

Manhattan Community Board 9  
Arts & Culture Committee Meeting  
Monday, 01 November 2021

Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members:**

Co-Chair; Hon. Harriet Rosebud  
Co-Chair: Hon. Daria Hardeman  
Hon. Walter Alexander  
Hon. Anita Cheng  
Hon. Tina Lumley  
Hon. Ilana Mercado  
Hon. Jonathan Sinagub  
Hon. Victoria Benitez (not present)  
Hon. Gabe Morales (prepared minutes)  
Hon. Alex Hunter (not present)

**Attendees:**

**CB 9 Board Members:**

Hon. Dan Cohen

Zead Ramadan, WHDC, Interim Director

Martin Collins, Uptown Arts Stroll Coordinator, NOMAA, [www.nomaanyc.org](http://www.nomaanyc.org)

Janny Gonzalez, Jazz Power Initiative/WHDC grantee, [janny@jazzpower.org](mailto:janny@jazzpower.org),

**Presenters:**

Zead Ramadan, WHAA Update and RKO

Hon. Dan Cohen, Hamilton Place/RKO theater

Stephanie Berry, Black Berry Productions, WHDC grantee (no presenters present)

**Location:** via zoom

**Meeting called to order:** 6:35 Motion to call to order by Hon. Walter Alexander. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion by Hon. Anita Cheng

**Adopted agenda:** unanimously adopted, however Hon. Walter Alexander was not listed as committee member in agenda.

**Adopted Prior Meeting Minutes:** not voted on

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. West Harlem Arts Alliance, Hon. Jonathan Sinagub Liason to WHDC with update from Zead Ramadan regarding West Harlem Arts Alliance.

- a. Prior to Zead's update on WHAA. Hon. Dan Cohen joined the meeting and due to time constraints, we discussed RKO theater which Zead contributed to greatly. (see 2a.)
  - b. Since last meeting West Harlem Arts Alliance has been incorporated and VIN number secured & they now have 3 officers
  - c. President, Secretary and Treasurer. Founding President Michael Palma, CB9 board member and grant writer for many organizations. Hon. Victoria Benitez CB 9 Arts and Culture Member, Mr. Michael Unthank.
  - d. These 3 are the founding board for WHAA. Their goal will be to brighten and add more art to the community. Cheng asked for clarity on public members, there are no public members at this moment. Sinagub clarified who to contact going forward and its Michael Palma.
  - e. Two CB 9 members are on the board, Palma and Benitez.
  - f. Zead discussed the technical assistance events NOrthern Manhattan Arts Alliance had planned for November, including a grant writing class taught by Hon. Michael Palma November 15<sup>th</sup> and Social Media class taking place, concurrently, during our meeting.
  - g. Uptown Night Market is incredible. Jazz, Food. Music. Bronx Night Market has been around for 4-5 years and West Harlem's in its first year is already bigger. Over 4000 people in attendance.
2. RKO-Hamilton Theater Project, 3560 Broadway, Hon. Anita Cheng Liason invited HON. Dan Cohen join our November meeting to discuss RKO project. Hon. Liz Waitkus is working with Simeon Bankoff executive dir historic district council.
    - a. Zead Ramadan informed the committee and Cohen that Classical Black Theater of Harlem theater group is looking to fundraise in the multimillion range to find a permanent home in Harlem. Zead suggested locating a developer to buy RKO space & turn the space into a mix of affordable housing with Classical Black Theater securing a long term lease & ability to manage their own theater space. Ramadan will introduce Hon. Dan Cohen to Ty Jones, exec dir. of Classical Black Theater via email. Zead will update committee when more information comes along. Hon. Dan Cohen left the meeting and we returned to Zead's update (see 1b.)
3. Artist and Information Dissemination: Hon. Tina Lumley & Hon. Walter Alexander.
    - a. Both meet up to share that Hon. Victoria Benitez works at Columbia and is looking for ways to share the Columbia Univerity data base of artists with committee.
4. Film and TV subcommittee, Hon. Illana Mercado
    - a. Mercado's last meeting was in June with intergovernmental affairs of MOME.
    - b. Mercado is extremely busy & thinking of taking a leave of absence.

**Presentations:**

Black Berry Productions, WHDC Grantee, Stephanie Berry- no presenters present

Martin Collins, [www.nomaanyc.org](http://www.nomaanyc.org) NOMAA events:

1. Thursdays with NOMAA events:
  - a. November 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, Lydell Brookhouse-Gil a modern realist painter whose subjects describe NY life.
  - b. November 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, Nadema Agard, artist, illustrator, curator and educator.
  - c. Technical Assistance programs include, How to learn to use social media and grant writing. West Harlem residents are invited to all technical assistance classes. Hon. Michael Palma will teach a course on grant writing.  
[www.nomaanyc.org/events](http://www.nomaanyc.org/events)
  - d. Uptown Art Stroll will also be resuming. Poster contest will be held in January 2022. Prize money is available for 1<sup>st</sup> place 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.

**Old Business:** no old business

**New Business:** JazzPower Initiative Janny Gonzalez joined the meeting to find out how to schedule a meeting with the committee to present as WHDC grantee.

[janny@jazzpower.org](mailto:janny@jazzpower.org)

Hon. Anite Cheng will prepare minutes for the next committee meeting in December.

**Motion to adjourn** by Co-Chair, Hon Daria Hardeman, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion by Hon. Walter Alexander.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:31PM

**Next Meeting Scheduled for first Monday in December 2021. 12/06 at 6:30 PM.**