

Manhattan Community Board 9  
Arts and Culture Committee Meeting  
Monday, 04 October 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 (prepared minutes)  
Hon. Victoria Benitez  
Hon. Gabriel Morales  
Hon. Alex Hunter

**Attendees:**

**CB 9 Board members:**

Hon. Victor Edwards – CB 9, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Tiffany Kahn -

Martin Collins, Uptown Arts Stroll Coordinator, NOMAA, [www.nomaanyc.org](http://www.nomaanyc.org)  
Liz Player, The Harlem Chamber Players, [liz@harlemchamberplayers.org](mailto:liz@harlemchamberplayers.org)  
Moyram Espino, Development Officer, UMEZ  
Verdery Roosevelt – SVP of Cultural Investments, UMEZ  
Margo Moore – George Bruce Library, [MargoMoore@nypl.org](mailto:MargoMoore@nypl.org)  
Erachie – The Zip Code Project  
Jael Sanchez –

**Presenters:**

Joanna Castro – WHDC, Program Director  
Zead Ramadan – WHDC, Interim Director  
Sandra Garcia – Consultant, for CD-9 Umbrella Arts org.  
Michael Unthank – Consultant, for CD-9 Umbrella Arts org.  
Dr. Nicole Becker – Every Voice Choirs  
Gina Bolden Rivera – SVP of Commercial Lending, UMEZ

**Location:** via Zoom

**Meeting called to Order:** 6:30PM

**Adopted Agenda:** unanimously adopted

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

**Committee Reports:**

1. West Harlem Arts Alliance, Hon. Jonathan Sinagub Liaison to WHDC including updates from Zead Ramadan, Interim Director, WHDC, Michael Unthank and Sandra Garcia
  - a. Hon. Jonathan Sinagub gave a brief background of this initiative and introduced the team lead by Zead Ramadan (WHDC), Joanna Castro, WHDC; and the two consultants, Sandra Garcia & Michael Unthank
  - b. Michael Unthank – explained that three public forums were held and meetings with key individuals in the community; the mission and vision statements along with the name, West Harlem Arts Alliance came out of that process.
  - c. Sandra Garcia described the survey, coupled with July public meetings, and the definite need for an umbrella organization for West Harlem.
  - d. Zead Ramadan explained that this umbrella organization is for District 9 exclusively serving the artists and art organizations in this district. CB 10, 11 and 12 have similar organizations. He hoped by the beginning of 2022 the new organization could be up and running.
  - e. Michael Unthank said that they will present at the next Committee meeting in November a “Blueprint” to establishing the new organization. He agreed to distribute the mission & Vision statements to the Committee.
2. RKO-Hamilton Theater Project, 3560 Broadway, Hon. Anita Cheng Liaison-
  - a. Establish channel of communication with WHDC; nothing new to report.
  - b. Dan Cohen leading Task Force to restore Theater and construct affordable housing;
    - i. Tours conducted during summer; trying to find a benefactor for restoration;
    - ii. Floated idea of funding a Existing Conditions Survey;
    - iii. Contact Dan Cohen to invite to present at November’s meeting
3. PSA Vaccinate, Hon. Anita Cheng –
  - a. On LinkNYC: Walter Alexander, <https://vimeo.com/622068717>; Monique Hardin-Cordero, <https://vimeo.com/622067630>; <https://vimeo.com/622067758>; Tina Lumley, <https://vimeo.com/569030498>; Nyles Robinson, <https://vimeo.com/622068229>; Edwin Torres, <https://vimeo.com/569038812>
  - b. Received a grant for new PSA “What Got Me Through & What Sustains Me” new PSA hopefully will air to coincide with the opening of new CB 9 offices.
4. Artist Information Dissemination (A.I.D.) Committee, Hon. Tina Lumley and Hon. Walter Alexander, Leads
  - a. Artists organization prefer to receive information and distribute it within their own organization. Organizations are not willing to share information. They will gladly accept information and post it on their websites.

**Presentations/Discussions:**

The Zip Code Project – no presenters present

Every Voice Choirs, Dr. Nicole Becker – Scholarships available to children to participate - For information, flyers and copy of EVC Programs – to spread the word go to: <https://www.everyvoicechoirs.org>

Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation- Funding Opportunities for Small Business, Artists and Art Organizations, Gina Bolden Rivera, Sr VP, Commercial Lending

- Presented a slide show focusing on small businesses
- Reviewed the different type of loans and the process
- Hybrid Microloan in response to the Pandemic
- Reviewed the purpose of the loans
- Possibility of loan to grant conversions
- Eligibility, required documents and how to apply – encouraged meeting with YMEZ representatives prior to applying

Committee comments:

- The program appears to have been rolled out quickly, not talking into account the impact of the Pandemic, performing artists and others that are not incorporated.
- Base loan of \$100K seems to be high for entrepreneurs that are struggling.
- Harlem, west Harlem, has many artists who are left out of this process.
- The program leaves out the “virtual workplace” – how to address those entr[preneurs that do not have a physical space.

Added UMEZ comments:

- UMEZ focus is lending
- 1/3 of UMEZs’ loans are cultural investments
- Grants to CB9 through a regrant program administered by LMCC (Lower Manhattan Cultural Council) with grants up to \$10k – currently there are 17 grants totaling \$122,400.
- The “virtual workplace” is something UMEZ is grappling with because we have no expertise in extending loans in that area. We are working on it.
- UMEZ will forward slide show presentation.

**Old Business:**

1. Selection of Secretary – The minutes for each Committee meeting going forward will be recorded by different members of the committee. 8 meetings, between November and June, 8 individuals committed to a specific month – 8 meetings = 8 members

**New Business:**

1. Fiscal Needs Assessment
  - a. Reviewed distributed materials- previous Needs Requests.
  - b. Stressed the importance of committee members participate – a important duty as CB member.
  - c. Needs requests divided up into two types: Capital and Expenses, reviewed the definition of each
  - d. CB 9 priorities from FY2022 = Affordable Housing, Health Care and Schools
  - e. Committee priorities – Affordable Housing for Artists, RKO-Hamilton Theater and provide additional artists spaces (performances, studios, etc.)
    - i. Discussed the RKO-Hamilton Theater project – Dan Cohen, lead on the CB 9 Task Force, will be asked to attend next meeting.
  - f. Discussed other previous requests and will discuss expense requests at next meeting – members should review Needs Assessment from previous year and submit suggestions.
2. Arts & Culture Mission Statement
  - a. Reviewed Mission Statement – two suggestions for additions to the statement: 1) to include “artists” with organizations; 2) to insert the Arts & Culture Committee as appropriate. – the Changes were accepted by the committee members.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:06 PM**

**BUDEGT MEETING; OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM.**

**Next Meeting Scheduled for first Monday November 2021, 11/01, at 6:30 PM.**

**Location: Zoom**

Attach. DCP – CD Needs Overview Webinar