ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
MINUTES of November 2, 2026

Committee Members:

Member	Present	Virtual	Absent	Excused	Recorded Minutes
Co-Chair Hon. Tina Lumley	x				x
Co-Chair Hon. Daria Hareman				x	
Hon. Walter T. Alexander	X				
Hon. Jenny Bennett	X				
Hon. Shari Carpenter	X				
Hon. John Paul Gonzalez	X				
Hon. Shaunte Styles	X				X

Monday, November 2,2026
6:30 PM

Location: Hybrid Meeting, 3291/3295 Broadway, New York, NY 10027 and Virtual Zoom Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Tina Lumley.

II. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda.

- Moved by: Tina Lumley
- Seconded by: Walter Alexander

Motion passed.

III. ADOPT MINUTES

Motion to adopt the previous month's minutes.

- Moved by: Tina Lumley
- Seconded by: Walter Alexander

Motion passed.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves, including representatives from arts, education, dance, cultural, publishing, and film organizations serving the Harlem and West Harlem communities. Participants included representatives from the West Harlem Arts Alliance, Mama Foundation, National Dance Institute, MODArts Dance Collective, Socially Relevant Film Festival, Harlem One Stop, Little Mozart Foundation, and other community-based arts organizations.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Who We Are. What We Do.

The Arts and Culture Committee reviewed its mission as a liaison between the community, arts organizations, elected officials, and cultural institutions. The committee encouraged organizations to submit announcements for distribution through the committee's mailing list and Community Board channels.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

a. Artist Information

Committee members encouraged artists and organizations to submit announcements for inclusion in the Arts and Culture distribution list.

b. West Harlem Arts Alliance

Michael Palma provided an update on the newly opened West Harlem Arts Alliance space located at 3581 Broadway. Plans include subsidized rentals for artists and arts organizations and the development of a panel discussion series addressing the state of the arts in Northern Manhattan.

c. Harlem Arts Alliance

Updates were shared regarding upcoming artistic programming and community engagement efforts throughout Harlem.

d. Strategic Planning / Community Benefits Agreement (CBA)

The committee discussed Columbia University's Community Benefits Agreement, remaining in-kind benefits, transparency concerns, and future community outreach efforts. Action items included creating a concise resource guide, reviewing Columbia's status reports, and improving information sharing among committees.

e. Hamilton Palace/RKO Theater

Committee members reported ongoing discussions regarding the Hamilton Palace Theater renovation project and upcoming meetings with stakeholders before additional presentations are made to the Board.

f. Artist Census Subcommittee

Jenny Bennett introduced the Artist Census initiative. The committee discussed conducting a survey of arts workers and identifying graduate students and institutional partners to assist with research efforts.

g. Arts for Youth

Committee members continued discussions regarding arts programming opportunities for young people throughout Community Board 9.

VII. COMMUNITY UPDATES

a. Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA)

Updates were provided regarding current grants, exhibitions, and opportunities available to artists in Northern Manhattan. Upcoming exhibits and artist-support initiatives were highlighted.

b. Harlem Media Group

Paul Philips announced the 11th season of the "What's Meeting Home" show, which will include new restaurant segments at Pastichio, Crispins, and Mola's, airing by April 11th across NYC, Seoul, and the USA.

c. Kwanzaa Film Festival Partnership

Manhattan presented the Kwanzaa Film Festival, which will be held December 26-30, both in-person and virtually, and mentioned potential partnership opportunities with organizations like West Harlem Arts Alliance and the community board's economic development committee.

d. Children’s Arts Carnival

Michael Kunthank presented the Children's Art Carnival, an organization founded by Betty Blayton Taylor in 1972, currently hosting an exhibition called "Sonic Spectrum" featuring 25 West Harlem artists at 62 Hamilton Terrace. Jermaine Jones, Executive Director of National Dance Institute, discussed their 50-year history of providing arts programming to NYC public schools, their partnership with West Harlem Development Corporation, and their year-long residency program at PS161 serving 4th grade students through 28 sessions including live music and performances. The organization serves over 6,500 students

annually across 58 schools in four boroughs, offering scholarships for advanced training and weekend programs at their Holland location on 147th Street

e. Doing Art Together

Rebecca Mason- Wygal,
Doing Art Together, an arts education group serving seven Harlem schools with programs including in-school, after-school, and summer activities.

f. Community Action Board (DYCD)

Mari Moss, invited attendees to join neighborhood advisory boards that help distribute federal funding across 41 neighborhoods, including three in Harlem

g. Harlem One Stop

Yuien Chen, provided an update about Harlem One Stop's cultural portal and promotion of community events through their website and Instagram. They announced plans to celebrate Harlem's new Cultural District designation with a week of programming in June or July, focusing on various arts disciplines and discussing cultural equity in Harlem

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

a. National Dance Institute

Representatives discussed the organization's 50-year history of arts education in New York City schools. The institute currently serves more than 6,500 students annually and continues partnerships with Harlem schools and community organizations. Scholarship and residency opportunities were highlighted.

b. MODArts Dance Collective

Leah Tubbs shared information regarding the organization's "We Meet" workshop and performance series designed to support artistic collaboration and creative expression.

d. Mama Foundation Representatives highlighted the organization's ongoing arts programming, including "Mama I Want to Sing" and the newly funded Harlem Voices Rising initiative supported through a major grant award.

e. Stefanie Nelson Dancegroup Stefanie Nelson discussed upcoming performances, youth arts opportunities, and ongoing dance initiatives serving community members of various ages.

f. Harlem Swing Dance

Barbara Jones shared information regarding Harlem Swing Dance programming and community engagement activities.

g. Socially Relevant Film Festival

Nora Armani discussed their upcoming 14th edition in March, which includes free screenings for students and West Harlem residents.

h. Morningside Theatre

Susanna Frazer, Artistic Director discussed is a collective arts company and 501(c)(3) non-profit located in Morningside Heights, Manhattan, dedicated to presenting affordable live theater, classic plays, and new works

i. Limon Dance

Ashley Lindsay, LIMÓN WINTER Loan for Kids program
which brings dance education to Harlem schools, having reached 244 students in Harlem since 2012.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Revisited Monthly Meeting Minute Assignments

Resource	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Walter	x						x			
Daria						x				
Jenny		x								x
John				x					x	
Shari					x					
Tina			x							
Shaunte			x					x		

X. NEW BUSINESS

No new business discussed

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

- Moved by: Tina Lumley
- Second by: Shaunte Styles

Meeting adjourned at: 8:37pm

Next meeting: Monday, December 7, 2026, at 6:30 PM