 748-4122
    - Melvin McCray – Briefly described the program, focusing on the partnership with the Fortune Society- a photography/videography class using iPhones w/14 Students and the planned exhibition of the clients’ work at MOMA P.S. 1 in April.
    - The Digital Media Training Program will partner with CB9 Art & Culture Committee/Artists Speaks initiative- Focus on individual artists and start conversation by initialing a video highlighting West Harlem artists and organizations; 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- Possibly included in The Digital Media Training Program’s “ Harlem Through My Eyes” interviewing residents of Harlem; conversation to be continued.
      - 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
      - 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
  3. Dr. Marilu Galvan - Centro Civico Cultural Dominicano (CCCD) – Introduction: Since 1962 the mission of CCCD, a 501(c)(3), is to enrich and empower youth and adults through arts and culture, which the CCCD carries out by making key services available to the community.
    - Concert to celebrate Dominican Day
    - Engages 155-220 K-12 students
    - Children’s Arts Carnival
    - Partners with WHDC and Columbia University which provides in-kind space
    - Showcase potential of the Dominican community in New York
  4. Robin Bell-Stevens, Jazz Mobile – Summerfest was not canceled is went virtual; SU Casa, Jazz Mobile on YouTube; October Summerfest 2020
    - Fund raising – “Keep the Music Playing” to air in April, recorded in January
    - Open Culture – NYC approved, project for street performances, for organizations and individuals, can have tickets & Donations, 50 people max. in audience; day permit – allowed 2 days back to back
    - Capital Grant Request – to build Jazz Mobile Float; an all-electric vehicle venue; looking for prime location, perhaps beneath Henry Hudson Parkway @ Riverbank State Park
    - Michael UnThank – Offered support for the Children’s Arts Carnival; his organization has a photographic darkroom that they can make available; they are launching an exhibit of West Harlem artists- received a grant from WHDC; Website to be up soon; open to support and to collaboration
      - Dr. Marilu Galvan – comment to keep CB 9 connected and informed

## Old Business

1. Update on “West Harlem Arts Alliance” Resolution data information (Hon. J. Sinagub) – Beginning of February had a conversation with Mr. Ramadan and Joanna Castro to

discuss creating an umbrella arts organization for West Harlem. The conversation was informative and a good first step. introduced Mr. Ramadan to discuss the “next steps” in formation of the umbrella arts organization for West Harlem:

- a. Engage experienced consultant(s) to serve to assist the Community Board and the Arts & Culture Committee in formulating the “structure” of the organization-
  - b. An Arts Consultant, from West Harlem, to begin the work of helping to form the organization; meet with all interested parties, schedule meetings local artists, etc. with the collaboration of WHDC and CB 9 Arts & Culture Committee.
    - i. The Arts & Culture Committee would be the **forum** for bring the artists and, interested parties, consultants and community leaders together to begin the process of “formulation”.
    - ii. The umbrella organization would be “**owned**” by the artists of community, an independent entity (like NoMAA) not an extension of the Community Board or WHDC; Artists would name organization and working together to define organization as in a charrette; create trust
    - iii. Create a fully formed corporation (501.c.3), with by-laws, mission statement, board of directors (all from West Harlem).
  - c. The new organization would be made up of successful West Harlem professionals (the Board); and the goal would reflect a collaboration between CB 9 Arts & Culture Committee and WHDC.
  - d. WHDC would fully fund the process of creating the arts organization including, but not limited to funding for the consultants, costs of forming a 501.c.3; and future grants to provide programing. Cited \$\$\$\$ given to NoMAA and other groups in the area.
2. Hon. Harriet Rosebud – WHDC would select consultants? Response – Yes, CB 9 Arts & Culture Committee would be included, the discussions and interview process would need to be clarified.
  3. Hon. Daria Hardeman reviewed the steps for the creation of the arts organization:
    - a. Arts & Culture Committee/CB 9 draft the Resolution outlining the need and desire for such an organization.
    - b. WHDC - The selection of the consultants with consultant of Arts & Culture Committee/CB 9.
    - c. Arts & Culture Committee/CB 9 with the consultants creates a monthly forum to engage the local artists in creating the arts organization.
    - d. Organization receives funding and distributes to artists.
  4. Hon. Rev. Morgan-Thomas & Mr. Ramadan stressed unity & collaboration, the possibility of collaboration with other organizations in providing classes and other programming, shared expenses and funds. It is important to establish the organization with a unified culture.
  5. Michael UnThank – suggested that HAA is such a model for collaboration, i.e., with NoMAA
  6. First Step is the request to engage consultants to help CB 9 build the organization.
  7. Hon. Harriet Rosebud/ Michael UnThank – focus on individual artists and small organizations; “re-grants”, tiers of funding and collaborate with larger organizations-partnering; funding serves the community

8. Mr. Ramadan – “Exposure”; the need for artists to value their work; developing artists and bring them up together; example Artist Stroll.
9. Hon. Anita Cheng/Mr. Ramadan – Request for WHDC to look at the development of the Hamilton Theater as an artist space and perhaps the future home for the arts organization; LMCC constant support @ different stages of development.
10. Mr. Ramadan/ Michael UnThank – UMEZ and LMCC agreement and “re-granting” both at city and state levels.
11. Hon. Harriet Rosebud – Goal to have Resolution draft to be reviewed by committee and then submitted to executive committee; Hon. Anita Cheng offered to help draft the resolution.
12. Hon. Daria Hardeman requested to have a Zoom meeting with Mr. Ramadan to discuss the selection of the consultants and to clarify the steps towards creating the arts organization; Hon. Jonathan Sinagub is to schedule the meeting for the later in the week.

### **New Business:**

1. Committee Co-Chair, Hon. Harriet Rosebud updated the committee and participants on the PPP Loans for independent contractors, gig workers and small businesses. Urged all independent contractors, gig workers and small businesses to apply. There is a window of opportunity this month to March 8<sup>th</sup> for only small businesses to apply; reviewed briefly the process; and urged everyone to get the word out.
  - Hon. Tina Lumley asked if there is a list of artists; suggested sending an email blast to disseminate more information. Response from Hon. Harriet Rosebud that information needs to be distributed posters and flyers; the community board cannot post things to Facebook or other social media at this time; Hon. Daria Hardeman said that she will look into the possibility of the Community Board creating a social media platform to reach out to constituents.
  - Hon. Walter Alexander offered to collaborate on creating an artist data base and artist web page.
2. Additional sources for funding: Hon. Harriet Rosebud suggested: <https://www.culturalsolidarityfund.org/get-a-grant/>, ( as of the issuance of these minutes the funding deadline has passed).
3. Mr. Ramadan announced that WHDC will create a new logo; WHDC will solicit designs for the logo from artists in CB 9 – the artist whose logo design is selected will receive \$1,000. WHDC to announce details and distribute a flyer.

**Next Meeting Scheduled for first Monday in April 2021, 04/5, at 6:30 PM. Location: Zoom**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:13 PM**

it is my understanding that we need to include a statement such as:

“Whereas \$XX,000,000 was made available to organizations based in neighboring communities and specified for artists in (whatever years 2018/2019/2020?), No such allotment was accessible to the artist of CB9, specifically.”