

## ARTS AND CULTURE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2025

### Committee Members:

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

### I-Call to Order @6:35pm

### II-Adopted Agenda

### III-Adopted Minutes

### IV-Committee Reports

- Strategic Planning-No Report
- Arts for Seniors-No Report
- Art Therapy-Definition was presented. Update of committee forthcoming.
- Artist Dissemination Committee-31 items sent out; seven current.

### V-Summary

- Meeting Summary for MCB9 - Arts and Culture Committee Meeting

The meeting began with introductions and updates from various committee members and representatives from arts and cultural organizations, including discussions about information distribution and upcoming events. The group reviewed several community initiatives and performances, including holiday shows, an oral history project, and various youth programs, while also addressing strategic planning and collaboration opportunities. The conversation ended with budget discussions and requests for various capital and expense projects, with members asked to submit their priorities by the following day.

### Next steps

Walter to follow up with William Hamer regarding Art for Seniors project

Walter to forward William Hamer's contact information to Tina

Nora to send film festival dates and details to Tina and Walter

Nora to send scriptwriting competition information to Tina and Walter

Nora to disseminate scriptwriting competition information to the community board Every Voice

Choirs to consider creating a video performance for the MLK Community Singing Concert

Harlem Chamber Players to check with schools about potential youth performances for the May 16th youth celebration event

Paul to discuss potential TV coverage of Tina's comedy show with Michael Palmer

Paul to explore shooting TV segments at the West Harlem Arts Alliance space

Harlem Media Group to cover Tina's comedy show for "What's Eating Harlem? Liz to send soft copies of upcoming events to Walter and Manhattan

Rebecca to check with Elektra about student artwork availability for May 16th showcase and confirm by end of month

Manhattan to contact Vy separately about MAMA Foundation's participation in the Youth Showcase on May 16th

Community Board 9 members to send their budget request rankings to CB9arts@yahoo.com by noon tomorrow

Manhattan to send email with complete list of budget requests for members to rank

Manhattan to compile and submit budget request rankings by close of business tomorrow

Manhattan to schedule next meeting for first Monday in December

## Summary

### Arts and Culture Community Updates

The meeting began with Tina Wilmington, the military chairman of the Arts and Culture Committees, introducing the purpose and structure of the community board, which consists of volunteers dedicated to sharing information, disseminating data, and collaborating on events. Walter provided an update on the distribution of arts and culture information, noting that 31 items were sent out, with 11 still active. He also mentioned the need to check if certain individuals, like Christian Michaels, were still receiving updates. The conversation ended with a request for Walter to provide an update on the Hamilton Palace RKO Theater, but the transcript ended before he could deliver this information.

### Arts Alliance Projects Update Meeting

The meeting covered updates on various subcommittees and projects. Walter reported no update on the potential owners meeting but mentioned they are waiting for a date. Manhattan provided updates on strategic planning, West Harlem Arts Alliance, and Harlem Arts Alliance, noting that Michael Palmer and Daria were not present. The Arts for Youth subcommittee is planning an event on May 16th to showcase youth performances and is seeking a venue to accommodate 200 attendees. Manhattan also discussed an oral history project for seniors and mentioned the need to regroup with new participants.

### Youth Dance Event Planning Discussion

The meeting began with introductions from various committee members, including co-chairs Tina Lumley and Daria Hardeman, and representatives from arts and cultural organizations. Walter Alexander, co-chair of the senior action committee, mentioned that William Hamer, who had been unresponsive, was dealing with a personal loss. The group discussed a youth extra dancer event scheduled for May 16th, with Manhattan inquiring about potential collaborations with local youth organizations. Liz Player, representing the Harlem Chamber Players, expressed interest in participating but noted that her organization primarily works with professional musicians and schools. The conversation ended with a request for attendees to provide their contact information on a sign-in sheet.

### Riverbank Holiday Skating Show

Manhattan discussed the annual holiday show at Riverbank, which will take place on December 13th and features both professional and local youth skaters. She highlighted the supportive role of the West Harlem Development Corporation and the involvement of various organizations like Figure Skating in Harlem and the Riverbank Skating Club. Manhattan emphasized the importance of ice skating as a resource for young skaters and shared her personal experiences and appreciation for the diverse and inclusive environment that Riverbank provides.

### Harlem Events and Initiatives Update

The meeting discussed various community events and initiatives in Harlem. Manhattan shared details about an upcoming holiday ice skating show, which will feature professional choreography

and theatrical elements, and will be held on December 9th. The group also discussed the Socially Relevant Film Festival, founded by Nora in 2013, which will hold its 13th edition in March 2026. Nora explained that the festival is now hybrid, with in-person screenings uptown and downtown, and is accepting submissions from Harlem-based filmmakers until December 10th. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about the Harlem Media Group's TV show "What's Eating Harlem" and its upcoming 11th season.

### Every Boys Choirs Program Overview

Tessoro Estrella, an outreach assistant and assistant director for Every Boys Choirs, provided an overview of their programs, which focus on developing children's artistic talents and classical/contemporary techniques. She described four choirs: Kids' Choir (ages 7-10), Youth Choir (ages 10-17), Concert Choir (ages 11-17 with auditions), and an Intergenerational Choir (ages 7-97). The Concert Choir recently performed a piece that was nominated for a Grammy. Tessoro also highlighted their Voice Ability group for children with disabilities and upcoming concerts, including a holiday concert at the Forum on December 15th. Liz from Harlem Shanklin Music shared details about their upcoming concerts, including a November 17th event at Columbia University featuring new music by women composers and a November 21st Bach concert at Broadway Presbyterian Church.

### Arts Planning and Community Initiatives

Liz shared details about upcoming events, including a free concert at Columbia University on November 17th and another at Broadway Presbyterian Church on November 21st. She mentioned that she and Carl Jackson start planning the next season's music between February and May 2026, aiming to finalize the schedule by May 2026. Rebecca introduced Doing Art Together (DAT), an arts education group that serves underserved schools in New York City, highlighting their programs, teaching artists, and commitment to inclusivity. She also discussed DAT's focus on STEAM education and their community events, expressing gratitude for the support received from the West Harlem Development Fund.

### Community Arts and Theater Collaborations

The meeting focused on community arts initiatives and theater productions. Rebecca discussed her organization's involvement with Community Board 9 and their school programming, while Manhattan inquired about student artwork for a May 16th showcase, which Rebecca agreed to coordinate with their creative director. Susanna Fraser, Artistic Director of Morningside Theater Company, presented their upcoming productions and sought volunteers for their shows, which offer pay-what-you-can admission. The conversation ended with Renardo D'Amico Graves from Visions Contemporary Ballet discussing potential collaborations and seeking assistance with an ice-skating scene for their performances.

### MAMA Foundation Budget Discussion

The meeting began with Vy presenting the MAMA Foundation for the Arts, highlighting their music education programs and community impact over the past 10 years. Manhattan then led a discussion on budget requests, focusing on five capital requests and six expense requests. The board agreed to prioritize affordable housing for seniors and artists, followed by studio space development. Due to time constraints, members were asked to email their priorities to Manhattan by noon the following day for final submission.