

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 9
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
MINUTES of November 07, 2022**

Committee Members:

*new member

Member	Present	Absent	Excused	Recorded Minutes
Co-Chair Hon. Daria Hardeman	X			
Co-Chair Hon. Jonathan Sinagub	X			X
Hon. Walter T. Alexander			X	
Juan Colmenares*	X			
Carlton Davis*	X			
Hon. Alex Hunter		X		
Hon. Tina Lumley	X			
Hon. Ilana Mercado	X			
Hon. Carolina Ramirez*		X		
Hon. Patricia Ramos*		X		

Attendees:

I. Call to Order @ 6:34 pm

II. Adopted Agenda

- Moved by: Hon. J. Sinagub
- Seconded by: Hon. T. Lumley

III. Adopted Minutes (@ next meeting)

IV. IV. Introductions

- Arts and Culture Committee members introduced themselves.
- Introductions from: CB 9 1st Vice-Chair Hon. Victor Edwards, Hon. Dan Cohen, Jordan Carlton, Harlem Stage, Arlene Rodriguez Martinez, Program Manager, Jazz Power Initiative; Liz Player, Gwendolyn Black, Arts & Jazzfest NYC; John Barrow, Morningside Players;

V. Announcements

- Hon. Daria Hardeman discussed absences and referred the committee members to the CB 9 website regarding absences or any combination of 7 excused or unexcused absences.
- Victoria Benitez is no longer a CB 9 member

VI. Committee Reports

- **West Harlem Arts Alliance Update- <https://www.whaanyc.org> (WHAA) – Hon. Jonathan Sinagub (liaison) , Michael Unthank and Michael Palma**
 - Workshops, collaborating with local government and being an advocate and providing advice services for local artist and arts organizations
 - WHAA has adopted a set of bylaws.
 - The full board reflects the cultural and ethnic makeup of the community to jump start this organization
 - The goal is to put West Harlem on the cultural map to draw the attention of the city to redraw their maps to reflect the uptown arts in Northern Manhattan and Harlem
 - There is a need to address the CBA funding for Arta and culture with Victor Edwards and Columbia
 - WHAA is looking for an office location – maybe two desks if possible. They are speaking with Penelope from Columbia University regarding this matter.
- **Aid for Artists (AFD) – Hon. Tina Lumley & Hon. Walter Alexander (Team Leaders)**
 - 3-4 email blasts sent out pertaining to grant opportunities in the arts field.
 - Those organizations present tonight please leave your contact info. So that we can add you to the email list.

- **Hamilton Theater/RKO Taskforce - Hon. Dan Cohen, Chair of Taskforce & Hon. Ilana Mercado**
 - Landmark- 2 pieces, Lobby/Entry, landmarked, on corner and theater (interior not landmarked)
 - Goals #1. Culture/Theater, #2. 100% affordable housing, reserved for artists:
 - to keep theater intact with the hopeful engagement of the Classical Theater of Harlem and the Nation Jazz Museum with the assistance of WHDC
 - 1,400 seat theater restored for arts & culture
 - Next Steps:
 - Landmarks Preservation Committee needs to approve residential construction for this project.
 - WHDC, Nat. Jazz Museum, NY Ste Senator Cordell Cleare to tour the site as soon as possible; tour date hopefully before Thanksgiving, the CB 9 members will be notified.
 - The existing conditions survey for the building, which WHDC agreed to provide 1/3 of the funding (estimated costs \$150K). Ty Jones, who is the artistic director of the Classical Theater of Harlem, recently discovered that they need to spend the other two-thirds before the monies from WHCD would be released. This is problematic. Various options were proposed such as a loan from a bank, a bridge loan. WHDC needs to sign a commitment document. Discussions son going.
 - To date, no entity has signed any documents for the site which will have a housing component along with some sort of community cultural component - we are in holding pattern for the moment.
 - Discussion:
 - Inclusivity of the many West Harlem arts/cultural organizations, like Centro Civico Cultural Dominicano, to be part of the development
 - Broader conversation is needed bring in NYS, Empire State Development, NYC agencies, & WHDC to make the arts/culture and residential pieces work.
 - For the existing conditions assessment can CU, through the CBA, provide some money; and UMEZ through their grants?
 - Other possible players: Arts Space (school project in E. Harlem), or the Actors Equity Fund

VII-Community Updates:

- **Martin Collins, Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA)**

For NoMAA see #TheGramUptown a social media-sourced photography exhibition at NoMAA's gallery with 60 artists Tuesdays & Saturdays from 1-5pm or by appointment. Email: info@nomaanyc.org. Produced by the Uptown Collective & NoMAA see <https://www.nomaanyc.org/events/thegramuptown/> for more information. NoMAA's gallery is at 4140 Broadway enter on West 176th Street.

 - NoMAA has 4 studio spaces for rent - see <https://www.nomaanyc.org/nomaa-studios-4140/> for information. Artist can sig-up and book there the space after NoMAA personnel review the request to ensure everything is correct
 - Sign-up to receive NoMAA's newsletter, become a member, calendar your own events & more on our website <https://www.nomaanyc.org/>

VIII-Presentations

- a. Arlene Rodriguez Martinez, , Program Manager, Jazz Power Initiative, www.jazzpower.org, arlene@jazzpower.org, 929 374-9423
 1. WHDC grantee serving N. Manhattan, Harlem & Washington Heights
 2. Community Concerts, intergenerational power jams, next session 11/20
 3. Jazz Month (next year) "Highlight Harlem"
 4. Way to get the word out: come to CB 9 A&C Committee meetings, NYC Kiosks, advertise in *Harlem Patch*, *All About Jazz*, *Hot House Jazz*
- b. John Barrow, Morningside Players, www.morningsideplayers.org, jbarrow80@gmail.com, 646-200-5089
 1. WHDC grantee – Community based theater est. 1974- to produce a play about the building of General Grant Houses built in the 1950s and the impact on Morningside Heights & West Harlem; and the movement "Save Our Homes", Manhatanville, eminent domain to fight blight repeating theme. Stage at 100 LaSalle, recently upgraded; mix-union and non-union actors

2. Production scheduled for 5/23; Play uses imagery from the period, Suzanna Frazer- Artistic Director
3. Outreach:
 - a. Involve people in the neighborhood for production trades and actors for \$\$\$
 - b. WHDC grantee list of 34 organizations
 - c. Referral to: Charles Thompson, 718-928-5579, Sound Business Inc. ; notices to Eprince@cb9m.org,
 - c. Gwendolyn Black, Gwendolyn Black, Arts & Jazzfest NYC, est. 1993, www.artsandjazzfestny.com, 212-665-5313, gwenblackarts@gmail.com, gwenblackarts@yahoo.com, mixing the visual side and performance side of jazz; WHDC grantee
 - d. Year end Holiday Christmas Caroling & Holiday Celebration, Sunday, 12/17 & Tuesday, 12/20 ; enabling community to take part; draft flyer attached

IX. Old Business :

- Community Benefits Agreement review/goals conversation – Hon. Victor Edwards & Hon. Jonathan Sinagub
- Focusing on Section 8, Arts & Culture
 - The West Harlem Development Corporation was created to administer the funds, they do more than provide grants.
 - It is suggested that all members dive into the CBA to obtain an understanding and create questions.
 - There are different sections that are earmarked for funding such as in-kind benefits - local community organizations, technical assistance for artists and art organizations, living history projects and Harlem legacy projects
 - Hon. Tina Lumley has prepared a list a list of questions that is attached CB 9 members and non-members should add to the list their own questions.
 - The more eyes on this document, the more questions the better off the community forward can respond, and to encourage Columbia to fund critical the arts and culture projects.
 - Feel free to contact Jonathan to add your questions to present them to the Strategic Planning Committee, Chaired by Hon. Victor Edwards chairs.
 - We need to push the envelope here, and I think that the only way we can do that is becoming more familiar with the community benefits agreement; we specifically want to get out of it because time is running out -some items are only available for 25 years.

X. New Business:

- **Goals for 2022 -2023 – Daren Hardeman and Jonathan Sinagub**
 - Sharing institutional knowledge for example getting to know the by- laws and CBA especially since term limits were implemented.
- **Committee Contact Info:** CB9arts@yahoo.com, dariadraia@yahoo.com, Jonathan.sinagub1@gmail.com
- **Committee Secretary Appointment**
 - There is still a need for a secretary there were no volunteers there fore members volunteered to take minutes one mebember/one month as follow: Hon. Carlton Davis - December, Hon. Juan Colmenares – January, and Hon. Ilana Mercado – February

XI. Adjourn: at 8:18 pm. (moved by Hon. J. Sinagub; 2nd by Hon. Tina Lumley)

Attach. Amended Agenda

Note: Next meeting will be held on Monday, December 5th, 2022, via zoom.
Arts & Culture Committee meetings are held on the first Monday of each month